

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

H

D

HOUSE BILL 706
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/7/09
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H706-PCS10970-SU-50

Short Title: DMV Handicap Placard Enforcement.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 23, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENSURE THE ACCESSIBILITY OF HANDICAPPED PARKING IN NORTH
3 CAROLINA BY REQUIRING AN EXPIRATION DATE VISIBLE FROM AT LEAST
4 TWENTY FEET ON ALL HANDICAPPED PLACARDS, TO ENSURE INCREASED
5 ENFORCEMENT AND COLLECTION OF EXPIRED OR REVOKED PLACARDS BY
6 REQUIRING THAT PLACARDS DISPLAY THE MONTH AND YEAR OF
7 EXPIRATION, TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE
8 HANDICAPPED PLACARD REGISTRATION CARDS, AND TO REQUIRE THAT
9 THE PERSON TO WHOM THE PLACARD IS ISSUED BE THE OPERATOR OF OR A
10 PASSENGER IN THE VEHICLE IN WHICH THE PLACARD IS DISPLAYED.

11 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

12 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-37.5(4) reads as rewritten:

13 "(4) "Removable windshield placard" means a two-sided, hooked placard which
14 includes on each side:

- 15 a. The International Symbol of Access, which is at least three inches in
16 height, centered on the placard, and is white on a blue shield;
17 b. An identification number;
18 c. An expiration ~~date; and~~ date that is visible from at least 20 feet, and
19 the month and year of expiration; and
20 d. The seal or other identification of the issuing authority."

21 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-37.6(c) reads as rewritten:

22 "(c) Handicapped Drivers and Passengers; Distinguishing Placards. – A handicapped
23 person may apply for the issuance of a removable windshield placard or a temporary removable
24 windshield placard. Upon request, one additional placard may be issued to applicants who do
25 not have a distinguishing license plate. Any organization which, as determined and certified by
26 the State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, regularly transports handicapped persons may also
27 apply. These organizations may receive one removable windshield placard for each
28 transporting vehicle. When the removable windshield or temporary removable windshield
29 placard is properly displayed, all parking rights and privileges extended to vehicles displaying a
30 distinguishing license plate issued pursuant to subsection (b) shall apply. The removable
31 windshield placard or the temporary removable windshield placard shall be displayed so that it
32 may be viewed from the front and rear of the vehicle by hanging it from the front windshield
33 rearview mirror of a vehicle using a parking space allowed for handicapped persons. When



* H 7 0 6 - P C S 1 0 9 7 0 - S U - 5 0 *

1 there is no inside rearview mirror, or when the placard cannot reasonably be hung from the
2 rearview mirror by the handicapped person, the placard shall be displayed on the driver's side
3 of the dashboard. A removable windshield placard placed on a motorized wheelchair or similar
4 vehicle shall be displayed in a clearly visible location. The Division shall establish procedures
5 for the issuance of the placards and may charge a fee sufficient to pay the actual cost of
6 issuance, but in no event less than five dollars (\$5.00) per placard. The Division shall issue a
7 placard registration card with each placard issued to a handicapped person. The registration
8 card shall bear the name of the person to whom the placard is issued, the person's address, the
9 placard number, and an expiration date. The registration card shall be in the vehicle in which
10 the placard is being used, and the person to whom the placard is issued shall be the operator or
11 a passenger in the vehicle in which the placard is displayed."

12 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2010.