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H.313

Introduced by Representatives Burke of Brattleboro and Russell of Rutland

City

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; persons with disabilities; parking placards

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to clarify the law governing parking in spaces designated for persons with disabilities so that a person who drives a person with a disability may, if the vehicle has a placard, park for free, and park in spaces designated for persons with disabilities, to the same extent as if the vehicle were parked by the person with a disability.

An act relating to parking for persons with disabilities

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 304a is amended to read:

§ 304a. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES AND PLACARDS FOR
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

(a) The following definitions shall apply to this section:

* * *

(3) “Special registration plates” means a registration plate for people with disabilities that displays the International Symbol of Access:

1 (A) in a color that contrasts with the background; and

2 (B) in the same size as the letters or numbers on the plate.

3 (4) “Removable windshield placard” means a two-sided, hanger style
4 placard which includes on each side:

5 (A) the International Symbol of Access, which is at least three inches
6 in height, centered on the placard, and is ~~white on a blue shield~~ a color that
7 contrasts with the placard’s background color;

8 (B) an identification number;

9 (C) a date of expiration; and

10 (D) the seal or other identification of the issuing authority.

11 (5) “Temporary removable windshield placard” means a two-sided
12 hanger style placard which includes on each side:

13 (A) the International Symbol of Access, which is at least three inches
14 in height, centered on the placard, and is ~~white on a red shield~~ a color that
15 contrasts with the placard’s background color;

16 (B) an identification number;

17 (C) a date of expiration; and

18 (D) the seal or other identification of the issuing authority.

19 (6) “Eligible person” means a person who:

20 (A) is blind or has an ambulatory disability or is transporting a person
21 who is blind or has an ambulatory disability; and

1 (B) has been issued a special registration plate or a windshield
2 placard by this State or another state.

3 * * *

4 (c) ~~Vehicles~~ Eligible persons may park vehicles with special registration
5 plates or removable windshield placards ~~from~~ issued by any state ~~may use the~~
6 in special parking spaces when:

7 (1) the placard is displayed:

8 (A) by hanging it from the front windshield rearview mirror in such a
9 manner that it may be viewed from the front and rear of the vehicle; or

10 (B) if the vehicle has no rearview mirror, on the dashboard;

11 (2) the plate is mounted as provided in section 511 of this title; or

12 (3) the plate is mounted or the placard displayed as provided by the law
13 of the jurisdiction where the vehicle is registered.

14 (d)(1) ~~A person who has an ambulatory disability or an individual~~
15 ~~transporting a person who is blind~~ Except as otherwise provided in this
16 subsection, an eligible person shall be permitted to park, and to park without
17 fee, for ~~at least~~ not less than 10 continuous days in a parking space or area
18 which is restricted as to the length of time parking is permitted or where
19 parking fees are assessed, ~~except that this minimum period shall be,~~

20 (2) ~~24 continuous hours for parking in~~ Notwithstanding the 10-day
21 period in subdivision (1) of this subsection, in the case of a State- or

1 municipally operated parking garage, an eligible person shall be permitted to
2 park, and to park without fee, for not less than 24 continuous hours.

3 (3) This ~~section~~ subsection shall not apply to spaces or areas in which
4 parking, standing, or stopping of all vehicles is prohibited by law or by any
5 parking ban, or which are reserved for special vehicles. As a condition to ~~this~~
6 the privilege conferred by this subsection, the vehicle shall display the
7 registration plate or placard issued by the Commissioner, or a special
8 registration license plate or placard issued by any other jurisdiction, in
9 accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

10 (e) A person, other than a person with a disability or a person transporting a
11 person with a disability, who for his or her own purposes parks a vehicle in a
12 space for persons with disabilities shall be fined not less than \$200.00 for each
13 violation and shall be liable for towing charges. He or she shall also be liable
14 for storage charges not to exceed \$12.00 per day, and an artisan's lien may be
15 imposed against the vehicle for payment of the charges assessed. The person
16 in charge of the parking space or spaces for persons with a disability or any
17 duly authorized law enforcement officer shall cause the removal of a vehicle
18 parked in violation of this section. A violation of this section shall be
19 considered a traffic violation within the meaning of 4 V.S.A. chapter 29.

20 * * *

1 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.