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AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; ALLOWING ORGANIZATIONS THAT OWN OR LEASE VEHICLES THAT PRIMARILY TRANSPORT PERSONS WITH SIGNIFICANT MOBILITY LIMITATIONS TO ACQUIRE SPECIAL DISTINCTIVE REGISTRATION 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.

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

C. No fee in addition to the regular registration

1 fee, if any, applicable to the motor vehicle or motorcycle  
2 shall be collected for issuance of distinctive registration  
3 plates or parking placards pursuant to this section.

4 D. No person shall falsely claim to have a  
5 significant mobility limitation so as to be eligible to be  
6 issued a distinctive registration plate or a parking placard  
7 pursuant to this section when the person does not in fact  
8 have a significant mobility limitation. Upon notice and  
9 opportunity to be heard, the division may revoke and demand  
10 return of any placard when:

11 (1) it was issued in error or with false  
12 information;

13 (2) the person receiving the placard is no  
14 longer eligible;

15 (3) the placard is being used by ineligible  
16 persons; or

17 (4) the organization to which the parking  
18 placard was issued no longer exists.

19 E. Upon written application to the division  
20 accompanied by a medical statement by a licensed physician or  
21 a physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or  
22 certified nurse-midwife working within that person's scope of  
23 practice attesting to the permanent significant mobility  
24 limitation, a resident of the state who has a significant  
25 mobility limitation, as provided in this section, may apply

1 for and be issued no more than two parking placards for  
2 display upon a motor vehicle registered to the person or  
3 motor vehicle owned by another person who is transporting the  
4 person with a significant mobility limitation. The licensed  
5 physician or the physician assistant, advanced practice  
6 registered nurse or certified nurse-midwife working within  
7 that person's scope of practice shall provide the division  
8 all information and records necessary to issue a permanent  
9 parking placard. Once approved for use of a permanent  
10 parking placard, a person with a significant mobility  
11 limitation shall not be required to furnish further medical  
12 information.

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

16 (1) on a form approved by the division, a  
17 signed statement by an authorized officer of the organization  
18 affirming that the vehicle will be primarily used to  
19 transport persons with significant mobility limitations and  
20 that the registered vehicle is owned or leased by the  
21 organization; and

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

25 G. A parking placard issued pursuant to this

1 section shall expire four years from the date it was issued.

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

4 (1) a picture of the international symbol of  
5 access;

6 (2) a hologram to make duplication  
7 difficult;

8 (3) an imprinted expiration date; and

9 (4) for a placard issued to:

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

13 (b) an organization, the number of the  
14 registration plate issued to the vehicle that is registered  
15 or leased to the organization on which the placard will be  
16 used.

17 I. The division shall consult with the governor's  
18 commission on disability for continued issuance and format of  
19 the placard.

20 J. The division may issue an identification card  
21 containing a full-face photograph of the holder of the  
22 registration plate or parking placard and the number of the  
23 registration plate or parking placard issued to that person.

24 K. Upon written application to the division  
25 accompanied by a medical statement from a licensed physician

1 or a physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse  
2 or certified nurse-midwife working within that person's scope  
3 of practice attesting to a temporary significant mobility  
4 limitation, a person may be issued a temporary placard for no  
5 more than one year. The licensed physician or the physician  
6 assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or certified  
7 nurse-midwife working within that person's scope of practice  
8 shall provide the division all information and records  
9 necessary to issue a temporary placard.

10 L. Registration plates or parking placards issued  
11 to a person with a significant mobility limitation by another  
12 state or foreign jurisdiction shall be honored until the  
13 motor vehicle or motorcycle is registered or the parking  
14 placard holder establishes residency in this state.

15 M. A "person with a significant mobility  
16 limitation" means a person who:

17 (1) cannot walk one hundred feet without  
18 stopping to rest;

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

22 (3) is restricted by lung disease to such an  
23 extent that the person's forced respiratory volume, when  
24 exhaling for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less  
25 than one liter or the arterial oxygen tension is less than

1 sixty millimeters on room air at rest;  
2 (4) uses portable oxygen;  
3 (5) has a severe cardiac condition; or  
4 (6) is so severely limited in the ability  
5 to walk due to an arthritic, neurologic or orthopedic  
6 condition that the person cannot ascend or descend more than  
7 ten stair steps."

8 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
9 provisions of this act is July 1, 2017. \_\_\_\_\_

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