



# SENATE BILL 160: Handicap Parking Privilege Certification.

2017-2018 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	August 9, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>		<b>Prepared by:</b>	Giles Perry Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	S.L. 2017-111		

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**OVERVIEW:** *S.L. 2017-111 authorizes licensed physician assistants and licensed nurse practitioners to certify applications to the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for handicapped license plates, removable placards, and temporary removable placards, and also authorizes licensed certified nurse midwives to certify initial applications to DMV for the issuance of temporary removable handicapped parking placards.*

*This act became effective July 12, 2017.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Under current law, G.S. 20-37.6(c1), the application to DMV for a handicapped license plate, removable placard, or temporary removable placard must be certified by one of the following:

- licensed physician
- licensed ophthalmologist
- a licensed optometrist
- Division of Services for the Blind
- United States Department of Veterans Affairs

G.S. 90-18.3 currently states that "*Whenever a statute or State agency rule requires that a physical examination shall be conducted by a **physician**, the examination may be conducted and the form signed by a **nurse practitioner** or a **physician's assistant**, and a physician need not be present.*" DMV's position is that this statute doesn't apply to current G.S. 20-37.6(c1), because G.S. 90-18.3 applies to "examination", and G.S. 20-37.6 refers to "certification".

**BILL ANALYSIS:** This act amends the current law on handicapped plates and placards, which require medical certification, to make clear the certification can be done by **licensed physician assistants** or **licensed nurse practitioners**. The act also authorizes **licensed certified nurse midwives** to certify initial applications for the issuance of temporary removable handicapped windshield placards.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act became effective July 12, 2017.

**BACKGROUND:** A **physician assistant** is a person licensed to perform medical functions as an assistant to a physician, including those duties authorized in G.S. 90-18.1. A **nurse practitioner** is a registered nurse who has: completed a post-graduate certificate nurse practitioner education program or obtained a Master's, or higher degree, in nursing or related field with primary focus on nursing; a certification by a national credentialing body; and is registered pursuant to Chapter 90. A **licensed certified nurse midwife** is a registered nurse who has: graduated from an approved nurse midwifery

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education program approved by the American College of Nurse Midwives; and passes the certification exam in accordance with Chapter 90.