



SENATE BILL 160: Handicap Parking Privilege Certification.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Transportation	Date:	June 20, 2017
Introduced by:	Sens. Brock, Meredith, Hise	Prepared by:	Wendy Ray Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition S160-CSSU-32		

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

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: The PCS for Senate Bill 160 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 PCS also authorizes **licensed certified nurse midwives** to provide the certification for temporary removable handicapped windshield placards.

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 **licensed certified nurse midwife** is a registered nurse who has: graduated from an approved nurse midwifery education program approved by the American College of Nurse Midwives; and passes the certification exam in accordance with Chapter 90.

Giles Perry and Howard Marsilio, counsel to House and Senate Transportation, substantially contributed to this summary.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578