

REFERENCE TITLE: physical therapists; disability placards

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

SB 1346

Introduced by
Senator Shope

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 28-2409, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO DISABILITY
PLACARDS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 28-2409, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 28-2409. International symbol of access special plates;
5 placard; update of records; invalid placard or
6 plate; definitions

7 A. The department shall issue special plates bearing the
8 international symbol of access to either:

9 1. A person who is an owner or lessee of a motor vehicle and who
10 either:

11 (a) Has A permanent physical ~~disabilities~~ DISABILITY.

12 (b) Is the parent or legal guardian of a minor with A permanent
13 physical ~~disabilities~~ DISABILITY.

14 2. An organization that owns or leases a motor vehicle that
15 primarily transports persons with physical disabilities.

16 B. A permanent disability special plate issued under this section
17 is valid for as long as the person to whom the plate is issued qualifies
18 for issuance under this section.

19 C. A person who has A permanent physical ~~disabilities~~ DISABILITY
20 may obtain, if qualified, a permanent disability removable windshield
21 placard. A person who has a temporary physical disability may obtain, if
22 qualified, a temporary disability removable windshield placard. An
23 organization described in subsection A, paragraph 2 of this section may
24 obtain, if qualified, a placard for each of the qualified vehicles. The
25 department shall issue only one valid placard to an applicant with a
26 temporary or permanent physical disability, except to replace a lost,
27 stolen or mutilated placard or if the department determines, on receiving
28 the applicant's written request, that the needs of the applicant are such
29 that up to three valid placards are required. The department shall issue
30 a placard pursuant to this section at no additional charge.

31 D. The department may issue up to three permanent disability
32 removable windshield placards to a nonprofit organization that provides
33 assistance to senior citizens. The nonprofit organization shall maintain
34 records on each volunteer who uses these placards to transport persons
35 with temporary or permanent disabilities.

36 E. A permanent disability removable windshield placard issued under
37 this section is valid for as long as the person to whom it is issued
38 qualifies for issuance under this section. A temporary disability
39 removable windshield placard issued under this section is valid for a
40 period of time as determined by the department. A person who desires to
41 obtain a temporary disability removable windshield placard for an
42 additional period of time shall submit a new application.

43 F. A person or an organization described in subsection A, paragraph
44 2 of this section that desires to obtain a permanent disability REMOVABLE
45 WINDSHIELD PLACARD or A temporary disability removable windshield placard

1 or international symbol of access special plates shall submit an
2 application to the department of transportation on a form furnished by the
3 department of transportation that contains one of the following:

4 1. If a person with a permanent or temporary disability, a medical
5 certificate completed by a hospital administrator, an authorized
6 physician, an authorized physician assistant, ~~or~~ a registered nurse
7 practitioner OR A PHYSICAL THERAPIST who certifies that the applicant has
8 a physical disability.

9 2. If a person with a disability who is a veteran and who has a one
10 hundred percent disability, a copy of the person's certificate of one
11 hundred percent disability issued by the United States department of
12 veterans affairs.

13 3. If an organization, a signed statement by an authorized officer
14 of the organization affirming that the registered vehicle that is owned or
15 leased by the organization and that will display the placard or the
16 international symbol of access special plates primarily transports persons
17 with physical disabilities.

18 G. On receipt of the application containing the medical
19 certificate, the certificate of one hundred percent disability issued by
20 the United States department of veterans affairs or the signed statement,
21 if the department of transportation finds that the applicant qualifies for
22 the parking privileges pursuant to chapter 3, article 14 of this title,
23 the department of transportation shall issue the placard or international
24 symbol of access special plates.

25 H. The placard or international symbol of access special plates
26 shall be displayed on or in the motor vehicle in the manner prescribed by
27 the department.

28 I. A request for special plates issued under this section may be
29 combined with a request for an honored military license plate issued under
30 article 13 of this chapter or any other special plate. The department
31 shall prescribe the form for the request. The request is subject to
32 payment of only the fee required for the honored military license plate or
33 other special plate and is not subject to any other special plate fee
34 under section 28-2402. An international symbol of access special plate
35 that is combined with an honored military license plate or any other
36 special plate is not a personalized special plate under section 28-2406.

37 J. If a person for whom a permanent disability removable windshield
38 placard or permanent disability special plate has been issued pursuant to
39 this section has been identified as deceased through monthly inquiries of
40 federal or state vital record databases, the department shall update the
41 record that the permanent disability removable windshield placard or the
42 permanent disability special plate is canceled. The department shall
43 electronically provide NOTICE that the placard or plate is canceled to an
44 authorized central law enforcement telecommunication system database that
45 is accessible to law enforcement officers in this state.

1 K. For the purposes of this section:

2 1. "Authorized physician" means a doctor of medicine, osteopathy,
3 podiatry or chiropractic WHO IS licensed to practice medicine in this
4 state or another state or authorized by the United States government to
5 practice medicine.

6 2. "Authorized physician assistant" means a physician assistant who
7 is under the supervision of an authorized physician.

8 3. "Permanent disability removable windshield placard" means a
9 two-sided, hooked placard that includes on each side all of the following:

10 (a) The international symbol of access that is at least three
11 inches in height, that is centered on the placard and that is white on a
12 blue shield.

13 (b) An identification number.

14 (c) The seal or other identification of the issuing authority.

15 4. ~~"Person with a~~ Physical disability" means THAT a person who, as
16 determined by a hospital administrator or authorized physician, meets any
17 of the following conditions:

18 (a) Cannot walk two hundred feet without stopping to rest.

19 (b) Cannot walk without the use of or assistance from any brace,
20 cane, crutch, other person, prosthetic device, wheelchair or other
21 assistive device.

22 (c) Is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that the
23 person's forced respiratory, expiratory volume for one second, if measured
24 by spirometry, is less than one liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is
25 less than sixty mm/Hg on room air at rest.

26 (d) Uses portable oxygen.

27 (e) Has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's
28 functional limitations are classified in severity as class III or class IV
29 according to standards set by the American heart association.

30 (f) Is severely limited in the person's ability to walk due to an
31 arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition.

32 5. "Temporary disability removable windshield placard" means a
33 two-sided, hooked placard that includes on each side all of the following:

34 (a) The international symbol of access that is at least three
35 inches in height, that is centered on the placard and that is white on a
36 red shield.

37 (b) An identification number.

38 (c) A date of expiration.

39 (d) The seal or other identification of the issuing authority.