



SENATE BILL 160: Handicap Parking Privilege Certification.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Health Care. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 19, 2017
Introduced by:	Sens. Brock, Meredith, Hise	Prepared by:	Theresa Matula
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Staff

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 160 authorizes licensed physician assistants and licensed nurse practitioners to certify applications to DMV for handicapped parking placards or license plates.*

CURRENT LAW: Under current law, G.S. 20-37.6(c1), the application to DMV for a handicapped license plate or 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: Senate Bill 160 amends the current law on handicapped plates and placards, which requires medical certification, to make clear the certification can be done by **licensed physician assistants** or **licensed nurse practitioners**.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.

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 obtains 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 bill on the same topic, House Bill 11, is currently in Senate Rules.

**Giles Perry, Staff to Senate Transportation substantially contributed to this summary.*

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