

**ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES AMENDMENTS**

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Jeffrey D. Stenquist**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill addresses parking privileges for persons with disabilities.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ requires the Motor Vehicle Division to affix an adhesive warning label to disability placards that describes certain prohibitions;
- ▶ requires the State Tax Commission to establish standards for the warning label in rule; 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-420**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 349

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

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

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



28 -- **Rulemaking.**

29 (1) As used in this section:

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

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

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

37 (d) "Physician assistant" means an individual licensed to practice as a physician  
38 assistant in the state under Title 58, Chapter 70a, Utah Physician Assistant Act.

39 (e) "Temporary wheelchair user placard" means a removable windshield placard that is  
40 issued to a qualifying person, as provided in this section, who has a walking disability that is  
41 not permanent.

42 (f) "Walking disability" means a physical disability that requires the use of a  
43 walking-assistive device or wheelchair or similar low-powered motorized or mechanically  
44 propelled vehicle that is designed to specifically assist a person who has a limited or impaired  
45 ability to walk.

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

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

50 (i) a qualifying person with a disability; or

51 (ii) the registered owner of a vehicle that an organization uses primarily for the  
52 transportation of persons with disabilities that limit or impair the ability to walk.

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

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

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

58 (c) The division shall require that an applicant under Subsection (2)(b) certifies that the

59 person travels in a vehicle equipped with a wheelchair lift or a vehicle carrying the person's  
60 walking-assistive device or wheelchair and requires a van accessible parking space.

61 (3) (a) The person with a disability shall ensure that the initial application contains the  
62 certification of a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner that:

63 (i) the applicant meets the definition of a person with a disability that limits or impairs  
64 the ability to walk as defined in the federal Uniform System for Parking for Persons with  
65 Disabilities, 23 C.F.R. Ch. II, Subch. B, Pt. 1235.2 (1991);

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

68 (iii) specifies the period of time that the physician, physician assistant, or nurse  
69 practitioner determines the applicant will have the disability, not to exceed six months in the  
70 case of a temporary disability or a temporary walking disability.

71 (b) The division shall issue a disability special group license plate, a removable  
72 windshield placard, or a wheelchair user placard, as applicable, to a person with a permanent  
73 disability.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

89 (f) The division shall ensure that an adhesive warning label is affixed to the back of a

90 wheelchair user placard and a temporary wheelchair user placard that states: "Under state law, a  
91 disability placard may only be used by, or for the transportation of, the person to whom the  
92 disability placard is issued. A person who misuses another person's disability placard for  
93 parking privileges is guilty of a class C misdemeanor."

94 [~~f~~] (g) A disability special group license plate, temporary removable windshield  
95 placard, or removable windshield placard may be used to allow one motorcycle to share a  
96 parking space reserved for persons with a disability if:

97 (i) the person with a disability:

98 (A) is using a motorcycle; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

114 (a) establish qualifying criteria for persons to receive, renew, or surrender a disability  
115 special group license plate, a temporary removable windshield placard, a removable windshield  
116 placard, a temporary wheelchair user placard, or a wheelchair user placard in accordance with  
117 this section;

118 (b) establish the maximum number of numerals or characters for a disability special  
119 group license plate;

120 (c) require all temporary removable windshield placards, removable windshield

121 placards, temporary wheelchair user placards, and wheelchair user placards to include:  
122 (i) an identification number;  
123 (ii) an expiration date not to exceed:  
124 (A) six months for a temporary removable windshield placard; and  
125 (B) two years for a removable windshield placard; and  
126 (iii) the seal or other identifying mark of the division[-]; and  
127 (d) establish standards for the warning label described in Subsection (3)(f).  
128 (6) The commission shall insert the following on motor vehicle registration certificates:  
129 "State law prohibits persons who do not lawfully possess a disability placard or  
130 disability special group license plate from parking in an accessible parking space designated for  
131 persons with disabilities. Persons who possess a disability placard or disability special group  
132 license plate are discouraged from parking in an accessible parking space designated as van  
133 accessible unless they have a temporary wheelchair user placard or a wheelchair user placard."  
134 **Section 2. Effective date.**  
135 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.