



HOUSE BILL 256: Handicapped Parking/Veterans Plate.

2016-2017 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Transportation	Date:	June 15, 2016
Introduced by:	Reps. Floyd, C. Graham, L. Hall	Prepared by:	Wendy Ray
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: House Bill 256 would allow a vehicle displaying a partially disabled veteran plate to park in designated handicapped parking spaces. It would also allow a person to meet the certification and recertification requirements for a handicapped license plate or placard with a disability determination from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 20-37.6 authorizes vehicles to use spaces designated for handicapped persons if the vehicle displays a distinguishing handicapped license plate, a removable windshield placard, or a disabled veteran registration plate.

Handicapped License Plates & Placards. – In order to obtain a distinguishing license plate or removable placard, the applicant must provide a certification from a physician, ophthalmologist, or optometrist or of the Division of the Blind that the applicant is handicapped. Distinguishing license plates are renewed annually but do not require further medical certification. Removable placards must be renewed every 5 years and require medical recertification that the person is handicapped.

Disabled and Partially Disabled Veteran Special License Plates. – The disabled veteran registration plate is issuable to a veteran of the Armed Forces who suffered a 100% service-connected disability. A partially disabled veteran plate is also authorized under current law and is issuable to a veteran of the Armed Forces who suffered a service-connected disability of less than 100%.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 256 does two things:

- It would authorize a vehicle displaying a partially disabled veteran plate to park in spaces that are designated for handicapped persons.
- It would allow a person to meet the certification and recertification requirements for a handicapped license plate and removable placard with a disability determination from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that the person is handicapped.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would be effective when it becomes law.

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