

1 SENATE BILL 299

2 **55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Mark Moores

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES; REQUIRING THE TAXATION
12 AND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH A DESIGN ELEMENT THAT
13 DENOTES SIGNIFICANT MOBILITY LIMITATION AND TO ISSUE THAT
14 DESIGN ELEMENT ON ANOTHER SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE IF
15 REQUESTED BY A PERSON WHO QUALIFIES.

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

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

20 "66-3-16. DISTINCTIVE REGISTRATION PLATES--PERSONS WITH
21 SIGNIFICANT MOBILITY LIMITATION--PARKING PLACARDS.--

22 A. The division shall issue distinctive
23 registration plates for use on motor vehicles and motorcycles
24 owned or leased by a person with a significant mobility
25 limitation who requests a distinctive registration plate and

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1 who proves satisfactorily to the division that the person is a
2 person with a significant mobility limitation.

3 B. The division shall establish a design element
4 that denotes significant mobility limitation and shall issue
5 that design element on another special registration plate in
6 lieu of issuing a special registration plate pursuant to
7 Subsection A of this section if requested by a person who
8 qualifies for a significant mobility limitation and the other
9 requested special registration plate; provided that all fees
10 and qualifications required to obtain the other requested
11 special registration plate are satisfied by the requester.

12 ~~[B.]~~ C. The division shall issue a distinctive
13 parking placard to an organization that owns or leases a motor
14 vehicle that primarily transports persons with significant
15 mobility limitations and that requests a distinctive parking
16 placard. The organization, if qualified, may obtain a
17 distinctive parking placard for each vehicle used to transport
18 persons with significant mobility limitations.

19 ~~[C.]~~ D. No fee in addition to the regular
20 registration fee, if any, applicable to the motor vehicle or
21 motorcycle shall be collected for issuance of distinctive
22 registration plates or parking placards pursuant to this
23 section.

24 ~~[D.]~~ E. No person shall falsely claim to have a
25 significant mobility limitation so as to be eligible to be

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1 issued a distinctive registration plate or a parking placard
2 pursuant to this section when the person does not in fact have
3 a significant mobility limitation. Upon notice and opportunity
4 to be heard, the division may revoke and demand return of any
5 placard when:

6 (1) it was issued in error or with false
7 information;

8 (2) the person receiving the placard is no
9 longer eligible;

10 (3) the placard is being used by ineligible
11 persons; or

12 (4) the organization to which the parking
13 placard was issued no longer exists.

14 ~~[E-]~~ F. Upon written application to the division
15 accompanied by a medical statement by a licensed physician or a
16 physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or
17 certified nurse-midwife working within that person's scope of
18 practice attesting to the permanent significant mobility
19 limitation, a resident of the state who has a significant
20 mobility limitation, as provided in this section, may apply for
21 and be issued no more than two parking placards for display
22 upon a motor vehicle registered to the person or motor vehicle
23 owned by another person who is transporting the person with a
24 significant mobility limitation. The licensed physician or the
25 physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or

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1 certified nurse-midwife working within that person's scope of
2 practice shall provide the division all information and records
3 necessary to issue a permanent parking placard. Once approved
4 for use of a permanent parking placard, a person with a
5 significant mobility limitation shall not be required to
6 furnish further medical information.

7 ~~[F.]~~ G. To obtain a distinctive parking placard
8 pursuant to this section, an organization shall submit to the
9 division:

10 (1) on a form approved by the division, a
11 signed statement by an authorized officer of the organization
12 affirming that the vehicle will be primarily used to transport
13 persons with significant mobility limitations and that the
14 registered vehicle is owned or leased by the organization; and

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

18 ~~[G.]~~ H. A parking placard issued pursuant to this
19 section shall expire four years from the date it was issued.

20 ~~[H.]~~ I. The division shall issue two-sided
21 hanger-style parking placards with the following
22 characteristics:

23 (1) a picture of the international symbol of
24 access;

25 (2) a hologram to make duplication difficult;

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1 (3) an imprinted expiration date; and

2 (4) for a placard issued to:

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

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

9 ~~[I.]~~ J. The division shall consult with the
10 governor's commission on disability for continued issuance and
11 format of the placard.

12 ~~[J.]~~ K. The division may issue an identification
13 card containing a full-face photograph of the holder of the
14 registration plate or parking placard and the number of the
15 registration plate or parking placard issued to that person.

16 ~~[K.]~~ L. Upon written application to the division
17 accompanied by a medical statement from a licensed physician or
18 a physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or
19 certified nurse-midwife working within that person's scope of
20 practice attesting to a temporary significant mobility
21 limitation, a person may be issued a temporary placard for no
22 more than one year. The licensed physician or the physician
23 assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or certified
24 nurse-midwife working within that person's scope of practice
25 shall provide the division all information and records

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1 necessary to issue a temporary placard.

2 [~~L.~~] M. Registration plates or parking placards
3 issued to a person with a significant mobility limitation by
4 another state or foreign jurisdiction shall be honored until
5 the motor vehicle or motorcycle is registered or the parking
6 placard holder establishes residency in this state.

7 [~~M.~~] N. A "person with a significant mobility
8 limitation" means a person who:

9 (1) cannot walk one hundred feet without
10 stopping to rest;

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

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

19 (4) uses portable oxygen;

20 (5) has a severe cardiac condition; or

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

25 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
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1 provisions of this act is July 1, 2021.

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