

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
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SENATE BILL DRS55040-MWf-58A

Short Title: Handicapped Parking Decal. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Gallimore and Tillman (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE A  
3 DISTINGUISHING REGISTRATION PLATE DECAL.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-37.5 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

6 "(1a) Distinguishing registration plate decal.— A decal of suitable size to be placed  
7 on a registration plate that displays the International Symbol of Access and  
8 the registration plate number of the vehicle."

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

10 "**§ 20-37.6. Parking privileges for handicapped drivers and passengers.**

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

19 (b) Handicapped Car Owners; Distinguishing License ~~Plates.~~ Plates; Distinguishing  
20 Registration Plate Decal.— If the handicapped person is a registered owner of a vehicle, the owner  
21 may apply for and display a distinguishing license plate. This license plate shall be issued for the  
22 normal fee applicable to standard license plates. In the alternative, the owner may request a  
23 distinguishing registration plate decal to be placed on the registration plate of a vehicle already  
24 registered with the Division. The fee for a distinguishing registration plate decal shall be ten  
25 dollars (\$10.00). Any vehicle owner who qualifies for a distinguishing license plate or  
26 distinguishing registration plate decal shall be notified by the Division at the time the plate or  
27 decal is issued that the applicant is also eligible to receive one removable windshield placard and,  
28 upon request, shall be issued a placard at that time.

29 ...

30 (c1) Application and Renewal; Medical Certification. — The initial application for a  
31 distinguishing license plate, distinguishing registration plate decal, removable windshield  
32 placard, or temporary removable windshield placard shall be accompanied by a certification of a  
33 licensed physician, a licensed ophthalmologist, a licensed optometrist, a licensed physician  
34 assistant, a licensed nurse practitioner, or the Division of Services for the Blind that the applicant  
35 is handicapped or by a disability determination by the United States Department of Veterans  
36 Affairs that the applicant is handicapped. For an initial application for a temporary removable



1 windshield placard only, the certification that the applicant is handicapped may be made by a  
2 licensed certified nurse midwife. The application for a temporary removable windshield placard  
3 shall contain additional certification to include the period of time the certifying authority  
4 determines the applicant will have the disability. Distinguishing license plates and distinguishing  
5 registration plate decals shall be renewed annually, but subsequent applications shall not require  
6 a medical certification that the applicant is handicapped. Removable windshield placards shall  
7 be renewed every five years, and, except for a person certified as totally and permanently disabled  
8 at the time of the initial application or a prior renewal under this subsection, the renewal shall  
9 require a medical recertification that the person is handicapped; provided that a medical  
10 certification shall not be required to renew any placard that expires after the person to whom it  
11 is issued is 80 years of age. Temporary removable windshield placards shall expire no later than  
12 six months after issuance.

13 ...

14 (c3) It shall be unlawful to sell a distinguishing license plate, a distinguishing registration  
15 plate decal, a removable windshield placard, or a temporary removable windshield placard issued  
16 pursuant to this section. A violation of this subsection shall be a Class 2 misdemeanor and may  
17 be punished pursuant to G.S. 20-176(c) and (c1).

18 ...

19 (e) Enforcement of Handicapped Parking Privileges. – It shall be unlawful:

- 20 (1) To park or leave standing any vehicle in a space designated with a sign  
21 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section for handicapped persons when the  
22 vehicle does not display the distinguishing license plate, distinguishing  
23 registration plate decal, removable windshield placard, temporary removable  
24 windshield placard as provided in this section, a disabled veteran registration  
25 plate issued under G.S. 20-79.4, or a partially disabled veteran registration  
26 plate issued under G.S. 20-79.4;
- 27 (2) For any person not qualifying for the rights and privileges extended to  
28 handicapped persons under this section to exercise or attempt to exercise such  
29 rights or privileges by the unauthorized use of a distinguishing license plate,  
30 distinguishing registration plate decal, removable windshield placard, or  
31 temporary removable windshield placard issued pursuant to the provisions of  
32 this section;

33 ...."

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