

# Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

## Disabled Parking Work Group Recommendations



**Department of Licensing**  
**Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates**

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**Table of Contents**

<b>The Challenge</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>The Options</b> .....	<b>1-2</b>
<b>The Recommendations/Strategies</b> .....	<b>2-8</b>
Free Parking and placard creation.....	2-3
Temporary Duration .....	4
Penalties .....	4-5
Citation Dismissals.....	5
Placard Changes .....	6
Application Changes .....	6-7
Medical Professional Approval Process.....	7-8
<b>The Medical Professional Oversight Measures</b> .....	<b>8-9</b>
<b>The Options Not Chosen</b> .....	<b>10-11</b>
<b>The Publicly Accessible System</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>The Legislative Impacts</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Appendix A – The Legislation</b> .....	<b>13-20</b>
<b>Appendix B – The References/Data</b> .....	<b>21-45</b>
Number of Placards .....	21
Six Year Trend for Placard Issuance .....	21
Six Year Population .....	22
Citation Information .....	22
AAMVA Survey Results .....	23-38
Parking Enforcement Survey Results .....	38-39
Other Survey Results .....	39-42
Other Studies/Data Points .....	42-45

# Department of Licensing

## Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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### The Challenge

Each day, people with and without disabilities have difficulty finding parking within many urban areas of the state. It is perceived by some that there is abuse in the use of disabled parking placards and disabled special license plates. Disabled placards and license plates are being fraudulently used to park in reserved spaces and are being used to obtain free and unlimited parking privileges that are provided to persons with disabilities through chapter 46.19 RCW. As such, the Legislature directed the Department of Licensing (DOL) to establish a work group to study disabled placard and special license plate use and to develop a strategic plan to end any abuse.

- Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5024 directed DOL to convene a work group to:
  - Examine the use of parking placards and special license plates for persons with disabilities; and
  - Develop a strategic plan for ending any abuse
- In developing this plan, the department must work with:
  - The Department of Health (DOH);
  - Disabled citizen advocacy groups; and
  - Representatives from local government
- The work group must be composed of no more than two representatives from each of the above entities. The work group may, when appropriate, consult with any other public or private entity in order to complete the strategic plan.

The work group consisted of representatives from DOL, representatives from DOH, representatives from the City of Seattle, and representatives from disabled citizen advocacy groups. The work group gathered input from the public via an email address for the workgroup that was published by several media outlets. In finalizing the recommendations contained in this strategic plan, the work group shared its proposed recommendations with disabled citizens and disabled advocacy groups, local and state law enforcement, local government, and the Seattle Commission for People with DisAbilities.

### The Options

The work group considered many options to reduce abuse. After researching best practices of other cities and states, reviewing many different surveys and studies, gathering public input and examining the pros and cons of the options, the work group came to a consensus on its recommendations to reduce the opportunity for abuse.

While many of the stories and information are anecdotal, the work group concluded that the disabled parking privilege is easily abused and the verifiable data does show there is abuse of the system. In fact, several members of the work group witnessed the suspected abuse of a parking placard while on a tour by Seattle parking enforcement officers. During this visit, an officer was citing a vehicle in front of the work group for using an expired placard and

## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

---

discussing his observations of abuse. During this discussion, a person kept walking back and forth by the work group and listening to the conversation; He proceeded to jump into his vehicle (a few cars down), hastily pulled the placard from the mirror and drove off. His behavior led the work group to believe he was using an invalid placard in a metered and time limited parking space.

### The Recommendations/Strategies

#### **Recommendation #1: Establish a new payment exempt disabled permit**

##### **Description:**

- Revise the existing metered parking exemption and the additional time allotment by transitioning the current permanent disabled parking permit system into a standard permit and a payment exempt permit.
- Allow local jurisdictions to pass ordinances regarding meter parking.

##### **Why:**

In reviewing the many studies<sup>1</sup>, reviewing the many media articles, analyzing the available information, and listening to the public, it is apparent that free parking or allowing time beyond that posted for those with the disabled placard or license plate are the likely root causes to fraudulent use of disabled parking privileges. Experience from other states indicate that other reforms, in absence of removing free parking for all placard holders, are not effective at reducing placard abuse. The workgroup concluded that eliminating these would have the greatest impact on reducing abuse.

The standard permit would retain all current privileges except the ability to park in paid parking zones without making payment and parking in a stall for beyond the posted maximum time limit. Local jurisdictions could exercise discretion, by ordinance, to allow such standard permit holders free parking where payment is otherwise required and to allow time beyond the maximum posted limit.

For those who have certain physical limitations the work group recommends a *new* placard that allows free parking and parking beyond the posted time limit. While the work group acknowledges there would still be an avenue for abuse with a new permit, this 'Payment Exempt Disabled Permit' would be created to allow parking free of charge and for time beyond the posted limit (unless otherwise signed) for holders with the following qualifications:

- Cannot insert coins in parking meters or obtain tickets from ticket machines in parking lots or ramps due to a lack of fine motor control of both hands.
- Cannot reach up to 42 inches from the ground, due to lack of finger, hand, or upper extremity strength or mobility.
- Cannot approach a parking meter due to use of a wheelchair or other device.

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix B, beginning on page 39

## Department of Licensing Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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- Cannot walk more than 20 feet due to an orthopedic, neurological, cardiovascular, or lung condition which is so severe that the ability to walk is almost completely impeded.

The work group attempted to determine the intent behind the laws of 1984 in which the option for free parking was created. We were not able to determine intent and could not find a nexus between having a disability and being able to pay for parking. The work group recognizes the economic factors of time, the additional time some persons with disabilities need, and increased costs for some within the disabled community and believe we addressed those issues with creating the 'Payment Exempt Disabled Permit' and providing local jurisdictions with the authority to administer their on-street parking.

The move to a payment exempt permit retains an access provision for users who have a physical impediment to paying for parking. It has been implemented in Illinois and Michigan. Oregon has introduced a similar permit system. In Illinois, 10% to 15% of disabled placard holders qualify for a payment exempt permit based on similar criteria.

This recommendation will require a minimum of twenty four months from effective date of legislation for implementation.<sup>2</sup>

Following is the front of a mock 'Payment Exempt Disabled Permit':



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<sup>2</sup> See Appendix A, page 19

## Department of Licensing Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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### Recommendation #2: Change temporary placard validity period

#### **Description:**

Change the temporary disability placard maximum validity period from six months to twelve months.

#### **Why:**

A temporary disabled parking privilege cannot be renewed. If the applicant's condition lasts for more than six months a new application with a health care practitioner signature must be submitted to the department. When completing the application for a temporary placard the health care practitioner is currently limited to two options: check the box for temporary privileges (6 months) or give the applicant permanent status which is good for five years. By extending the temporary privilege period to twelve months, the health care practitioner has the option of authorizing up to a year of parking privileges with one application.

We estimate most applicants would recover from non-permanent injuries within the one year timeframe. If after one year the applicant has not recovered, another application can be submitted by the health care practitioner.

Allowing temporary disabled parking privileges to be issued up to twelve months will reduce the burden on customers that have conditions expected to last more than six months but do not qualify for permanent privileges. This will also reduce the chance of health care practitioners certifying permanent privileges when a patient has a condition that will last for more than six months but is not permanent.

The health care practitioner will have the opportunity to approve the disability parking privilege for any number of months, from one to twelve. If a condition is anticipated to last three months, the person will be provided a temporary placard that expires in three months (end of month).

### Recommendation #3: Clarify and increase penalties for fraudulent use

#### **Description:**

Clarify and increase or create penalties (misdemeanors) for:

- Unauthorized Use
- Illegal obtainment
- Selling a privilege (placard/plate/tab)
- Allow law enforcement to seize invalid/illegally used placards, plates, tabs and identification cards

#### **Why:**

One of the more popular suggestions given by the public during our outreach was to increase the penalties. Ideas varied from impounding the vehicle to creating a heavy financial penalty to revoking the driving privilege. The work group considered the varied ideas and settled on establishing or increasing penalties as misdemeanors and authorizing

## Department of Licensing Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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law enforcement to confiscate placards, plates, tabs, and identification cards. There is currently no penalty for selling a disabled parking privilege and unauthorized use is vague. Identifying and clarifying this in law is one step to deter the potential fraudulent use. Increasing the penalty for unauthorized use or illegal obtainment is a likely step to deter fraudulent use. In determining the level of violation, the work group reviewed other similar violations within title 46 RCW and concluded that misdemeanor is the most appropriate.

It is not clear if law enforcement can take custody of invalid or illegally used placards, plates, tabs, or identification cards as the law is silent in this area. Providing law enforcement with this tool will reduce the future ability to fraudulently use that privilege. The work group heard stories of the same vehicle violating the disability parking privilege continuously; one example was the same vehicle utilizing an expired placard every day of the week. If that placard could have been confiscated, that person could no longer violate the disabled parking privilege.

### Recommendation #4: Clarify language for citation dismissals

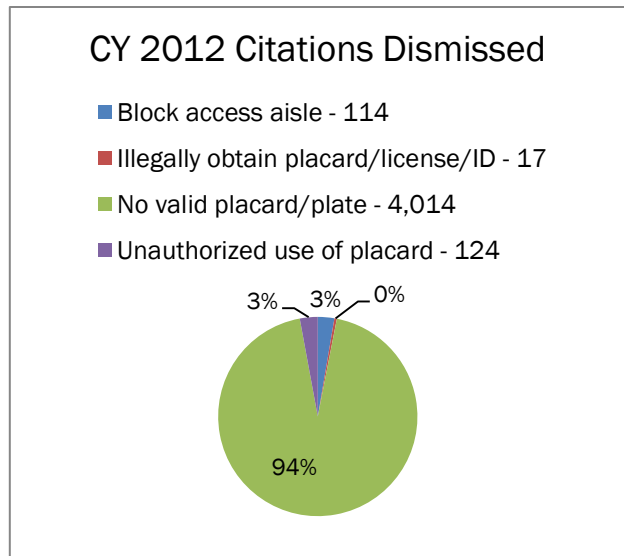
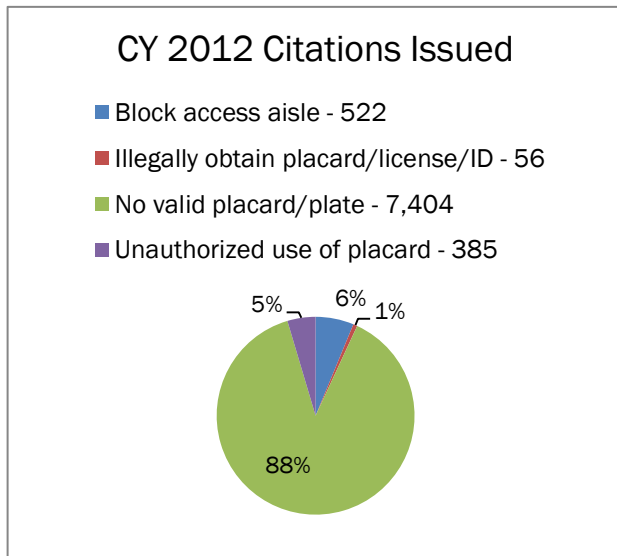
#### **Description:**

Amend the language related to suspension of penalty in RCW 46.19.050(4).

#### **Why:**

The vast majority of citations issued in 2012 were for not having a valid placard or plate and as you can see in the chart below, 54.2 percent of these citations were dismissed.

Workgroup members heard from magistrates and judges that if an individual presents an unexpired placard at the court hearing, the penalty is suspended and no finding is entered. Adding language to this statute gives courts more flexibility to appropriately enforce the law and allows legitimate users that forgot to hang their placard have the infraction dismissed.





## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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#### Recommendation #5: Placard redesign

##### **Description:**

Placard changes:

- Serial number at the center of placard
- Barcode at the bottom of the placard
- Enlarge print on the placard if space allows
- Place a statement regarding free parking eligibility/ineligibility on placards
- Place a statement on placards that the holder of the placard must be present to utilize placard

##### **Why:**

The proposed revisions to the placard incorporating the serial number and enlarged print will further assist law enforcement personnel in enforcing the disability parking laws. As well, as technology advances continue and law enforcement is obtaining new tools, a barcode will allow enforcement officers the ability to scan a placard and have the holder's information returned (as currently done through entering the serial number or calling DOL).

In addition, placing a statement on the placard clarifying placard privilege rules will help to inform those that transport persons with disabilities that the placard is not a permit

#### Recommendation #6: Improve the disability certification process

##### **Description:**

Application changes:

- Add language regarding violation of the Uniform Disciplinary Act, which provides disciplinary and licensure procedures for the licensed health and health-related professions and businesses, with standardized procedures for the licensure of health care professionals and the enforcement of laws.
- Add language to better explain to health care practitioners how to deal with a condition that will last longer than twelve months but less than five years.
- Add language indicating that health care practitioners should only approve for the expected temporary disability duration.
- Add a field on the application for the health care practitioner's DEA number, if any.

##### **Why:**

There are several changes to the Disabled Parking Application for individuals that could clarify expectations for health care practitioners.

1) The form currently states, "A parking permit for a person with disabilities may be issued only for a medical necessity that severely affects mobility or involves acute sensitivity to light. Knowingly providing false information on this application is a gross misdemeanor. The penalty is up to three hundred sixty-four days in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000 or both." This language appears directly under the health care practitioner's signature line and applies to the health care practitioner and the applicant. However, that is not necessarily



## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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clear to the reader. This language should be amended in statute to clarify to whom it applies. Additional language should also be added to alert the health care practitioner that knowingly providing false information could result in disciplinary action:

- A parking permit for a person with disabilities may be issued only for a medical necessity that severely affects mobility or involves acute sensitivity to light. An applicant or health care practitioner who knowingly provides false information on this application may be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. The penalty is up to three hundred sixty-four days in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000 or both. In addition, the health care practitioner may be subject to sanctions under chapter 18.130 RCW, the Uniform Disciplinary Act.

2) In addition to a signature, the form currently requires the health care practitioner's name, professional classification, license number, business address, and telephone number. All of this information is publicly available. A dishonest applicant could easily fill out this information and forge a signature. This issue could be mitigated if the form also asked for the health care practitioner's DEA number. Although not all practitioners eligible to sign these applications may possess a DEA number, it should be provided if it exists.

3) The language on the application may not adequately inform the health care practitioner about how to authorize a temporary placard. It currently has boxes that may be checked for "Permanent" or "Temporary for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 months." The practitioner is not given direction regarding how to choose between temporary or permanent or how to select the duration of a temporary authorization, nor is he or she informed that a temporary authorization can be renewed. As a result, practitioners may be authorizing permanent placards for temporary disabilities.

The language should be amended to add more information such as:

- Permanent – The disability is not expected to end or improve within five years.
- Temporary – The disability is expected to end or improve within twelve months or less. Anticipated length of disability is \_\_\_\_ months. Note: authorization can be reissued if disability does not end or improve within the expected timeframe.

#### **Recommendation #7: Require the use of a prescription pad or letterhead for certification**

##### **Description:**

Have health care practitioners with prescribing privileges approve disabled parking privileges on a prescription pad and chiropractors approve on their office letterhead. Documents are to be included with an application for disability parking privileges.

##### **Why:**

As noted above, the form currently requires information about the health care practitioner that is publicly available. This, combined with a forged signature, may allow dishonest people to submit fraudulent applications.

## Department of Licensing Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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The rules for obtaining disabled parking placards, plates, and tabs could be amended to require that in addition to signing the application, the health care practitioner must also provide a signed authorization written on a tamper-resistant prescription pad or paper as defined in RCW 18.64.500. Chiropractors, who do not have prescriptive authority, must provide a signed authorization written upon their office letterhead. The authorization must be attached to the application and contain identifying information for the health care practitioner.

This measure would significantly reduce the potential for fraudulent applications.

### Oversight Measures of Medical Professionals

ESSB 5024, section 208(9) (c) required the strategic plan address “oversight measures to ensure that parking placards and special license plates for persons with disabilities are being properly issued, including: (A) The entity responsible for coordinating a randomized review of applications for special parking privileges; (B) a volunteer panel of medical professionals to conduct such reviews; (C) a means to protect the anonymity of both the medical professional conducting a review and the medical professional under review; (D) a means to protect the privacy of applicants by removing any personally identifiable information; and (E) possible sanctions against a medical professional for repeated improper issuances of parking placards or special license plates for persons with disabilities, including those sanctions listed in chapter 18.130 RCW”.

Possible sanctions have been addressed within the recommendations made above. We agree that practitioners should be subject to the sanctions in chapter 18.130 RCW, the Uniform Disciplinary Act, for intentional violations and have recommended placing that language on the application. However, the remainder of subsection (c)(i) assumes that there is abuse or fraud by health care practitioners taking place during the authorization process. The work group’s research did not find this to be true.

Currently, the law allows allopathic physicians, osteopathic physicians, chiropractors, podiatrists, naturopaths, advanced registered nurse practitioners and physician assistants to sign disabled placard parking applications. To determine trends related to health care practitioner authorizations, we analyzed all applications for the month of January 2013, a total of 8,212.

<b>Profession</b>	<b>Permanent</b>	<b>Temporary</b>
Allopathic Physician	3,112	2,849
Osteopathic Physician	226	223
Chiropractor	35	49
Podiatrist	46	439
Naturopath	7	8
Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner	291	221
Physician Assistant	223	483
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,940</b>	<b>4,272</b>

## Department of Licensing Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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Of the 8,212 total applications, only 75 health care practitioners signed more than 5 during the one month period. Of those 75, the vast majority of authorized placards were temporary rather than permanent. The most prolific practitioner, an allopathic physician, authorized 24 placards, 23 of which were temporary. He is an orthopedic surgeon specializing in foot, ankle and knee surgery.

A much more alarming trend was the significant number of applications where the name and license number of the practitioner did not match in the Department of Health's licensing database, the practitioner's license was expired, or the practitioner was deceased at the time of the application. Because all of the practitioner information required on the application is publicly available and signatures can be forged, it is reasonable to assume at least some of these applications were fraudulently submitted to the DOL.

Verification of practitioner names, license numbers, and active status does not require review by a panel of medical professionals. This task can be performed by anyone by simply accessing the Department of Health's website and using the Provider Credential Search function.

In addition, review of applications by a panel of medical professionals would likely be unhelpful. The majority of applications are based on the patient's inability to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest or their ability to walk is severely limited due to an arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition. Review of the application itself would not reveal whether the cited condition actually exists. Meaningful review would require an independent medical examination of the patient. This would be time consuming, intrusive and non-confidential for all parties. Practitioners would be unlikely to volunteer their valuable time and patients could not be expected to travel to the practitioner's location.

### CY 2012 Count of Placards by Disability

Disability	Permanent	Temporary	Total
Acute sensitivity to automobile emissions	326	14	340
Cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest	87,552	7,426	94,978
Cannot walk without the use of assistive device	23,827	2,036	25,863
Cardiovascular disease/condition - Class III	5,505	144	5,649
Cardiovascular disease/condition - Class IV	869	15	884
Legally blind with limited mobility	967	7	974
Limited ability to walk due to arthritic/neurological/orthopedic condition	133,662	15,125	148,787
Lung Disease	4,990	122	5,112
Porphyrria/Acute sensitivity to light	59	2	61
Use portable oxygen	4,306	134	4,440
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>262,063</b>	<b>25,025</b>	<b>287,088</b>

For these reasons, we suggest that the oversight measures described in subsection (c)(i) not be considered. Other more effective and efficient measures that have been recommended within this plan can be implemented to help ensure the application process is better controlled and subject to less abuse.

## Department of Licensing Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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### The Options Not Chosen

The work group considered many other options that we determined did not rise to the level of the recommendations put forth. In considering these options, we looked at their benefits, their burden on the disabled community, their practicality, their likelihood of reducing fraudulent use, their ease of enforcement, and their financial costs.

As stated in the recommendations, the majority of studies indicated free parking was the likely primary cause for fraudulent use. The change within recommendation #1, in itself, should substantially reduce the fraudulent use and therefore many other options were given great consideration but not put forth as recommendations.

We believe the change to provide free parking and allow time beyond the posted limit to those with certain qualifying conditions creates a fair and equitable system. Also, authorizing local jurisdictions to allow for free parking or additional time for all placard holders provides greater flexibility. As well, other measures taken such as creating misdemeanors for violations, requiring approval through prescriptions, additional language on the application, creating a twelve-month temporary parking placard, and design changes to the placards will significantly reduce fraudulent use.

We also looked into the existing disabled parking database. While there are many ideas for improvement, we decided not to recommend any changes at this time. The DOL is currently engaged in a business and technology modernization project. As part of this modernization, the agency will have the opportunity to examine the disabled parking database's deficiencies and will be making a host of improvements to the agency's IT capabilities over the next several years that will lead to better data reporting capability and accuracy.

Some of the ideas/options not recommended, gathered from public input or generated by the work group, are:

- Place color strips/stickers on the placard for month and year expiration
- Have the placard holder's photo on placard
- Have the placard holder's disability listed on placard (or some indication)
- List allowable license plates on the placard for those transporting an authorized person
- Require expired or damaged placards be returned
- Reduce the number of placards issued per individual from two to one
- Create a wallet card for those that drive the disabled person
- Have a wallet sized placard that inserts into a clear hang-tag
- Place a sticker on the windshield that has a photo of the person
- Create a sliding scale for metered parking based on income
- Provide reduced rate parking
- Eliminate placards, issue plates only
- Eliminate plates, issue placards only
- Issue a plate only, no placards, for those that operate their vehicle

## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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- Renew privileges more frequently than the 5 years
- Tighten qualifications – make more stringent
- A loss of disabled parking privilege for violations
- Impound vehicles violating disabled parking laws/rules
- Revoke a driving privilege for violations
- Have prison terms for misusing parking privileges or for providing false information
- Revoke disabled parking privilege after 3rd illegal use
- Allow online access to placard holder's information
- Offer rewards for reporting abuse
- Require placard holder to renew the disabled parking privilege in-person
- Eliminate the entire system to fund parking subsidies or transport

### The Publicly Accessible System

Section 208 (9) of ESSB 5024 requires the department to investigate a publicly accessible system and stipulates that:

“This system must not allow the public to access any personally identifiable information or protected health information of a person who has been issued a parking placard or special license plate.”

A web-based system can be created that will do the following:

- Provide validity results of the disabled parking privilege.
- Provide the following search methods:
  - Disabled parking placards serial number
  - Disabled special license plate number
- Return only restricted information to determine if a disabled placard or plate is valid.
- Include security to ensure that personally identifiable information or protected health information about the person who has been issued a parking placard or special license plate will not be released from the site.

The system will not:

- Provide any personally identifiable information.
- Require the user to have a SAW account.
- Capture any data about the searches being performed.
- Validate whether the plate or placard is being used by the correct person or on the correct vehicle.

The design and testing of this publicly accessible system will take approximately two months.

**Department of Licensing**  
**Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates**

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**Legislative Impacts**

**Recommendation #1** which revises the existing metered parking exemption and the additional time allotment, allows local jurisdictions to pass ordinances regarding meter parking, and creates a new placard requires amending RCW 46.19.010, RCW 46.19.050, RCW 46.61.582, and RCW 46.61.583.

**Recommendation #2** which changes the temporary disability maximum from six months to twelve months requires updating RCW 46.19.010 and requires agency rule making to amend WAC 308-96B-020.

**Recommendation #3** which increases and creates penalties requires amending RCW 46.19.050 and RCW 46.63.020.

**Recommendation #4** which clarifies placard presentation to a magistrate requires amending RCW 46.19.050.

**Recommendation #5** which makes several placard changes does not require any changes to law or rule.

**Recommendation #6** which makes several application changes requires amending RCW 46.19.010.

**Recommendation #7** which requires a prescription pad or letterhead authorizing the disability parking privilege requires amending RCW 46.19.010 and requires agency rule making to amend WAC 308-96B-020.

**Department of Licensing**  
**Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates**

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**Appendix A – The Legislation**

AN ACT Relating to special parking privileges for persons with disabilities; amending RCW 46.19.010, 46.19.050, 46.61.582, 46.61.583, and 46.63.020; creating a new section; and prescribing penalties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

**NEW SECTION. Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that there is a history of abuse of disabled parking privileges that requires changes to maintain public safety and good order. (2) It is the intent of the legislature to: (a) Decrease the amount of unlawful use of disabled parking privileges; (b) not create additional burdens for those in need of disabled parking privileges; (c) provide local jurisdictions with the authority to improve their administration of on-street parking; (d) encourage the department of licensing to implement the recommendations of the disabled parking work group in regards to placard and application changes; and (e) encourage the department of licensing to consider disabled parking information system upgrades in its pursuit of technology modernization.

**Sec. 2.** RCW 46.19.010 and 2011 c 96 s 32 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) A natural person who has a disability that meets one of the following criteria may apply for special parking privileges:

- (a) Cannot walk two hundred feet without stopping to rest;
- (b) Is severely limited in ability to walk due to arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition;
- (c) Has such a severe disability that the person cannot walk without the use of or assistance from a brace, cane, another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistive device;
- (d) Uses portable oxygen;
- (e) Is restricted by lung disease to an extent that forced expiratory respiratory volume, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter per second or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty mm/hg on room air at rest;
- (f) Impairment by cardiovascular disease or cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified as class III or IV under standards accepted by the American heart association;
- (g) Has a disability resulting from an acute sensitivity to automobile emissions that limits or impairs the ability to walk. The personal physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant of the applicant shall document that the disability is comparable in severity to the others listed in this subsection;
- (h) Has limited mobility and has no vision or whose vision with corrective lenses is so limited that the person requires alternative methods or skills to do efficiently those things that are ordinarily done with sight by persons with normal vision;
- (i) Has an eye condition of a progressive nature that may lead to blindness; or
- (j) Is restricted by a form of porphyria to the extent that the applicant would significantly benefit from a decrease in exposure to light.



## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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(2) A natural person who has a physical disability that substantially limits the ability to make payment at a ticket machine or parking meter shall receive additional special parking privileges. A natural person who meets one of the following criteria may apply for special parking privileges that provide free of charge parking to park a vehicle being used to transport that person for unlimited periods of time in parking zones or areas including zones or areas with parking meters which are otherwise restricted as to the length of time parking is permitted:

- a) Cannot insert coins in parking meters or obtain tickets from ticket machines in parking lots or ramps due to a lack of fine motor control of both hands.
- b) Cannot reach up to forty-two inches from the ground, due to lack of finger, hand, or upper extremity strength or mobility.
- c) Cannot approach a parking meter due to use of a wheelchair or other device.
- d) Cannot walk more than twenty feet due to an orthopedic, neurological, cardiovascular, or lung condition which is so severe that the ability to walk is almost completely impeded.

~~((2))~~ (3) The disability must be determined by either:

- (a) A licensed physician;
- (b) An advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW; or
- (c) A physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A or 18.57A RCW.

(4) The health care practitioner must provide a signed written authorization on tamper-resistant prescription pad or paper as defined in RCW 18.64.500 if the practitioner has prescriptive authority. Authorized health care practitioners without prescriptive authority must provide a signed authorization written upon their office letterhead. Such authorizations must be attached to the application for special parking privileges for persons with disabilities.

~~((3))~~ (5) The application for special parking privileges for persons with disabilities must contain:

- (a) The following statement immediately below the physician's, advanced registered nurse practitioner's, or physician assistant's signature: "A parking permit for a person with disabilities may be issued only for a medical necessity that severely affects mobility or involves acute sensitivity to light (RCW 46.19.010). ~~((Knowingly providing false information on this application is a gross misdemeanor.))~~ An applicant or health care practitioner who knowingly provides false information on this application is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. The penalty is up to three hundred sixty-four days in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000 or both. In addition, the health care practitioner may be subject to sanctions under chapter 18.130 RCW, the Uniform Disciplinary Act."; and
- (b) Other information as required by the department.

~~((4))~~ (6) A natural person who has a disability described in subsection (1) of this section and is expected to improve within ~~((six))~~ twelve months may be issued a temporary placard for a period not to exceed ~~((six))~~ twelve months. If the disability exists after ~~((six))~~ twelve months, a new temporary placard must be issued upon receipt of a new application with certification from the person's physician as prescribed in subsections (4) and (5) of this

## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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section. Special license plates for persons with disabilities may not be issued to a person with a temporary disability.

~~((5))~~ (7) A natural person who qualifies for special parking privileges under this section must receive an identification card showing the name and date of birth of the person to whom the parking privilege has been issued and the serial number of the placard.

~~((6))~~ (8) A natural person who qualifies for permanent special parking privileges under this section may receive one of the following:

- (a) Up to two parking placards;
- (b) One set of special license plates for persons with disabilities if the person with the disability is the registered owner of the vehicle on which the license plates will be displayed;
- (c) One parking placard and one set of special license plates for persons with disabilities if the person with the disability is the registered owner of the vehicle on which the license plates will be displayed; or
- (d) One special parking year tab for persons with disabilities and one parking placard.

~~((7))~~ (9) Parking placards and identification cards described in this section must be issued free of charge.

~~((8))~~ (10) The parking placard and identification card must be immediately returned to the department upon the placard holder's death.

**Sec. 3.** RCW 46.19.050 and 2011 c 171 s 74 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) **False information.** Knowingly providing false information in conjunction with the application for special parking privileges for persons with disabilities is a gross misdemeanor punishable under chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(2) **Unauthorized use.** Any unauthorized use of the special placard, special license ~~((plate))~~ plate, license plate tab, or identification card issued under this chapter is a misdemeanor punishable under chapter 9A.20 RCW. For the purpose of this subsection, "unauthorized use" includes the use of a parking placard, special license plate, or license plate tab that is expired, inactivated, faked, forged, or counterfeited, any use of a parking placard, special license plate, or license plate tab of another holder if the initial holder is no longer eligible to use or receive it, and any use of a parking placard, special license plate, or license plate tab of another holder even if permitted to do so by the holder. ~~((parking infraction with a monetary penalty of two hundred fifty dollars. In addition to any penalty or fine imposed under this subsection, two hundred dollars must be assessed.))~~

(3) **Inaccessible access.** It is a parking infraction, with a monetary penalty of two hundred fifty dollars, for a person to stop, stand, park ~~((in, block, or))~~ otherwise make inaccessible the access aisle located next to a space reserved for persons with physical disabilities. In addition to any penalty or fine imposed under this subsection, two hundred dollars must be assessed. The clerk of the court shall report all violations related to this subsection to the department.

## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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(4) **Parking without placard/plate.** It is a parking infraction, with a monetary penalty of two hundred fifty dollars, for any person to park a vehicle in a parking place provided on private property without charge or on public property reserved for persons with physical disabilities without a placard or special license plate issued under this chapter. In addition to any penalty or fine imposed under this subsection, two hundred dollars must be assessed. If a person is charged with a violation, the person will not be determined to have committed an infraction if the person establishes that the person operating the vehicle or being transported at the time of the infraction had a valid placard, special license plate or license plate tab at the time of the infraction. ~~produces in court or before the court appearance the placard or special license plate issued under this chapter as required under this chapter. Such person must sign a statement under penalty of perjury that the placard or special license plate produced prior to the court appearance was valid at the time of infraction and issued under this chapter as required under this chapter. ((A local jurisdiction providing nonmetered, on street parking places reserved for persons with physical disabilities may impose by ordinance time restrictions of no less than four hours on the use of these parking places.))~~

~~((5) **Time restrictions.** A local jurisdiction may impose by ordinance time restrictions of no less than four hours on the use of nonreserved, on street parking spaces by vehicles displaying the special parking placards or special license plates issued under this chapter. All time restrictions must be clearly posted.))~~

~~((6))~~ (5) **Allocation and use of funds - reimbursement.**

(a) The assessment imposed under subsections ~~(2),~~ (3), and (4) of this section must be allocated as follows:

(i) One hundred dollars must be deposited in the accessible communities account created in RCW 50.40.071; and

(ii) One hundred dollars must be deposited in the multimodal transportation account under RCW 47.66.070 for the sole purpose of supplementing a grant program for special needs transportation provided by transit agencies and nonprofit providers of transportation that is administered by the department of transportation.

(b) Any reduction in any penalty or fine and assessment imposed under subsections ~~((2,))~~ (3)~~((,))~~ and (4) of this section must be applied proportionally between the penalty or fine and the assessment. When a reduced penalty is imposed under subsection ~~((2,))~~ (3)~~((,))~~ or (4) of this section, the amount deposited in the accounts identified in (a) of this subsection must be reduced equally and proportionally.

(c) The penalty or fine amounts must be used by that local jurisdiction exclusively for law enforcement. The court may also impose an additional penalty sufficient to reimburse the local jurisdiction for any costs that it may have incurred in the removal and storage of the improperly parked vehicle.

~~((7))~~ (6) **Illegal obtainment.** Except as provided in subsection (1) of this section, it is a ~~((traffic infraction with a monetary penalty of two hundred fifty dollars))~~ misdemeanor punishable under chapter 9A.20 RCW for any person willfully to obtain a special license plate, license plate tab, placard, or identification card issued under this chapter in a manner other than that established under this chapter.

**Department of Licensing**  
**Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates**

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(7) Selling a placard/plate/card. It is a misdemeanor punishable under chapter 9A.20 RCW for any person to sell a disability parking placard, special license plate, license plate tab, or a disability identification card.

**(8) Volunteer appointment.** A law enforcement agency authorized to enforce parking laws may appoint volunteers, with a limited commission, to issue parking and traffic infractions for violations of RCW (~~(46.19.010 and)~~) 46.19.030, 46.19.050(3), 46.19.050(4), or 46.61.581. Volunteers must be at least twenty-one years of age. The law enforcement agency appointing volunteers may establish any other qualifications that the agency deems desirable.

(a) An agency appointing volunteers under this section must provide training to the volunteers before authorizing them to issue notices of infractions.

(b) A notice of infraction issued by a volunteer appointed under this subsection has the same force and effect as a notice of infraction issued by a (~~(police))~~ peace officer for the same offense.

(c) A (~~(police))~~ peace officer or a volunteer may request a person to show the person's identification card or special parking placard when investigating the possibility of a violation of this section. If the request is refused, the person in charge of the vehicle may be issued a notice of infraction for a violation of this section.

(9) Confiscating a placard/plate/card. A peace officer may confiscate a parking placard, special license plate, license plate tab, or identification card if the person is cited for violating the special parking privileges issued under chapter 46.19 RCW.

~~((9))~~ (10) Community restitution. For second or subsequent violations of this section, in addition to a monetary penalty, the violator must complete a minimum of forty hours of:

(a) Community restitution for a nonprofit organization that serves persons with disabilities or disabling diseases; or

(b) Any other community restitution that may sensitize the violator to the needs and obstacles faced by persons with disabilities.

~~((10))~~ (11) Fine suspension. The court may not suspend more than one-half of any fine imposed under subsection ~~((2,)-)~~(3)~~(,)-~~ or (4)~~(,)-~~(7) of this section.

**Sec. 4.** RCW 46.61.582 and 2011 c 171 s 80 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Any person who meets the criteria for special parking privileges under RCW 46.19.010~~(2)~~ shall be allowed free of charge parking to park a vehicle being used to transport (~~that person~~) the holder of special parking privileges for unlimited periods of time in parking zones or areas including zones or areas with parking meters which are otherwise restricted as to the length of time parking is permitted. (~~This section does not apply to those zones or areas in which the stopping, parking, or standing of all vehicles is prohibited or which are reserved for special types of vehicles.~~) The person shall obtain and display ~~((a))~~ the special placard (~~(or license plate)~~) under RCW 46.19.010 and 46.19.030 to be eligible for the privileges under this subsection.

**Department of Licensing**  
**Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates**

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(2) A local jurisdiction may, by ordinance, provide free of charge parking or provide parking for additional periods of time beyond the posted time limit or provide both free of charge parking and time beyond the posted time limit to park a vehicle being used to transport the holder of special parking privileges issued under RCW 46.19.010(1) or RCW 46.19.010(6) in parking zones or areas including zones or areas with parking meters which are otherwise restricted as to the length of time parking is permitted. The person shall obtain and display a special placard or special license plate under RCW 46.19.010 and 46.19.030 to be eligible for the privileges under this subsection.

(3) This section does not apply to those zones or areas in which the stopping, parking, or standing of all vehicles is prohibited or which are reserved for special types of vehicles.

**Sec. 5.** RCW 46.61.583 and 1991 c 339 s 26 are each amended to read as follows:

A special license plate or card issued by another state or country that indicates an occupant of the vehicle is disabled, entitles the vehicle on or in which it is displayed and being used to transport the disabled person to the same (~~overtime~~) parking privileges granted under this chapter to a vehicle with a similar special license plate or card issued by this state.

**Sec. 6.** RCW 46.63.020 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 23 s 21 are each amended to read as follows:

Failure to perform any act required or the performance of any act prohibited by this title or an equivalent administrative regulation or local law, ordinance, regulation, or resolution relating to traffic including parking, standing, stopping, and pedestrian offenses, is designated as a traffic infraction and may not be classified as a criminal offense, except for an offense contained in the following provisions of this title or a violation of an equivalent administrative regulation or local law, ordinance, regulation, or resolution:

- (1) RCW 46.09.457(1)(b)(i) relating to a false statement regarding the inspection of and installation of equipment on wheeled all-terrain vehicles;
- (2) RCW 46.09.470(2) relating to the operation of a nonhighway vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a controlled substance;
- (3) RCW 46.09.480 relating to operation of nonhighway vehicles;
- (4) RCW 46.10.490(2) relating to the operation of a snowmobile while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotics or habit-forming drugs or in a manner endangering the person of another;
- (5) RCW 46.10.495 relating to the operation of snowmobiles;
- (6) Chapter 46.12 RCW relating to certificates of title, registration certificates, and markings indicating that a vehicle has been destroyed or declared a total loss;
- (7) RCW 46.16A.030 and 46.16A.050(3) relating to the nonpayment of taxes and fees by failure to register a vehicle and falsifying residency when registering a motor vehicle;
- (8) RCW 46.16A.520 relating to permitting unauthorized persons to drive;
- (9) RCW 46.16A.320 relating to vehicle trip permits;
- (10) RCW 46.19.050(1) relating to knowingly providing false information in conjunction with an application for a special placard or license plate for disabled persons' parking, RCW 46.19.050(2) relating to any unauthorized use of the parking placard, special license plate, license plate tab, or identification card, RCW 46.19.050(6) relating to illegally obtaining a parking placard, special license plate, license plate tab, or identification card, and RCW



**Department of Licensing**  
**Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates**

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46.19.050(7) relating to selling a parking placard, special license plate, license plate tab, or identification card;

- (11) RCW 46.20.005 relating to driving without a valid driver's license;
- (12) RCW 46.20.091 relating to false statements regarding a driver's license or instruction permit;
- (13) RCW 46.20.0921 relating to the unlawful possession and use of a driver's license;
- (14) RCW 46.20.342 relating to driving with a suspended or revoked license or status;
- (15) RCW 46.20.345 relating to the operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended or revoked license;
- (16) RCW 46.20.410 relating to the violation of restrictions of an occupational driver's license, temporary restricted driver's license, or ignition interlock driver's license;
- (17) RCW 46.20.740 relating to operation of a motor vehicle without an ignition interlock device in violation of a license notation that the device is required;
- (18) RCW 46.20.750 relating to circumventing an ignition interlock device;
- (19) RCW 46.25.170 relating to commercial driver's licenses;
- (20) Chapter 46.29 RCW relating to financial responsibility;
- (21) RCW 46.30.040 relating to providing false evidence of financial responsibility;
- (22) RCW 46.35.030 relating to recording device information;
- (23) RCW 46.37.435 relating to wrongful installation of sunscreening material;
- (24) RCW 46.37.650 relating to the sale, resale, distribution, or installation of a previously deployed air bag;
- (25) RCW 46.37.671 through 46.37.675 relating to signal preemption devices;
- (26) RCW 46.37.685 relating to switching or flipping license plates, utilizing technology to flip or change the appearance of a license plate, selling a license plate flipping device or technology used to change the appearance of a license plate, or falsifying a vehicle registration;
- (27) RCW 46.44.180 relating to operation of mobile home pilot vehicles;
- (28) RCW 46.48.175 relating to the transportation of dangerous articles;
- (29) RCW 46.52.010 relating to duty on striking an unattended car or other property;
- (30) RCW 46.52.020 relating to duty in case of injury to or death of a person or damage to an attended vehicle;
- (31) RCW 46.52.090 relating to reports by repairers, storage persons, and appraisers;
- (32) RCW 46.52.130 relating to confidentiality of the driving record to be furnished to an insurance company, an employer, and an alcohol/drug assessment or treatment agency;
- (33) RCW 46.55.020 relating to engaging in the activities of a registered tow truck operator without a registration certificate;
- (34) RCW 46.55.035 relating to prohibited practices by tow truck operators;
- (35) RCW 46.55.300 relating to vehicle immobilization;
- (36) RCW 46.61.015 relating to obedience to police officers, flaggers, or firefighters;
- (37) RCW 46.61.020 relating to refusal to give information to or cooperate with an officer;
- (38) RCW 46.61.022 relating to failure to stop and give identification to an officer;
- (39) RCW 46.61.024 relating to attempting to elude pursuing police vehicles;
- (40) RCW 46.61.212(4) relating to reckless endangerment of emergency zone workers;
- (41) RCW 46.61.500 relating to reckless driving;
- (42) RCW 46.61.502 and 46.61.504 relating to persons under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs;

**Department of Licensing**  
**Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates**

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- (43) RCW 46.61.503 relating to a person under age twenty-one driving a motor vehicle after consuming alcohol;
- (44) RCW 46.61.520 relating to vehicular homicide by motor vehicle;
- (45) RCW 46.61.522 relating to vehicular assault;
- (46) RCW 46.61.5249 relating to first degree negligent driving;
- (47) RCW 46.61.527(4) relating to reckless endangerment of roadway workers;
- (48) RCW 46.61.530 relating to racing of vehicles on highways;
- (49) RCW 46.61.655(7) (a) and (b) relating to failure to secure a load;
- (50) RCW 46.61.685 relating to leaving children in an unattended vehicle with the motor running;
- (51) RCW 46.61.740 relating to theft of motor vehicle fuel;
- (52) RCW 46.64.010 relating to unlawful cancellation of or attempt to cancel a traffic citation;
- (53) RCW 46.64.048 relating to attempting, aiding, abetting, coercing, and committing crimes;
- (54) Chapter 46.65 RCW relating to habitual traffic offenders;
- (55) RCW 46.68.010 relating to false statements made to obtain a refund;
- (56) Chapter 46.70 RCW relating to unfair motor vehicle business practices, except where that chapter provides for the assessment of monetary penalties of a civil nature;
- (57) Chapter 46.72 RCW relating to the transportation of passengers in for hire vehicles;
- (58) RCW 46.72A.060 relating to limousine carrier insurance;
- (59) RCW 46.72A.070 relating to operation of a limousine without a vehicle certificate;
- (60) RCW 46.72A.080 relating to false advertising by a limousine carrier;
- (61) Chapter 46.80 RCW relating to motor vehicle wreckers;
- (62) Chapter 46.82 RCW relating to driver's training schools;
- (63) RCW 46.87.260 relating to alteration or forgery of a cab card, letter of authority, or other temporary authority issued under chapter 46.87 RCW;
- (64) RCW 46.87.290 relating to operation of an unregistered or unlicensed vehicle under chapter 46.87 RCW.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. This act takes effect July 1, 2016.



**Department of Licensing**  
**Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates**

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**Appendix B – The References/Data**

**Number of placards – As of July 9, 2013**

<b>Active clients for Individuals &amp; Organizations</b>			
<b>Type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Inactive</b>
Permanent Placards	1,261,948	686,733	575,215
Temporary Placards	26,203	25,365	838
Plates	72,947	47,571	25,376

<b>Inactive clients for Individuals &amp; Organizations</b>			
<b>Type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Inactive</b>
Permanent Placards	833,358	0	833,358
Temporary Placards	476,317	0	476,317
Plates	46,956	0	46,956

<b>Active Clients for Individuals Only</b>			
<b>Type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Inactive</b>
Permanent Placards	1,251,574	682,145	569,429
Temporary Placards	26,203	25,365	838
Plates	72,310	47,166	25,144

<b>Inactive Clients for Individuals Only</b>			
<b>Type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Inactive</b>
Permanent Placards	822,763	0	822,763
Temporary Placards	476,317	0	476,317
Plates	46,415	0	46,415

<b>Active Clients for Organizations Only</b>			
<b>Type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Inactive</b>
Permanent Placards	10,374	4,588	5,786
Temporary Placards	0	0	0
Plates	637	405	232
Temporary Placards	0	0	0
Plates	637	405	232

<b>Inactive Clients for Organizations Only</b>			
<b>Type</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Inactive</b>
Permanent Placards	10,595	0	10,595
Temporary Placards	0	0	0
Plates	541	0	541
Temporary Placards	0	0	0
Plates	541	0	541

Active client record is one that currently has an active placard/plate.

Inactive client record is one that does not currently have an active placard/plate.

**6-year trend for placard issuance – As of September 9, 2013**

<b>Year Issued</b>	<b>Individual Permanent</b>	<b>Organization Permanent</b>	<b>Temporary</b>
2007	134,872	1,599	33,547
2008	150,139	1,687	42,454
2009	154,936	1,290	46,106
2010	157,753	1,020	48,286
2011	164,344	1,381	51,804
2012	170,253	1,948	53,776
2013	122,613	1,213	38,621
2013 forecasted	177,594	1,757	55,939

**Department of Licensing**  
**Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates**

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**6-year population**

Year	Annual Increase in Placards Issued Since 2007	Annual Increase in Population Since 2007	Annual Increase in Population 65+ Since 2007
2008	14.27%	1.27%	0.23%
2009	4.14%	0.97%	0.27%
2010	2.34%	0.79%	0.29%
2011*	5.06%	0.64%	0.28%
2012*	3.88%	0.72%	0.53%
2013*	4.12%**	0.87%	0.52%

\*Population based on forecasts

\*\*Forecasted based on placards issued through September 9, 2013

Data from [the Office of Financial Management](#)

**Statewide Citation Information**

	CY2012	Unauthorized use of placard	Block access aisle	No placard or plate	Illegally obtain placard/license/ID
Dismissed	4,269 (51.02%)	124 (32.21%)	114 (21.85%)	4,014 (54.22%)	17 (30.36%)
Committed	3,223 (38.52%)	186 (48.31%)	314 (60.16%)	2,696 (36.41%)	27 (48.21%)
Not committed	138 (1.65%)	5 (1.30%)	11 (2.11%)	122 (1.65%)	0 (0.00%)
Paid	596 (7.12%)	58 (15.06%)	65 (12.45%)	466 (6.29%)	7 (12.50%)
Amended	43 (0.51%)	4 (1.04%)	3 (0.57%)	32 (0.43%)	4 (7.14%)
Pending	34 (0.41%)	4 (1.04%)	8 (1.53%)	22 (0.30%)	0 (0.00%)
Deferred	13 (0.16%)	1 (0.26%)	3 (0.57%)	8 (0.11%)	1 (1.79%)
Vacated	1 (0.01%)	0 (0.00%)	1 (0.19%)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
No finding/change of venue	50 (0.60%)	3 (0.78%)	3 (0.57%)	44 (0.59%)	0 (0.00%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,367</b>	<b>385 (4.60%)</b>	<b>522 (6.24%)</b>	<b>7,404 (88.49%)</b>	<b>56 (.67%)</b>

**Department of Licensing**  
**Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates**

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**AAMVA Survey (September 27, 2013)**

**Question 1: Please provide the types of privileges (plates, placards, tabs, etc) offered and the number of privileges a person is entitled.**

- One placard (BC)
- One placard and one plate/tab (DE, LA, NJ, OR, PA, SC, VA)
- One placard or one plate and one placard (AB, AL, IN)
- Two placards or one plate and one placard (AR, CO, ID, KS, MD, NH, WI)
- Two placards or two plates or one plate and one placard (WV)
- Two placards and one plate/tab (IA, NC, NE, OH)
- Two placards and two plates (MS)
- Up to three placards (AZ)

**Question 2: Have there been any changes to disabled plates or placards? If yes, please describe the changes, why the changes were made and describe any positive or negative impacts.**

- Allowed up to three placards (AZ)
- Beginning January 1, 2014 – three placards – Greater than 30 months; Less than 30 months; 90 days (CO)
- Must be recertified by a qualified physician (FL)
- If permanently disabled, do not require recertification. Now a 6-year life and are trying to tie to drivers license. (ME)
- Hole-punch month and year versus using a black, felt-tip permanent marker.(MI)
- Expiration changed from 2 years to 4 years in 2008 (MO)
- Changed placards from plastic to cardboard to minimize sun disintegration (NC)
- On 9/6/13 changed temp from 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 months to 3 or 6 months. In 2012, offered online applications to licensed medical professionals (about 40% are now electronic). (NE)
- As of 8/1/13, require a qualified medical practitioner as part of initial and recertification process. Certification requires a prescription. (NJ)
- Photo on placard. (NM)
- On 1/1/10 required to have a current photo on file with the DMV. Certification requires a prescription. (SC)
- In 2010, removed name, date of birth, and gender from placards. (VA)

**Question 3: Do you have unique identifiers on placards (such as photos)? If yes, please describe.**

- Plate and/or placard number on the back of the drivers license or ID card (AR)
- Specific number on placard and on wallet card (CA, NC)
- Last 4 of applicants ID or guardians ID (CO)
- Distinguishing number (CT, IA, IN, MD, OH, OR, VA, WI)
- Drivers license number (FL)
- Photo and distinguishing number (NM, SC)

## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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#### **Question 4: What are your eligibility criteria and certification requirements for disabled parking placards/plates issuance?**

- An application request approved by a certified medical professional outlining the reasons the client cannot walk more than 50 meters and the length of the required term. (AB)
- An application with a physician's certification. (AL)
- Certification from a license physician with the person's particular disability checked. (A) Cannot walk one hundred (100) feet without stopping to rest; (B) Cannot walk without the use of or assistance from a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistive device; (C) Is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that the person's forced respiratory expiratory volume for one (1) second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one (1) liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty (60) mm/hg on room air at rest; (D) Uses portable oxygen; (E) Has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards set by the American Heart Association; (F) Spinal cord injury; (G) Genetic ambulatory disorder; (H) An amputation; (I) Spina bifida; (J) Multiple Sclerosis; (K) Chronic heart disease; (L) Other:\_\_\_ If none of the conditions in A through L above applies, list the permanent medical condition that substantially impacts the person's mobility. Organization that provides transportation for persons with the above disabilities. (AR)
- Customers must complete a Disability/Hearing Impaired Plate/Placard Application and state: Whether the individual applicant is permanently or temporarily physically disabled or hearing impaired, or whether an organization uses the vehicle primarily for transporting physically disabled persons, or whether a non-profit organization uses the vehicle primarily for transporting/assisting senior citizens. (AZ)
- Established by an organization called SPARC and managed outside of motor vehicle administration. (BC)
- A person may qualify for a disabled placard or disabled license plates if he or she has impaired mobility due to having lost, or lost the use of, one or more lower extremities, or both hands, or has a diagnosed disease that substantially impairs or interferes with mobility, or if severely disabled to be unable to move without the aid of an assistive device. One may also qualify if he or she has specific, documented visual problems, including lower-vision or partial-sightedness. A licensed medical provider, with knowledge of the disability/disease, must certify the impairment. Additionally, the stated impairment must substantially interfere with the mobility of the applicant. For example, a disability such as autism would not automatically qualify the person for a disabled person parking placard or license plate. A medical professional must certify that the severity of the disorder severely impairs or interferes with his/her mobility. (CA)
- Persons who cannot walk two hundred feet without stopping to rest. -Persons who cannot walk without the use of, or assistance from, a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistive device. -Persons who are

## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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restricted by lung disease to such an extent that the person's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second when measured by spirometry is less than one liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty mm/hg on room air or at rest. - Persons who use portable oxygen. -Persons who have a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards set by the American Heart Association. -Persons who are severely limited in their ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition. (CO)

- We utilize the guidelines as provide for and defined under 23CFRPart 1235.2 (CT)
- To get a plate or placard a physician must certify that the applicant meets one of the following: Cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest; or Cannot walk safely without the use of or assistance from a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair or other assistive device; or Is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that the applicant's or household member's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume, one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty mm/hg. at room air or rest; or Uses portable oxygen; or Has a cardiac condition to the extent that the applicant's or household member's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to the standards set by the American Heart Association; or Is severely limited in his or her ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition. NOTE: Applicants 85 years of age and older need only show proof of their age to obtain a placard. Placards are good for 3 years. Renewing a placard or plate requires a self certification that the disability is permanent. (DE)
- Iowa requires that the person applying has a letter on their doctor's letterhead that they have either a permanent or temporary disability. (IA)
- Disability License Plate: The BMV shall issue a license plate or decal for a person with a disability that designates a vehicle as a vehicle that is regularly used to transport a person who: - has been issued a permanent parking placard; - has a permanent physical disability that requires the use of a wheelchair, a walker, braces, or crutches; - has permanently lost the use of one (1) or both legs; - is certified by a physician with an unlimited and unrestricted license to practice medicine in Indiana to be severely and permanently restricted: in mobility; - by a pulmonary or cardiovascular disability; - by an arthritic condition; or - by an orthopedic or a neurological impairment; or - is certified by an optometrist or ophthalmologist with a valid and unrestricted license to practice in Indiana to be blind or visually impaired. - is a representative of any corporation, limited liability company, partnership, unincorporated association, and any legal successor of the corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or association, empowered by the state or a political subdivision to operate programs, including the provision of transportation, or facilities for persons with physical disabilities. The physician certification is not required. Customers must submit a completed Application for Disability Plate or Parking Placard - State Form 42070 upon new issuance of a disability license plate. Applications for disability license plates must completed by an Indiana physician. If the plate is issued for

## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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blindness/visual impairment the physician must be an Indiana optometrist or ophthalmologist. Disabled Hoosier Veteran License Plate: The Certification of Eligibility for Veteran License Plate - State Form 32584 completed by the Indiana Department of Veteran Affairs is required. Permanent or Temporary Disability Placard: An individual of any age who: - has a temporary or permanent physical disability that requires the use of a wheelchair, a walker, braces, or crutches as certified by a health care provider; - has temporarily or permanently lost the use of one (1) or both legs; - is certified by a health care provider to be severely restricted in mobility, either temporarily or permanently, due to a pulmonary or cardiovascular disability, arthritic condition, or orthopedic or neurological impairment. - is certified to be blind or visually impaired by an optometrist or ophthalmologist with a valid and unrestricted license to practice in Indiana. - Any corporation, Limited Liability Company, partnership, unincorporated association, and any legal successor of the corporation, Limited Liability Company, partnership, or association, empowered by the state or a political subdivision to operate programs, including the provision of transportation, or facilities for persons with physical disabilities. Customers must submit a completed Application for Disability Plate or Parking Placard- State Form 42070 upon new issuance of a permanent or temporary disability placard. The Practitioner's Certification portion of the application can be completed by any licensed physician as outlined in the form. For placard applications only this does not have to be an Indiana physician. (IN)

- Must submit an application for disabled parking device, signed by a healing arts licensed professional or Christian Science practitioner. Requires recertification every 3 years. Eligibility per KSA 8-1,124. Severe visual impairment 2. Cannot walk 100 feet without stopping 3. Cannot walk with assistance from brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair or other device 4. Is restricted by lung disease such that the person's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than 1 liter or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at best 5. Uses portable oxygen 6. Has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards set by American Heart Association 7. Severely limited in ability to walk at least 100 feet due to arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition. (KS)
- Cannot walk two hundred feet without stopping to rest. -Cannot walk without the assistance of another person, walker, cane, crutches, braces, prosthetic device, or wheelchair. This includes individuals who are blind or have such a visual impairment that the assistance of another person to walk is necessary. -Is restricted by a lung disease to such an extent that the person's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one half liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty mm/hg on room air at rest. -Uses portable oxygen. - Has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards set by the American Heart Association. -Has a diagnosed disease or disorder, including a severe



## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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arthritic, neurological or orthopedic impairment, which creates a severe mobility limitation. (LA)

- Has lung disease to such an extent that forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or arterial oxygen tension (pO<sub>2</sub>) is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at rest. 2. Has cardiovascular disease limitations classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards accepted by the American Heart Association. 3. Is unable to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest. 4. Is unable to walk without the use of, or assistance from, a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, or other assistance device. 5. Requires a wheelchair for mobility. 6. Has lost a foot, leg, hand or arm. 7. Has lost the use of a foot, leg, hand or arm. 8. Has a permanent disability that adversely impacts the ambulatory ability of the applicant and which is so severe that the person would endure a hardship or be subject to a risk or injury if the privileges accorded a person for whom a vehicle is specially registered were denied. 9. Has a permanent impairment of both eyes so that: 1). The central vision acuity is 20/200 or less in the better eye, with corrective glasses, or 2) There is a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees in the better eye. 10. Temporary Placard (Red) Disability is not permanent but would substantially impair the person's mobility or limit or impair the person's ability to walk for at least three weeks, and is so severe that the person would endure a hardship or be subject to risk of injury if the Temporary Placard were denied. Maryland Law specifies only licensed physicians, licensed nurse practitioners, chiropractors, optometrists or podiatrists can certify to particular conditions listed. 1. A licensed physician or licensed nurse practitioner may certify all qualifying conditions listed. 2. A licensed chiropractor or podiatrist may certify disability codes (3 through 8 and 10) 3. A licensed optometrist may certify only qualifying conditions regarding vision. 4. The person with the disability may self-certify the conditions listed under Disability Code 6, by appearing in person with proper identification. In this situation, only the disabled person's name and this Disability Code must be recorded. If, however, a doctor certified the loss of a limb, the doctor must complete all of Section C Veterans who are declared 100% disabled may submit a letter from the Veterans Administration certifying that fact. In this case a doctor is not required to complete section C of the application. The person with the disability may self-certify the conditions listed under Disability Code 6, by appearing in person with proper identification. In this situation, only the disabled person's name and this Disability Code must be recorded. If, however, a doctor certified the loss of a limb, the doctor must complete all of Section C (MD)
- Definition. "Person with a disability" means a person whose disability limits or impairs the ability to walk, as determined and certified by a licensed physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner or registered nurse, to the extent that the person: A. Cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest; B. Cannot walk without assistance from another person or the use of a brace, cane, crutch, prosthetic device, wheelchair or other assistive device; C. Is restricted by lung disease to such an extent



## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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that the person's forced expiratory volume for one second when measured by spirometry is less than 1 liter or when the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60mm/hg on room air at rest; D. Uses portable oxygen; E. Has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class 3 or Class 4 according to standards set by the American Heart Association; F. Is severely limited in the ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition; or G. Is recovering from childbirth. (ME)

- Applicants must meet Michigan's definition of a person with disabilities (MCL 257.19a) as verified by a physician's statement. The statement is provided on the Department of State's Disability Parking Placard Application. (MI)
- For a permanent placard the criteria is any physically disabled person, parent or guardian of a physically disabled person, a not-for-profit group or organization that transports more than one physically disabled person. In order to apply for a Permanent Disabled Placard, you must submit the following items: A completed Application for Disabled Person Placard (form 2769), and One of the following: Individual- A Physician's Statement for Disabled Person's Plates/Placard (form 1776) completed by your licensed physician, chiropractor, podiatrist, physician's assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or optometrist; or Agency- A statement on business letterhead (signed by an officer of the agency) that states the agency transports physically disabled persons. For a temporary placard the criteria is any temporarily physically disabled person, parent or guardian of a temporarily physically disabled person, a not-for-profit group or organization that transports more than one temporarily physically disabled person. The citizen must complete an Application for Disabled Person Placard (DOR-2769) and have their licensed physician, chiropractor, podiatrist, physician's assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or optometrist complete a Physician's Statement for Disabled Person's Placard (DOR-1776). To apply for Disabled Veteran license plates, submit: A completed and signed Application for Missouri Military Personalized License Plates, form DOR-4601, and A statement from the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, no more than six months old, stating the disability is service-connected. The letter must be directly from the VA, not a veteran's hospital or clinic. A letter from an attending physician at a Veteran's hospital or clinic is not acceptable documentation of a service-connected disability. To apply for a disabled license plate, submit: A physician's statement dated within 90 days for permanent disability. (MO)
- They must be re certified every 5 years by medical professionals. (MS)
- Handicapped Definition: A person with mobility impairment determined by a licensed physician: Cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest. Cannot walk without the use of assistance from a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assisting device. Restricted by lung disease to the extent that the person's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume of one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60mm/hg on room air at rest. Uses portable oxygen. Has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV

## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

---

according to standards set by the American Heart Association. Is severely limited in their ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition. Is totally blind or whose vision with glasses is so defective as to prevent the performance of ordinary activity for which eyesight is essential, as certified by a licensed ophthalmologist, optometrist, or the Division of Services for the Blind. Handicapped Drivers Registration Plate Available to handicapped or visually impaired people for the regular license fee. Form MVR-37 (Application for Handicapped Drivers Registration Plate) requires signature of a physician or an authorized representative of the Division of Services for the Blind. The handicapped license plate is renewable by sticker. The vehicle must be titled in the handicapped person's name. Permanent Handicapped Placard- Valid for 5 years The expiration date and month are punched on the placard. The placard must hang from the rear view mirror and should be removed when driving. Handicapped placard is available to handicapped persons regardless of vehicle ownership. Organizations certified by the State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency who regularly transport handicapped or visually impaired persons are also eligible. The form may be signed by an Administrator of the organization and one placard for each transporting vehicle may be issued. Placards are available at license plate agencies statewide. The fee for all handicapped placards is \$5.00. Form MVR-37A (Application for Disability Parking Placard) must be completed by the applicant and physician. MVR-37A is imaged; therefore, additional placards may be requested during the 5-year period without getting signature of the physician. The renewal of a placard will require a recertification by the physician and a new application. Temporary Handicapped Placard- Valid 6 months or less The expiration date and month are punched on the placard. The placard is for temporary disabilities (example: broken arm or leg, etc.) Placards available at license plate agencies statewide. The fee for temporary placard is \$5.00 for each. Form MVR-37A (Application for Disability Parking Placard) must be completed by the applicant and physician. (NC)

- To qualify, the applicant must have a certified medical condition that limits personal mobility resulting in the applicant's inability to travel more than two hundred feet without assistance such as a wheel chair, crutch, and walker, prosthetic or other device. The definition of a certifiable medical condition is: Severe visual or physical impairment; Severe respiratory problems; Class III or Class IV cardiac condition; Loss of all or substantially all the use of one or more limbs. The medical condition must be certified by a physician, physician's assistant, or registered nurse practitioner and must be recertified with every new and renewal application. The applicant is also required to provide proof of identity. (NE)
- We have a form that a Licensed Physician, APRN, or Podiatrist needs to sign off that the registrant qualifies for a walking disability privilege. (NH)
- The certification requirements are detailed in Q2 above and Q6 below. The eligibility criteria is based on the federal guideline which is: If their condition falls into one of the categories listed below, they are eligible for wheelchair symbol plates and a placard. 1. Has lost the use of one or more limbs as a consequence of paralysis, amputation, or other permanent disability. 2. Is severely and permanently disabled

## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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and cannot walk without the use of or assistance from a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair or other assistive device. 3. Suffers from lung disease to such an extent that the applicant's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty mm/hg on room air at rest; or uses portable oxygen. 4. Has a cardiac condition to the extent that the applicant's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards set by the American Heart Association. 5. Is severely and permanently limited in the ability to walk because of an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition; or cannot walk two hundred feet without stopping to rest. 6. Has a permanent sight impairment of both eyes as certified by the N.J. Commission of the Blind (placard only). (NJ)

- Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 provides that a resident of New Mexico who has a "significant mobility limitation" may apply for and be issued no more than two parking placards for display upon a motor vehicle that is either registered to or is transporting the person with a significant mobility limitation. A person with a significant mobility limitation is one who: - cannot walk one hundred feet without stopping to rest; - cannot walk without the use of a brace, cane or crutch or without assistance from another person, a prosthetic device, a wheelchair or other assistive device; - is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that the person's forced respiratory volume, when exhaling for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty millimeters on room air at rest; - uses portable oxygen; - has a severe cardiac condition; or - is so severely limited in the ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurologic or orthopedic condition that the person cannot ascend or descend more than ten stair steps. (NM)
- Must be an Ohio resident and submit completed application form BMV 4826, which has been signed by the applicant. The application must be accompanied with a prescription from the health care provider. The prescription must state the date, the name of the person with the disability, the health care provider's signature, state that it is for a disability placard and the expected duration of the disabling condition. Health care providers may provide their customers with a request for a disability placard on the health care provider's letterhead. The request must state the date, the name of the person with the disability, the health care provider's signature, state that it is for a disability placard and the expected duration of the disabling condition. If the disabling condition is more than six months, a permanent placard will be issued. If the disabling condition is six months or less, a temporary placard will be issued. (OH)
- Each individual must complete an application that includes a Medical Certificate certifying their eligibility for a permit. They must complete a new application with a physician completing the Medical Certificate each time they renew their driver license or ID card. (OR)
- To receive a Person with Disability registration plate or a Person with Disability Parking Placard, the applicant must: (1) blind. (2) does not have full use of an arm or both arms. (3) cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest. (4) cannot walk without the use of, or assistance from, a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic

## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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device, wheelchair or other assistive device. (5) is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that the person's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 MM/HG on room air at rest. (6) uses portable oxygen. (7) has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to the standards set by the American Heart Association. (8) is severely limited in his or her ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition. (9) is a person in loco parentis of a person specified in paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) or (8) above. (PA)

- Disabled Requirements In compliance with South Carolina Code of Law Section 56-3-1910 SC residents who have one or more of the following conditions as certified by a licensed physician are considered disabled: a) An inability to walk 100 feet without aggravating an existing medical condition, including the increase of pain; b) An inability to ordinarily walk without the use of or assistance from a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistive device; c) A restriction by lung disease to the extent that the person's forced expiratory volume for one second when measured by spirometry is less than one liter or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at rest; d) Requires use of portable oxygen; e) A cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards established by the American Heart Association. If the person's status improves to a higher level for example as a result of bypass surgery or transplantation, he no longer meets the criteria; f) A substantial limitation in the ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition, for example, coordination problems and muscle spasticity due to conditions that include Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy, or multiple sclerosis; or g) Blindness  
Disabled License Plates Disabled license plates may be issued to certified permanently disabled persons and their immediate family members for vehicles registered to the disabled person or immediate family member.  
Disabled Placards – Permanent Placards are issued to individuals who have been certified permanently disabled by a licensed physician and have a current SC driver's license, SC beginner permit or SC identification card photo on file with the DMV. If a photo is not on file, the applicant must obtain a SC driver's license, beginner's permit or identification card before the placard can be issued. A permanent placard is valid for four years and will expire on the birth date of the applicant.  
Disabled Placards – Temporary Placards are issued to individuals who have been certified disabled by a licensed physician with a disability lasting at least four months and not exceeding one year. A physician's certification is required describing the nature and expected duration of the disability. The temporary expiration date will be calculated from the processing date of the application. Temporary placards cannot be renewed. Should the temporary disability continue past one year or need to become permanent, the applicant must apply for another placard and must obtain a new physician's certification. Applicants for a temporary placard must have a current SC driver's license, SC beginner's permit or SC identification card photo on file with the DMV. If a photo is not on file, the applicant must obtain a SC driver's license, beginner's permit or identification card before the placard can be issued. Disabled Veteran License

## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

---

Plates The Disabled Veteran license plate is a free and permanent license plate. To be eligible, the applicant must submit a statement from the County Veterans Affairs or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs certifying that s/he is a war time disabled veteran who: a) is entitled to compensation for the loss of use of one or both legs or arms, or b) has a permanent impairment of vision in both eyes to a degree as to constitute virtual blindness and is entitled to a special monthly statutory award by reason thereof, or c) is a SC veteran classified as totally and permanently disabled due to service-connected disabilities as determined from the medical records on file with the U.S. or county Department of Veterans Affairs. Purple Heart Persons who qualify for a Purple Heart specialty plate and are certified disabled by a licensed physician in accordance with the guidelines of the procedure for disabled license plates and placards will be issued a Purple Heart Disabled plate that displays a wheelchair emblem. Wheelchair Decal Persons who qualify for a World War II specialty plate and are certified disabled by a licensed physician in accordance with the guidelines of the procedure for disabled license plates and placards may be issued a wheelchair decal to be affixed to the World War II specialty plate. (SC)

- Cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest. Cannot walk without the use of, or assistance from, a brace, cane, crutch, another person, a prosthetic device, a wheelchair, or another assistive device. Is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that the person's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at rest. Uses portable oxygen. Has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as class III or class IV according to the American Heart Association leaflet, "The functional and therapeutic classifications of patients with diseases of the heart," in print on June 1, 1990. Is severely limited in ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition. <https://www.state.sd.us/eforms/secure/eforms/E0865V7-AppForDisabledParkingPermit.pdf> (SD)
- Eligibility Criteria: Each applicant is required to be certified as either temporarily or permanently disabled by their health care provider (licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant only). The criteria are as follows: ❖ Cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest ❖ Uses portable oxygen ❖ Cannot walk without the use of or assistance from any of the following: another person, brace, cane, crutch, prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistive device ❖ Has a cardiac condition to the extent that functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards set by the American Heart Association. ❖ Is severely limited in ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition ❖ Is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 millimeters of mercury on room air at rest ❖ Has been diagnosed with a mental or developmental amentia or delay that impairs judgment including, but not limited to, an autism spectrum disorder ❖ Has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia ❖ Is legally blind or deaf ❖ Has some other debilitating condition that, in the view of the licensed physician, nurse



## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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practitioner or physician assistant, limits or impairs his ability to walk (must specify)

- ❖ Has some other condition that, in the view of the licensed physician, creates a safety concern while walking because of impaired judgment or other physical, developmental, or mental limitation (must specify)

Certifications by podiatrists and chiropractors are limited to the following disabilities:

- ❖ Cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest
- ❖ Cannot walk without the use of or assistance from any of the following: another person, brace, cane, crutch, prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistive device
- ❖ Is severely limited in ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition
- ❖ Has some other debilitating condition that, in the view of the podiatrist or chiropractor, limits or impairs his ability to walk (must specify)

All applications for disabled parking license plates must be accompanied by a vehicle registration application form (VSA-10). Requirements to obtain disabled parking license plates are the same as for a permanent disabled parking placard; however, the driver must also comply with any vehicle registration requirements. Certification Requirements See additional information in response to question #1. (VA)

- By legal definition, this includes any person who:
  - ❖ Cannot walk 200 feet or more without stopping to rest;
  - ❖ Cannot walk without the use of, or assistance from, another person or brace, cane, crutch, prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistance device;
  - ❖ Is restricted by lung disease to the extent that forced expiratory volume for 1 second when measured by spirometry is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at rest;
  - ❖ Uses portable oxygen;
  - ❖ Has a cardiac condition to the extent that functional limitations are classified in severity as class III or IV, according to standards accepted by the American Heart Association;
  - ❖ Is severely limited in the ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition.
- 2. Eligibility Section completed in full, dated and signed by an authorized health care specialist licensed to practice in any state (a physician, advanced practice nurse, chiropractor, physician assistant who is licensed or certified, a Christian Science Practitioner residing in Wisconsin, an authorized VA Medical Office representative. Note: If no date is present next to applicant signature, accept the application if a date is present next to the authorized health care specialist. The date signed of the health care specialist must be within 6 months of the date of issuance. If no date is present next to the signature of the health care specialist, contact the clinic for verification. (WI)
- Cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest. 2. Cannot walk without the use of, or assistance from, a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistive device. 3. Is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that the person's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at rest. 4. Uses portable oxygen. 5. Has a cardiac constitution to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV, according to standards set by the American Heart Association. 6. Is severely limited in their ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition. (Source: Federal Rule 23 CFR P ART 1235 (WV))

## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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**Question 5: Is this the same for all types of disabilities? If no, please explain.**

- Permanently disabled can renew without medical review (AB)
- A DMV employee may certify an amputee when they apply in person. (CA)
- A disabled veteran may have a decision letter or an affidavit from the VA (LA)
- 100% disabled veterans may have a letter from the VA. A MVA employee may certify an amputee when they apply in person. (MD)
- Persons whose religious convictions prohibit them from receiving medical services and who have an obvious disability are exempt from obtaining a doctor's statement. (MI)
- Disabled veterans are required to present their service-connected letter from the VA. (OH)
- Disabled veterans have more specific requirements related to duty. (WI)

**Question 6: What documentation do you require before issuing a disabled parking placard/plate?**

- Application (AB, NE)
- Application with physician's certification (AL, CA, DO, CT, DE, ID, IN, MD, ME, MI, MO, NH, NM, OR, SC, SD, VA)
- Application by a healing arts licensed professional Christian Science practitioner (KS)
- Application with a valid prescription (OH)
- Certification with prescription or letter by those not authorized to write prescriptions (NJ)
- Certification form completed by a licensed physician (AR, BC, IA, LA, MS, NC, PA, WI, WV)
- Non-profit certification, certification that transportation assistance is provided to senior citizens, vehicle registration and application (AZ)
- VA letter or affidavit (LA, MO, SC)
- Certification by VA or the Service Unit in which the veteran served (PA)
- Certification by an authorized representative of the Division of Services for the Blind (NC)
- Valid driver license, vehicle registration, application and medical certification (AZ)

**Question 7: What are your requirements for disabled placard/plate holders regarding metered on-street parking? Please check all that apply and include explanatory notes in the comments box.**

- Must pay the full posted rate
- Pays reduced rate, please explain discount and requirements
- Free parking, please explain requirements
- Must obey the posted time limit
- Does not have to obey the posted time limit, please explain

Comments:

- Pay posted rate (AB, AZ, BC, CO, CT, DE, IA, IN, MS, NC, NE, NJ, OH)
- Free parking (AL, CA, ID, KS, MD, ME, NH, SC, SD, VA)



## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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- Free parking for those who (MI):
  - Cannot insert coins in parking meters or obtain tickets from ticket machines in parking lots or ramps due to a lack of fine motor control of both hands.
  - Cannot reach up to 42 inches from the ground, due to lack of finger, hand, or upper extremity strength or mobility.
  - Cannot approach a parking meter due to use of a wheelchair or other device.
  - Cannot walk more than 20 feet due to an orthopedic, neurological, cardiovascular, or lung condition which is so severe that the ability to walk is almost completely impeded.
- Maximum of 4 hours free with local jurisdictions able to extend (FL)
- Obey posted time limit (AB, AZ, IA, ID, IN, MS, VA)
- Does not have to obey posted time limit (CA, CO, KS, NJ, SC)
- Park for an additional two hours over the posted time limit (LA)
- Park for twice the posted time limit (MD, ME)
- Local jurisdictions have authority to set time limit and/or free parking (CO (not less than 4 hours), NH, OH, VA)

**Question 8: Do you provide different placards or plates for those approved for free, reduced fee, or additional time permitted parking versus those only approved to park in designated disabled parking spaces?**

- No (AB, AL, AR, AZ, BC, CA, CO, CT, DE, IS, ID, IN, KS, LA, MD, ME, MO, MS, NC, NE, NH, NJ, NM, OH, PA, SC, SD, VA, WI, WV)
- Same placard – applicants that qualify for free parking receive a yellow sticker to apply to the placard (MI)
- Wheelchair placard and regular disabled placard. Wheelchair placard qualifies for free parking. Regular may or may not qualify for free parking. (OR)

**Question 9: Do you differentiate/provide additional parking benefits for those who are physically unable to make payment at a meter?**

- No (AB, AR, AZ, BD, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, IA, ID, IN, LA, MD, ME, NC, NE, NJ, OR, PA, SC, VA, WV)
- Yes (MI)
- May vary by jurisdictions (OH)

**Question 10: Please describe your current replacement schedule for disabled plates and placards.**

Placards:

- Temporary –
  - 1 year (LA)
  - 3-12 months (AB)
  - 6 months (AL, IN, NC)
  - Up to 6 months indicated by doctor (ME)
  - 180 days (MO)
  - 1 month (BC)
- Permanent –

## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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- Non-expiring (ID, IN, KS)
- 6 years (NE)
- Up to 6 years indicated by doctor (ME)
- 5 years (AB, AL, MS, NC, PA, SD, VA, WV)
- 4 years (FL, LA, MD, MI, MO, NM, WI)
- 3 years (BC, CO, DE)
- Expire June 30<sup>th</sup> of every odd year and are automatically renewed (CA)
- Tied to drivers license (CT)

Plates:

- Non-expiring (AZ, CA, DE, KS, MD, NM, PA)
- 5 years (AL, IN)
- Renewed annually or biannually (FL, MI, MO, WV)

**Question 11: When requesting a replacement, is the individual required to provide the reason for replacement? If yes, do you require any other documentation such as a police report (if reason is stolen) or an Affidavit?**

- A declaration (AB)
- Provide reason on application (CA, OR, SC, SD, VA)
- Surrender destroyed/mutilated placard (CA, KS)
- Stolen – have police claim/report number (BC, MD, NJ)
- Stolen – attest that it has been reported (FL)
- A lost/stolen form (MS)
- Lost - notarized statement (NJ)

**Question 12: Do you monitor the number of placard replacements? Do you limit the number of times a holder can replace a placard?**

- No (AB, AL, AR, AZ, BC, CA, CO, DE, FL, IA, ID, IN, KS, LA, MD, MI, NC, NJ, NM, OR, PA, SC, SD, VA, WV)
- Yes –
  - Depends on reason for replacement and application/certification review (CT)
  - Probably question an inordinate amount (ME)
  - Must provide medical certification after two replacements (NE)
  - May not issue replacements if it is felt there is abuse (NH)
  - Two replacements in a 36 month period (WI)

**Question 13: Who is authorized (General Practitioner, Registered Nurse, Chiropractor, Naturopath, etc) to determine if a person meets the requirements to receive disability parking privileges?**

- Physician (AL, AR, NM)
- Physician, APRN, hospital administrator (AZ)
- MD or Specialist (BC)
- Physician, Surgeon, DC, Optometrist, PA, APRN, or Certified Nurse Midwife (CA)
- Physician, PA, Podiatrist, or APRN (CO)

## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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- Physician, APRN, Optometrist, Ophthalmologist, PA, Board of Education Services for the Blind, VA (CT)
- Physician, PA, APRN (DE, FL, NE)
- MD, DO, APRN, Podiatrist, PA (IA)
- Physician, Optometrist, Ophthalmologist, VA (IN)
- DO, DC, DPM, Christian Science Practitioner (KS)
- MD, DC, PT Examiner, APRN (LA)
- Physician, DC, Optometrist, Podiatrist, Nurse Practitioner (MD)
- Physician, PA, APRN, Nurse Practitioner (ME)
- Physician, DC, PA, Optometrist, Nurse Practitioner (MI)
- Physician, DC, Podiatrist, PA, APRN, Optometrist (MO)
- MD, PA, Nurse Practitioner (MS)
- Physician, Division Services for the Blind (NC)
- Physician, Podiatrist, DC, Nurse Practitioner, PA (NJ)
- General Practitioner, DC, Naturopath, Osteopath, Podiatrist, Nurse Practitioner, PA, Optometrist (OR)
- Physician, DC, Podiatrist, PA, APRN, Police Officer (PA)
- Physician, DC, PA (SC)
- Physician, Surgeon, PA, DC (SD)
- MD, Nurse practitioner, DO, PA, DC (limited), Podiatrist (limited) (VA)
- Physician, APRN, DC, PA, Christian Science Practitioner (WI)
- Physician, DC, APRN, PA (WV)

**Question 14: How does your department receive approval notification (prescription pad, signature on an application, etc)?**

- Application/form (AB, AL, AR, AZ, BC, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, ID, IN, KS, LA, MD, ME, MI, MO, NC, NE, NH, NM, OR, PA, SD, VA, WI, WV)
- Decision letter or an affidavit from VA (LA)
- Doctor's letterhead (IA)
- Application and prescription or letter in lieu of prescription (NJ)
- Application and prescription (SC)

**Question 15: Do you require special verification from the medical provider who prescribed the parking privilege?**

- Doctor's letterhead (IA)
- Medical license number (ME, NC)
- Medical license number, type of practice (MI)
- National Provider Identification Number and Taxonomy code (NJ)
- License type, medical license number, licensing state and license expiration (VA)

**Question 16: Do you do any random pulls for recertification of permanent disabilities?**

- Recertification for renewals (CT, FL, KS, WI)
- Questionable applications are researched (MI)

## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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- Review/investigate from complaints (AB, VA)
- Yes (NJ)

#### Parking Enforcement Survey (July 11, 2013)

##### 1) Issues:

- Print too small.
- Numbers too light.
- Number at top can be obstructed by other items suspended on mirror.
- Two year holes being punched.
- Using two very tiny hole punches.
- Still issuing the old style placards.
- There is a lot of focus and territory on the placard that is devoted to the Disabled emblem of the wheelchair.
- The only issues I have revolve around the actual Placard Number. On the old placard format, the higher the first number of the placard number, in most cases, the later the expiration date. That was a simple system and in the event that the physical expiration date was blocked from view, the placard number helped officers determine if a citation/or warning should be given.

##### 2) Ideas:

- Placard
  - Hole-punch and handwritten expiration date.
  - Larger dates.
  - Photo on placard.
  - Initials on placard.
  - Use the large hole punch.
  - Smaller handicap logo.
  - Lower the numbers on the placard.
  - Go back to the sticker version that you used on 1997.
  - Revert to the old placard.
- Other
  - Shorten validity period from 5 years.
  - Photo on the wallet ID.
  - Make all use a plate.
  - One sticker or tab that clearly identifies disabled parking privileges.
  - A public relations effort.

##### 3) DP tab:

- Lots of concern and confusion regarding the DP tab.
- They need to be placed on the front and back plates as they are very small and are hard to see.
- Someone else using vehicle.
- Tabs can be difficult to see and validate if the plate is mounted very low on the vehicle.
- The plate is much easier to notice than the tab.

## Department of Licensing

### Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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- Do not have the same colors of the month tabs or year tabs.
  - Tabs easily get stolen.
  - It would be easier to see if they were larger.
- 4) Blue “disabled parking” decal displayed:
- Rare (5)
  - No (9)
  - Half (1)

### Other Survey Results

#### Photos on disability placards survey (February 2013)

1. Does your state issue a disability placard with a photo of the individual with a disability?
  - No responding states issue disability placards with a photo.
  - Responding states:  
AK, AL, AZ, CA, FL, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KY, LA, MD, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, NJ, NV, OH, OR, PA, UT, VA, VT, WI, WV, WY

#### Placards and hang-tags (February/March 2011)

State	Placard/hang-tag display of expiration month and year?
AL	Permanent - year printed and month is hole-punched Temporary - hole-punched month and year
AK	Monthly decal with a printed year
ID	Permanent - non-expiring Temporary - handwritten
IN	Mm/dd/yy written with permanent marker
IA	Permanent - non-expiring Temporary - hole-punched month and year
MI	Mm/yy handwritten
MO	Mm/dd/yy printed at bottom Tab with expiration year is placed in the middle of the plate (month ties to registration tab on plate)
NE	Pre-printed colored month and year
NJ	Does not display expiration
OH	Hole-punched month and year
OR	Hole-punched month and year, front and back
PA	Pre-printed month and year
Quebec	Did not answer (print a personalized card)
SC	Mm/dd/yy in bold black print
VT	Two validation stickers placed on both sides
VA	Data printed on card (centrally issued)
WI	Month and year decals
WY	Permanent - Printed (“Dec 2013”) Temporary - Mm/dd/yy handwritten

**Department of Licensing  
Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates**

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**Handicap Permits/Placards (February/March 2006)**

State	How is expiration date displayed?	Problems with abuse and alteration?	Any security measures taken to reduce fraud?
AB	Preprinted stickers	Yes - abuse	None - follow-up on complaints of abuse
AK	Handwritten	Yes	Placard number links to the person ID in the system
AL	Preprinted	Receive complaints of perceived non-disabled persons using placards	Individuals must submit an application, signed by their physician. Physicians are attesting to the fact the individual has a disability that impairs their ability to walk.
CA	Preprinted	Yes - borrowing or theft of placards	The department works with the California Medical Board and other professional health regulators or certifying boards to provide information to physicians and other medical professionals regarding proper certification of physical disabilities. In the last decade, California laws have been amended several times to strengthen safeguards against abuse. For example, the department must make available to local law enforcement and parking control entities, as well as to the Medical Review Board of California, information regarding each placard holders qualifying disability. Local governments are authorized to establish review boards, including medical professionals, to evaluate that information. Fines for placard misuse have also increased several times over the past couple of years. The department is required to issue permanent placards with the expiration year in a different color every renewal (every 2 years), which makes expired placards more conspicuous. Our department is also required to print information about the fines imposed for misuse on each placard. Placards are renewed through our automatic renewal process are verified against records from the Bureau of Vital Statistics to ensure that deceased placard holders are removed from our records and placards are not issued to deceased persons.
DE	Handwritten	Yes - majority is family members using	Placard information is loaded into a computer system so LE can verify. Randomly verify with the physician that they have indeed signed the application. Used to punch holes, but LE complained they were too difficult to see.
FL	Preprinted	Yes - abuse	Have vehicle towed or write a ticket. All violations are recorded by the Dept of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to allow the courts to place stiffer penalties on repeat offenders. Have an ID number on the permit to allow LE to request the ID card or driver's license to visually match to the person.
HI	Preprinted (month/year)	No abuse - concerns regarding physician	Inquiries are made based upon the number of requests for placard replacements. Abuse is

## Department of Licensing Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

State	How is expiration date displayed?	Problems with abuse and alteration?	Any security measures taken to reduce fraud?
	sticker)	certifications	stringently enforced by LE.
ID	Handwritten on temp (permanent do not expire)	No abuse	Registration document entered into computer system that LE can access.
IL	Punched	Yes - abuse	Placards are numbered and may be looked up by LE or Secretary of State employee.
KS	Preprinted	Limited abuse	Track inventory. Applicant must also carry an ID card. Periodic recertification.
LA	Handwritten	No	No response
MI	Handwritten	Some	Volunteers enforce and can write tickets
MO	Preprinted	Unknown	Require a physician's statement every four years
MS	Preprinted	Not much that know of	None
MT	Handwritten	Yes	Will soon have the ability for LE to run the number on the placard in real time
NE	Preprinted (stickers)	None	Expiration years are different colors and made of same material as license plate stickers. Include the permit holders age group and gender on the permits for LE.
NJ	Do not have expiration on placard	Some reports of abuse	An ID that identifies the handicapped person must be renewed every 3 years. The disabled individual is not asked to recertify with physician but must sign and return the application to get a valid ID for 3 more years.
NM	Handwritten	Yes	None
NV	Punched	None	Invalid if more than one hole punched
OK	Punched	Not aware of	Municipal LE responsible for enforcement – some have citizen enforcement
PA	Preprinted	Not aware of	Randomly survey physicians who have certified a placard application for verification of authorization. Verify social security numbers against the state's database. Verify the physicians' medical license number against the Department of Health's database. Placard system is designed to prevent duplicate placards by comparing the social security number, name, date of birth, and address information against other placard records. Issue an identification card that includes the person's name and valid placard number.
SC	Handwritten	Not aware of	Place expiration on permanent placards
TX	Punched	Alteration of handwritten expiration date and use of placard by someone else	In addition to the punched expiration dates an area for a handwritten date is included. A holographic adhesive strip bearing this department's name/logo is affixed to the placard. An inventory tracking number printed on an adhesive strip is affixed to the placard. The first four-digits of the applicant's driver's license number and the applicant's initials are handwritten on the placard.
VA	Preprinted	No	Permits are centrally issued as opposed to over the counter. A vendor produces and mails the



## Department of Licensing Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

State	How is expiration date displayed?	Problems with abuse and alteration?	Any security measures taken to reduce fraud?
			placard to the holder. There is no handwritten information on the placard. An ID card is issued to identify the person as the holder of the issued placard.
WI	Stickers with month (Jan) / year (13) on both sides of placard	Did not answer	Vigorous law enforcement activity is the most effective. LE has remote access to a database and can verify validity (identity and permit expiration) based on the hangtag number.

### Documents for Disabled Parking Placards (August 2005)

1. What type of documentation does your Jurisdiction issue to Handicap Parking Placard registrants to show proof that the placard belongs to them when checked by Law Enforcement?

State	Type of documentation
AZ	None – provide a copy of the application with the placard. Placards are entered into a database that LE can query by placard number to confirm registrant's name.
ID	Provide a registration document that has name, when it was issued, and the serial number. If a temporary placard, will also have the expiration date.
LA	Picture ID
MA	None – place a picture on placard and the ID number on the placard is connected to licensing information in a database that LE can access.
MO	Provide a receipt has name, address, and placard number.
NE	Provide a letter that identifies the individual, placard number, medical condition, physician name, issue and expiration dates, and the rules for use.
NJ	Issue a non-photo ID that includes name, address, placard number, and expiration. ID is valid for 3 years and then must be renewed.
NV	Provide a letter with name, placard number and expiration.
OK	None – placard number can be checked by LE via radio or phone during regular business hours.
Ontario	None – name and address on back of permit that LE can verify.
OR	None – place an indicator on the driver record that has the permit number and expiration date (which coincides with the driver license or ID card expiration).
PA	Issue an ID card containing name, address, placard number, and expiration.
SD	None – LE has to contact DMV.
TX	Provide a copy of the application form which has the placard number, the first 4 digits of the drivers' license, and the applicant's initials.
WV	Provide an ID card (wallet sized)

### Other Studies/Data Points

#### Seattle Commission for People with DisAbilities (2011):

Based on the 2011 response and position on proposed changes by the Seattle Department of Transportation, the Commission supports:

- Enforcement, including increased and progressive fines

## Department of Licensing Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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- Public education
- Stronger issuance policies
- 3 year renewal period
- Renew in person
- Add data field for the name of the issuing doctor to the current database
- Require incident number of a police report to replace lost or stolen placards

Please see their [report on use of disability parking placards](#) for the full response.

### City of Seattle citation data:

The following are citations issued in the City of Seattle in 2009 and 2012 for violations of chapter 46.19 RCW.

	Unauthorized use of a disabled parking placard/plate		In marked disabled with invalid placard		In marked disabled or drive aisle (generally no placard, but may include invalid placard)	
	2009	2012	2009	2012	2009	2012
<b>Canceled</b>	2	0	1	1	8	1
<b>Cleared as warning</b>	27	0	10	0	155	0
<b>Defaulted</b>	88	2	13	144	171	39
<b>Dismissed</b>	24	1	27	277	324	162
<b>Committed</b>	145	4	5	67	257	64
<b>Paid</b>	155	4	27	222	471	62
<b>Pending</b>	0	0	0	5	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>331</b>

The decrease in citations issued for unauthorized use and in marked disabled or drive aisle is due to the change in the citation type from traffic to parking.

### City of Seattle Auditor report –

The City of Seattle Auditor conducted a preliminary review of the Seattle Department of Transportation and found several issues with disabled parking. Following is their report:

<http://www.seattle.gov/audit/docs/SDOTIssueIDPublishedReport53013.pdf>

### San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (2013):

The Accessible Parking Policy Advisory Committee, a stakeholder group comprised mostly of disability rights advocates, created policy recommendations to increase parking access and reduce disabled parking placard misuse.

The following report provides details about the committee's members, process, research, recommendations, outreach, and next steps.

<http://www.sfmta.com/about-sfmta/reports/accessible-parking-policy-advisory-committee-recommendations-report>.

## Department of Licensing Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates

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### **Illinois (2012):**

In 2012, the Illinois General Assembly passed legislation that created a placard that exempts, based on certain physical disabilities, the holder from paying for metered parking. This legislation is effective January 1, 2014.

Please see the following link for the enabling legislation:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=097-0845&GA=97>.

A brochure with detailed information including images of the new disabled parking placards can be found at

[http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf\\_publications/vsd574.pdf](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/vsd574.pdf).

### **Office of the Inspector General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (2006):**

In 2006, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducted an investigation into disabled parking privilege use. Their report can be found at:

<http://www.mass.gov/ig/publications/reports-and-recommendations/archive-publications/2009-2005/placard.pdf>

In 2010, the OIG initiated its second investigation which can be found at:

<http://www.mass.gov/ig/publications/reports-and-recommendations/2010/ig-conducts-follow-up-investigation-parking-placard-abuse-oct-2010.html>

### **Maryland task force on parking for individuals with disabilities report to the Maryland General Assembly (2004):**

Maryland's General Assembly created a Task Force on Parking for Individuals with Disabilities in 2004 to study current laws on parking privileges for persons with disabilities as they related to parking spaces reserved for multipurpose vehicles, and to make specific recommendations for needed legislation and regulations on issues related to the use of disabled parking placards and license plates.

Their findings and recommendations can be found at:

<http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5300/sc5339/000113/000000/000459/unrestricted/20050794e.pdf>

### **DOL disabled person parking photo identification study (2000):**

In 2000, the DOL conducted a photo identification study for disabled parking. This study concluded that due to the fiscal impact of implementing a photo ID card, the existing non-photo ID card system should remain. The fiscal impact would have been \$10.7 million.

As well, a survey returned:

- Only 24 of 84 responding law enforcement jurisdictions have asked to see the non-photo ID card.
- Only 13 of 181 persons with disabilities responding to the survey indicated they have been asked to verify their right to park in a designated disabled person parking space.

**Department of Licensing**  
**Reducing Fraudulent Use of Disabled Parking Placards and Plates**

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- Only 5 of the 13 were asked to show their disabled person non-photo identification card.
- 169 of 181 persons with disabilities indicate they had photo identification.