



## SENATE BILL 61: Guardian/Parent Authorized Plate.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	February 27, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. J. Davis, McInnis, J. Jackson	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Wendy Ray
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 61 would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a handicapped license plate to a vehicle owner who is the parent or legal guardian of a handicapped person.*

**CURRENT LAW:** G.S. 20-37.6 provides for parking privileges for handicapped drivers and passengers who have applied for and obtained from the Division of Motor Vehicles a handicapped windshield placard or registration plate. Any vehicle that is driven by or is transporting a person who is handicapped and that displays a handicapped placard or plate is authorized to park in spaces designated as handicapped spaces.

If the handicapped person is a registered owner of a vehicle, he or she may apply for a distinguishing plate. A handicapped person who is not the owner of a vehicle may apply for a removable windshield placard. An initial application for a plate or a placard must be accompanied by certification from a medical professional that the applicant is handicapped.

Handicapped plates must be renewed annually but do not require medical recertification. Placards must be renewed every five years and require medical recertification that the applicant is handicapped, unless the applicant has been certified as totally and permanently disabled or is over the age of 80 at the time of the placard's expiration.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Senate Bill 61 would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a handicapped plate to a vehicle owner who is the parent or legal guardian of a handicapped person. Currently, an owner who is not handicapped but regularly cares for a handicapped person would only have the option of applying for a removable placard for that individual.

The bill would allow a vehicle owner to apply for the plate by certifying that he or she is the parent or guardian of a handicapped person, as well as providing medical certification for the handicapped individual. Guardian is defined in the bill as a person who has been awarded legal custody of a juvenile by a court under Chapter 7B, or a guardian appointed for the purpose of performing duties related to the care, custody, and control of a ward under Chapter 35A.

A plate issued to the parent or guardian of a handicapped person would be renewed annually, and recertification would be required every five years.

The bill would also make clear that a person operating a vehicle with a handicapped plate is not entitled to park in a handicapped space when a handicapped person is not a driver or passenger in the vehicle.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act would be effective February 1, 2020.

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