

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE DRH10050-ML-56 (02/02)

Short Title: Handicapped Parking Law Revisions.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Speciale.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO RESTRICT PARKING IN VAN-ACCESSIBLE HANDICAPPED PARKING
3 SPACES TO QUALIFYING VANS AND TO DIRECT THE DIVISION OF MOTOR
4 VEHICLES TO STUDY WAYS TO DECREASE THE MISUSE OF WINDSHIELD
5 PLACARDS ISSUED TO HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-37.6 reads as rewritten:

8 "**§ 20-37.6. Parking privileges for handicapped drivers and passengers.**

9 (a) General Parking. – Any vehicle that is driven by or is transporting a person who is
10 handicapped and that displays a distinguishing license plate, a removable windshield placard,
11 or a temporary removable windshield placard may be parked for unlimited periods in parking
12 zones restricted as to the length of time parking is permitted. This provision has no application
13 to those zones or during times in which the stopping, parking, or standing of all vehicles is
14 prohibited or which are reserved for special types of vehicles. ~~Any~~Except as provided in
15 subsection (a1) of this section, any qualifying vehicle may park in spaces designated as
16 restricted to vehicles driven by or transporting the handicapped.

17 (a1) Van-Accessible Parking. – Only a van that is driven by or is transporting a person
18 who is handicapped and that displays a distinguishing license plate, a removable windshield
19 placard, or a temporary removable windshield placard may park in spaces (i) designated as
20 van-accessible and (ii) restricted to vehicles driven by or transporting the handicapped.

21 (b) Handicapped Car Owners; Distinguishing License Plates. – If the handicapped
22 person is a registered owner of a vehicle, the owner may apply for and display a distinguishing
23 license plate. This license plate shall be issued for the normal fee applicable to standard license
24 plates. Any vehicle owner who qualifies for a distinguishing license plate may also receive one
25 removable windshield placard.

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27 **SECTION 2.** The Division of Motor Vehicles shall study ways to decrease the
28 misuse of windshield placards issued to handicapped persons. Included within this study shall
29 be the cost, feasibility, and advisability of (i) requiring the inclusion of more personally
30 identifying information on the windshield placard, including a picture of the handicapped
31 person who was issued the placard, (ii) linking the windshield placard to the handicapped
32 person's drivers license or special identification card, and (iii) linking the windshield placard to
33 the license plate issued to the handicapped person or the owner of the vehicle in which the
34 handicapped person is or will be transported. The Division shall report its findings and
35 recommendations, including any legislative proposals, to the Joint Legislative Transportation
36 Oversight Committee on or before January 15, 2016.



1 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to offenses
2 committed on or after that date.