

ACCESSIBLE PARKING AMENDMENTS

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Keven J. Stratton

Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to accessible parking spaces.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ establishes criteria for parking in certain accessible parking spaces;
- ▶ creates a windshield placard for use by a person with a disability that requires the use of a wheelchair or other walking-assistive device; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

41-1a-414, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2015, Chapter 412

41-1a-420, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 66

41-1a-1306, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 30

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **41-1a-414** is amended to read:

29 **41-1a-414. Parking privileges for persons with disabilities.**

30 (1) As used in this section^[5]:

31 (a) "Accessible parking space" means a parking space that is clearly identified as
32 reserved for use by a person with a disability and includes:

33 ~~[(a)]~~ (i) vertical signage, including the international symbol of accessibility, that is
34 visible from a passing vehicle; and

35 ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) a clearly marked access aisle, if provided, that is adjacent to and considered
36 part of the parking space.

37 (b) "Temporary wheelchair user placard" means the same as that term is defined in
38 Section 41-1a-420.

39 (c) "Van accessible parking space" means an accessible parking space that is marked
40 for use by a qualifying person with a walking disability who has a temporary wheelchair user
41 placard or a wheelchair user placard and includes:

42 (i) vertical signage with the international symbol of accessibility and the words "van
43 accessible" that is visible from a passing vehicle; and

44 (ii) a clearly marked access aisle that is adjacent to and considered part of the parking
45 space.

46 (d) "Walking disability" means a physical disability that requires the use of a
47 walking-assistive device or wheelchair or similar low-powered motorized or mechanically
48 propelled vehicle that is specifically designed to assist a person who has a limited or impaired
49 ability to walk.

50 (e) "Wheelchair user placard" means the same as that term is defined in Section
51 41-1a-420.

52 (2) Except in parking areas designated for emergency use, a person with a disability,
53 qualifying under rules made in accordance with Section 41-1a-420, may park an appropriately
54 marked vehicle for reasonable periods without charge in metered parking zones and restricted
55 parking areas, in a manner that allows proper access to the vehicle by the person with a

56 disability.

57 (3) (a) Only those vehicles carrying a person with a disability special group license
58 plate, temporary removable windshield placard, or removable windshield placard and
59 transporting a qualifying person with a disability may park in an accessible parking space.

60 (b) A violation of Subsection (3)(a) is a class C misdemeanor.

61 (c) A person described in Subsection (3)(a) is encouraged to avoid parking in a van
62 accessible parking space unless:

63 (i) the person has a walking disability and has a temporary wheelchair user placard;

64 (ii) the person has a wheelchair user placard; or

65 (iii) all other accessible parking spaces that are not van accessible parking spaces are
66 occupied.

67 (4) This section applies to and may be enforced on public property and on private
68 property that is used or intended for use by the public.

69 (5) The parking privileges granted by this section also apply to vehicles displaying a
70 person with a disability special group license plate, temporary removable windshield placard,
71 or removable windshield placard issued by another jurisdiction if displayed on a vehicle being
72 used by a person with a disability.

73 Section 2. Section **41-1a-420** is amended to read:

74 **41-1a-420. Disability special group license plates -- Application and qualifications**
75 **-- Rulemaking.**

76 (1) As used in this section:

77 (a) "Advanced practice registered nurse" means a person licensed to practice as an
78 advanced practice registered nurse in this state under Title 58, Chapter 31b, Nurse Practice Act.

79 (b) "Nurse practitioner" means an advanced practice registered nurse specializing as a
80 nurse practitioner.

81 (c) "Physician" means a person licensed to practice as a physician or osteopath in this
82 state under Title 58, Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act, or Title 58, Chapter 68, Utah

83 Osteopathic Medical Practice Act.

84 (d) "Temporary wheelchair user placard" means a removable windshield placard that is
85 issued to a qualifying person, as provided in this section, who has a walking disability that is
86 not permanent.

87 (e) "Walking disability" means a physical disability that requires the use of a
88 walking-assistive device or wheelchair or similar low-powered motorized or mechanically
89 propelled vehicle that is designed to specifically assist a person who has a limited or impaired
90 ability to walk.

91 (f) "Wheelchair user placard" means a removable windshield placard that is issued to a
92 qualifying person, as provided in this section, who has a walking disability.

93 (2) (a) The division shall issue a disability special group license plate, a temporary
94 removable windshield placard, or a removable windshield placard to an applicant who is either:

95 ~~[(a)]~~ (i) a qualifying person with a disability; or

96 ~~[(b)]~~ (ii) the registered owner of a vehicle that an organization uses primarily for the
97 transportation of persons with disabilities that limit or impair the ability to walk.

98 (b) The division shall issue a temporary wheelchair user placard or a wheelchair user
99 placard to an applicant who is either:

100 (i) a qualifying person with a walking disability; or

101 (ii) the registered owner of a vehicle that an organization uses primarily for the
102 transportation of persons with walking disabilities.

103 (c) The division shall require that an applicant under Subsection (2)(b) certifies that the
104 person travels in a vehicle equipped with a wheelchair lift or a vehicle carrying the person's
105 walking-assistive device or wheelchair and requires a van accessible parking space.

106 (3) (a) The ~~[initial application of a]~~ person with a disability shall ~~[be accompanied by]~~
107 ensure that the initial application contains the certification of a physician or nurse practitioner
108 that:

109 (i) ~~[that]~~ the applicant meets the definition of a person with a disability that limits or

110 impairs the ability to walk as defined in the federal Uniform System for Parking for Persons
111 with Disabilities, 23 C.F.R. Ch. II, Subch. B, Pt. 1235.2 (1991); ~~[and]~~

112 (ii) if the person is applying for a temporary wheelchair user placard or a wheelchair
113 user placard, the applicant has a walking disability; and

114 ~~[(ii) specifying]~~ (iii) specifies the period of time that the physician or nurse practitioner
115 determines the applicant will have the disability, not to exceed six months in the case of a
116 temporary disability or a temporary walking disability.

117 (b) The division shall issue a disability special group license plate ~~[or]~~, a removable
118 windshield placard, or a wheelchair user placard, as applicable, to a person with a permanent
119 disability.

120 (c) The issuance of a person with a disability special group license plate does not
121 preclude the issuance to the same applicant of a removable windshield placard or wheelchair
122 user placard.

123 (d) (i) On request of an applicant with a disability special group license plate, a
124 temporary removable windshield placard, or a removable windshield placard, the division shall
125 issue one additional placard.

126 (ii) On request of a qualified applicant with a disability special group license plate, the
127 division shall issue up to two temporary wheelchair user placards or two wheelchair user
128 placards.

129 (iii) On request of a qualified applicant with a temporary wheelchair user placard or a
130 wheelchair user placard, the division shall issue one additional placard.

131 (e) The division shall ensure that a temporary wheelchair user placard and a wheelchair
132 user placard have the following visible features:

133 (i) a large "W" next to the internationally recognized disabled persons symbol; and

134 (ii) the words "Wheelchair User" printed on a portion of the placard.

135 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) A disability special group license plate, temporary removable windshield
136 placard, or removable windshield placard may be used to allow one motorcycle to share a

137 parking space reserved for persons with a disability if:

138 (i) the person with a disability:

139 (A) is using a motorcycle; and

140 (B) displays on the motorcycle a disability special group license plate, temporary
141 removable windshield placard, or a removable windshield placard;

142 (ii) the person who shares the parking space assists the person with a disability with the
143 parking accommodation; and

144 (iii) the parking space is sufficient size to accommodate both motorcycles without
145 interfering with other parking spaces or traffic movement.

146 ~~[(4) (a) The temporary removable windshield placard or removable windshield placard
147 shall be hung from the front windshield rearview mirror when the vehicle is parked in a
148 parking space reserved for persons with disabilities so that it is visible from the front and rear
149 of the vehicle.]~~

150 (4) (a) When a vehicle is parked in a parking space reserved for persons with
151 disabilities, a temporary removable windshield placard, a removable windshield placard, a
152 temporary wheelchair user placard, or a wheelchair user placard shall be displayed so that the
153 placard is visible from the front of the vehicle.

154 (b) If a motorcycle is being used, the temporary removable windshield placard or
155 removable windshield placard shall be displayed in plain sight on or near the handle bars of the
156 motorcycle.

157 (5) The commission shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
158 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to:

159 (a) establish qualifying criteria for persons to receive, renew, or surrender a disability
160 special group license [plates] plate, a temporary removable windshield placard, [or] a
161 removable windshield placard, a temporary wheelchair user placard, or a wheelchair user
162 placard in accordance with this section;

163 (b) establish the maximum number of numerals or characters for a disability special

164 group license [~~plates; and~~] plate;

165 (c) require all temporary removable windshield placards [~~and~~], removable windshield
166 placards, temporary wheelchair user placards, and wheelchair user placards to include:

167 (i) an identification number;

168 (ii) an expiration date not to exceed:

169 (A) six months for a temporary removable windshield placard; and

170 (B) two years for a removable windshield placard; and

171 (iii) the seal or other identifying mark of the division.

172 (6) The commission shall insert the following on motor vehicle registration certificates:

173 "State law prohibits persons who do not lawfully possess a disability placard or
174 disability special group license plate from parking in an accessible parking space designated for
175 persons with disabilities. Persons who possess a disability placard or disability special group
176 license plate are discouraged from parking in an accessible parking space designated as van
177 accessible unless they have a temporary wheelchair user placard or a wheelchair user placard."

178 Section 3. Section **41-1a-1306** is amended to read:

179 **41-1a-1306. Abuse of persons with disabilities parking privileges -- Revocation of**
180 **special plate or transferable ID card -- Fine.**

181 [(+) A person with a disability who abuses the rights and privileges conferred under
182 Section **41-1a-414** or allows an individual who is not a person with a disability to use those
183 parking privileges may have the person's disability special group license plate, temporary
184 removable windshield placard, [~~or~~] removable windshield placard, temporary wheelchair user
185 placard, or wheelchair user placard revoked by the division.

186 [(2) (a) ~~Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), a person who violates Section~~
187 ~~**41-1a-414** shall pay a minimum fine of \$125.~~]

188 [(b) ~~A court may waive up to \$100 of the fine charged to a person for a violation of~~
189 ~~Section **41-1a-414** under Subsection (2)(a) if the operator of the vehicle presents evidence to~~
190 ~~the court that the individual had been issued a disability special group license plate, temporary~~

191 ~~removable windshield placard, or removable windshield placard at the time of the violation.]~~

192 Section 4. **Effective date.**

193 This bill takes effect on January 1, 2018.