

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

FILED SENATE  
Feb 13, 2019  
S.B. 61  
PRINCIPAL CLERK

S

D

SENATE BILL DRS35029-MW-4

Short Title: Guardian/Parent Authorized Plate. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators J. Davis, McInnis, and J. Jackson (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF HANDICAPPED LICENSE PLATES TO A  
3 REGISTERED VEHICLE OWNER THAT IS THE GUARDIAN OR PARENT OF A  
4 HANDICAPPED PERSON.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 20-37.5 reads as rewritten:

7 "...

8 (1a) Guardian. – Any of the following:

9 a. Custodian. – As defined in G.S. 7B-101(8).

10 b. General Guardian. – As defined in G.S. 35A-1202(7).

11 c. Guardian of the person. – As defined in G.S. 35A-1202(10).

12 ...."

13 SECTION 2. G.S. 20-37.6 reads as rewritten:

14 "...

15 (b) ~~Handicapped Car Owners; Distinguishing License Plates.~~ – If the ~~handicapped person~~  
16 ~~is a registered owner of a vehicle, vehicle is handicapped or the registered owner certifies that~~  
17 ~~the registered owner is the guardian or parent of a handicapped person,~~ the registered owner may  
18 apply for and display a distinguishing license plate. This license plate shall be issued for the  
19 normal fee applicable to standard license plates. Any vehicle owner who qualifies for a  
20 distinguishing license plate shall be notified by the Division at the time the plate is issued that  
21 the applicant is also eligible to receive one removable windshield placard and, upon request, shall  
22 be issued a placard at that time. A vehicle with a distinguishing license plate may be lawfully  
23 used when a handicapped person is not a driver or passenger so long as the vehicle is not using  
24 handicapped privileges including parking in a space designated with a sign pursuant to subsection  
25 (d) of this section.

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



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

13 (c1) Application and Renewal; Medical Certification. – The initial application for a  
14 distinguishing license plate, removable windshield placard, or temporary removable windshield  
15 placard shall be accompanied by a certification of a licensed physician, a licensed  
16 ophthalmologist, a licensed optometrist, a licensed physician assistant, a licensed nurse  
17 practitioner, or the Division of Services for the Blind that the applicant or person in the applicant's  
18 custody or care is handicapped or by a disability determination by the United States Department  
19 of Veterans Affairs that the applicant or person in the applicant's custody or care is handicapped.  
20 For an initial application for a temporary removable windshield placard only, the certification  
21 that the applicant is handicapped may be made by a licensed certified nurse midwife. The  
22 application for a temporary removable windshield placard shall contain additional certification  
23 to include the period of time the certifying authority determines the applicant will have the  
24 disability. Distinguishing license plates shall be renewed annually, but subsequent applications  
25 shall not require a medical certification that the applicant is ~~handicapped~~. ~~handicapped, except~~  
26 ~~that a registered owner that certified pursuant to subsection (b) of this section that the registered~~  
27 ~~owner is the guardian or parent of a handicapped person must recertify every five years.~~  
28 Removable windshield placards shall be renewed every five years, and, except for a person  
29 certified as totally and permanently disabled at the time of the initial application or a prior  
30 renewal under this subsection, the renewal shall require a medical recertification that the person  
31 is handicapped; provided that a medical certification shall not be required to renew any placard  
32 that expires after the person to whom it is issued is 80 years of age. Temporary removable  
33 windshield placards shall expire no later than six months after issuance.

34 ...."

35 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective February 1, 2020.