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SENATE BILL 112

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024**

INTRODUCED BY

David M. Gallegos

AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; ALLOWING PREGNANT WOMEN IN THEIR  
THIRD TRIMESTER TO BE ISSUED TEMPORARY SIGNIFICANT MOBILITY  
LIMITATION PARKING PLACARDS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978,  
Chapter 35, Section 36, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-3-16. DISTINCTIVE REGISTRATION PLATES--PERSONS WITH  
SIGNIFICANT MOBILITY LIMITATION--PARKING PLACARDS.--

A. The division shall issue distinctive  
registration plates for use on motor vehicles and motorcycles  
owned or leased by a person with a significant mobility  
limitation who requests a distinctive registration plate and  
who proves satisfactorily to the division that the person is a  
person with a significant mobility limitation.

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1           B. The division shall issue a distinctive parking  
2 placard to an organization that owns or leases a motor vehicle  
3 that primarily transports persons with significant mobility  
4 limitations and that requests a distinctive parking placard.  
5 The organization, if qualified, may obtain a distinctive  
6 parking placard for each vehicle used to transport persons with  
7 significant mobility limitations.

8           C. No fee in addition to the regular registration  
9 fee, if any, applicable to the motor vehicle or motorcycle  
10 shall be collected for issuance of distinctive registration  
11 plates or parking placards pursuant to this section.

12           D. No person shall falsely claim to have a  
13 significant mobility limitation so as to be eligible to be  
14 issued a distinctive registration plate or a parking placard  
15 pursuant to this section when the person does not in fact have  
16 a significant mobility limitation. Upon notice and opportunity  
17 to be heard, the division may revoke and demand return of any  
18 placard when:

- 19                           (1) it was issued in error or with false  
20 information;
- 21                           (2) the person receiving the placard is no  
22 longer eligible;
- 23                           (3) the placard is being used by ineligible  
24 persons; or
- 25                           (4) the organization to which the parking

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1 placard was issued no longer exists.

2 E. Upon written application to the division  
3 accompanied by a medical statement by a licensed physician or a  
4 physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or  
5 certified nurse-midwife working within that person's scope of  
6 practice attesting to the permanent significant mobility  
7 limitation, a resident of the state who has a significant  
8 mobility limitation, as provided in this section, may apply for  
9 and be issued no more than two parking placards for display  
10 upon a motor vehicle registered to the person or motor vehicle  
11 owned by another person who is transporting the person with a  
12 significant mobility limitation. The licensed physician or the  
13 physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or  
14 certified nurse-midwife working within that person's scope of  
15 practice shall provide the division all information and records  
16 necessary to issue a permanent parking placard. Once approved  
17 for use of a permanent parking placard, a person with a  
18 significant mobility limitation shall not be required to  
19 furnish further medical information.

20 F. To obtain a distinctive parking placard pursuant  
21 to this section, an organization shall submit to the division:

22 (1) on a form approved by the division, a  
23 signed statement by an authorized officer of the organization  
24 affirming that the vehicle will be primarily used to transport  
25 persons with significant mobility limitations and that the

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1 registered vehicle is owned or leased by the organization; and

2 (2) at least one contract that places the  
3 organization under obligation to provide transportation  
4 services to persons with significant mobility limitations.

5 G. A parking placard issued pursuant to this  
6 section, except for a temporary parking placard issued pursuant  
7 to Subsection K or L of this section, shall expire four years  
8 from the date it was issued.

9 H. The division shall issue two-sided hanger-style  
10 parking placards with the following characteristics:

11 (1) a picture of the international symbol of  
12 access;

13 (2) a hologram to make duplication difficult;

14 (3) an imprinted expiration date; and

15 (4) for a placard issued to:

16 (a) a person with a significant mobility  
17 limitation, a full-face photograph of the holder on the inside  
18 of the placard covered by a flap; or

19 (b) an organization, the number of the  
20 registration plate issued to the vehicle that is registered or  
21 leased to the organization on which the placard will be used.

22 I. The division shall consult with the governor's  
23 commission on disability for continued issuance and format of  
24 the placard.

25 J. The division may issue an identification card

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1 containing a full-face photograph of the holder of the  
2 registration plate or parking placard and the number of the  
3 registration plate or parking placard issued to that person.

4 K. Upon written application to the division  
5 accompanied by a medical statement from a licensed physician or  
6 a physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or  
7 certified nurse-midwife working within that person's scope of  
8 practice attesting to a temporary significant mobility  
9 limitation, a person may be issued a temporary placard for no  
10 more than one year. The licensed physician or the physician  
11 assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or certified  
12 nurse-midwife working within that person's scope of practice  
13 shall provide the division all information and records  
14 necessary to issue a temporary placard.

15 L. Upon written application to the division  
16 accompanied by a medical statement or other documentation  
17 provided by a medical professional working within that  
18 professional's scope of practice attesting that a pregnant  
19 woman is in her third trimester, a pregnant woman may be issued  
20 a temporary parking placard that shall expire no more than  
21 ninety days from the date it was issued.

22 [~~L.~~] M. Registration plates or parking placards  
23 issued to a person with a significant mobility limitation by  
24 another state or foreign jurisdiction shall be honored until  
25 the motor vehicle or motorcycle is registered or the parking

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1 placard holder establishes residency in this state.

2 [M-] N. A "person with a significant mobility  
3 limitation" means a person who:

4 (1) cannot walk one hundred feet without  
5 stopping to rest;

6 (2) cannot walk without the use of a brace,  
7 cane or crutch or without assistance from another person, a  
8 prosthetic device, a wheelchair or other assistive device;

9 (3) is restricted by lung disease to such an  
10 extent that the person's forced respiratory volume, when  
11 exhaling for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less  
12 than one liter or the arterial oxygen tension is less than  
13 sixty millimeters on room air at rest;

14 (4) uses portable oxygen;

15 (5) has a severe cardiac condition; or

16 (6) is so severely limited in the ability to  
17 walk due to an arthritic, neurologic or orthopedic condition  
18 that the person cannot ascend or descend more than ten stair  
19 steps."