

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

ENROLLED

House Bill 2165

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

2025 APR 25 P 3:09

FILED

BY DELEGATES J.CANNON, CHIARELLI, HOLSTEIN, RILEY,

COOPER, MAYNOR, HORNBY, WILLIS, AND YOUNG

[Passed April 10, 2025; in effect 90 days from
passage (July 9, 2025)]

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1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §17C-13-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, and
2 to amend the Code by adding thereto a new section, designated §17A3-15a, relating to
3 free parking for certain individuals; prohibiting public entities from requiring certain persons
4 with a mobility impairment who are unable to walk from having to pay for accessible
5 parking at parking meters that are inaccessible; defining terms; specifying parameters of
6 prohibition and entitlement for payment exemption; making penalty of false swearing
7 applicable for false certification of inability to access parking meter without unreasonable
8 effort; prohibiting citations; providing for prima facie evidence; providing disabled veterans
9 and veterans who received the Purple Heart may park free at metered parking spaces at
10 any municipality in the state.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**ARTICLE 3. ORIGINAL AND RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION; ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES
OF TITLE.**

§17A-3-15a. Free parking for disabled veterans and veterans awarded the purple heart.

1 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any person who is a disabled veteran
2 from the United States Armed Forces or who was awarded the Purple Heart, may park at any
3 metered parking space in any municipality in this state without being required to deposit any sum
4 of coins or currency into the meter: *Provided*, That an appropriate designation must appear on
5 the person's registration plate under the provisions of §17A-3-14 demonstrating that the person
6 is a disabled veteran or was awarded the Purple Heart.

ARTICLE 13. STOPPING, STANDING, AND PARKING.

**§17C-13-6. Stopping, standing, or parking privileges for persons with a mobility
impairment; disabled veterans; definitions; qualification; special registration plates
and removable windshield placards; expiration, application; violation; penalties.**

1 (a)(1) The commissioner may issue up to two special registration plates or removable
2 windshield placards to a person with a mobility impairment or a West Virginia organization which

3 transports persons with disabilities and facilitates the mobility of its customers, patients, students,
4 or persons otherwise placed under its responsibility.

5 (2) Special registration plates or placards may only be issued for placement on a Class A
6 or Class G motor vehicle registered under the provisions of §17A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

7 (3) The applicant shall specify whether he or she is applying for a special registration plate,
8 a removable windshield placard, or both on the application form prescribed and furnished by the
9 commissioner.

10 (4) The applicant shall submit, with the application, a certificate issued by any physician,
11 chiropractor, advanced nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant who is licensed in this state,
12 stating that the applicant has a mobility impairment, or that the applicant is an organization which
13 regularly transports a person with a mobility impairment as defined in this section. The physician,
14 chiropractor, advanced nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant shall specify in the certificate
15 whether the disability is temporary or permanent. A disability which is temporary is one expected
16 to last for a limited duration and improve during the applicant's life. A disability which is permanent
17 is one which is expected to last during the duration of the applicant's life.

18 (5) Upon receipt of the completed application, the physician's certificate, and the regular
19 registration fee for the applicant's vehicle class, if the commissioner finds that the applicant
20 qualifies for the special registration plate or a removable windshield placard as provided in this
21 section, he or she shall issue to the applicant a special registration plate (upon remittance of the
22 regular registration fee) or a removable windshield placard (red for temporary and blue for
23 permanent), or both. Upon request, the commissioner shall also issue to any otherwise qualified
24 applicant one additional placard having the same expiration date as the applicant's original
25 placard. The placard shall be displayed by hanging it from the interior rearview mirror of the motor
26 vehicle so that it is conspicuously visible from outside the vehicle when parked in a designated
27 accessible parking space. The placard may be removed from the rearview mirror whenever the
28 vehicle is being operated to ensure clear vision and safe driving. Only in the event that there is

no suitable rearview mirror in the vehicle may the placard be displayed on the dashboard of the vehicle.

(6) Organizations which transport people with disabilities will be provided with a placard which will permit them to park in a designated area for the length of time necessary to load and unload passengers. These vehicles must be moved to a nondesignated space once the loading or unloading process is complete.

(b) As used in this section, the following terms have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection:

(1) A person or applicant with a "mobility impairment" means a person who is a citizen of West Virginia and as determined by a physician, allopath or osteopath, chiropractor, advanced nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant licensed to practice in West Virginia:

(A) Cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest;

(B) Cannot walk without the use of or assistance from a brace, cane, crutch, prosthetic device, wheelchair, other assistive device, or another person;

(C) Is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that the person's force (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at rest;

(D) Uses portable oxygen;

(E) Has a cardiac condition to such an extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards established by the American Heart Association; or

(F) Is severely limited in his or her ability to walk because of an arthritic, neurological, or other orthopedic condition.

(2) "Special registration plate" means a registration plate that displays the international symbol of access, as adopted by the Rehabilitation International Organization in 1969 at its Eleventh World Congress on Rehabilitation of the Disabled, in a color that contrasts with the

55 background, in letters and numbers the same size as those on the plate, and which may be used
56 in lieu of a regular registration plate;

57 (3) "Removable windshield placard" (permanent or temporary) means a two-sided,
58 hanger-style placard measuring three inches by nine and one-half inches, with all of the following
59 on each side:

60 (A) The international symbol of access, measuring at least three inches in height, centered
61 on the placard, in white on a blue background for permanent designations and in white on a red
62 background for temporary designations;

63 (B) An identification number measuring one inch in height;

64 (C) An expiration date in numbers measuring one inch in height for a temporary placard;
65 and

66 (D) The seal or other identifying symbol of the issuing authority.

67 (4) "Regular registration fee" means the standard registration fee for a vehicle of the same
68 class as the applicant's vehicle;

69 (5) "Public entity" means state or local government or any department, agency, special
70 purpose district, or other instrumentality of a state or local government;

71 (6) "Public facility" means all or any part of any buildings, structures, sites, complexes,
72 roads, parking lots, or other real or personal property, including the site where the facility is
73 located;

74 (7) "Place or places of public accommodation" means a facility or facilities operated by a
75 private entity whose operations affect commerce and fall within at least one of the following
76 categories:

77 (A) Inns, hotels, motels, and other places of lodging;

78 (B) Restaurants, bars, or other establishments serving food or drink;

79 (C) Motion picture houses, theaters, concert halls, stadiums, or other places of exhibition
80 or entertainment;

(D) Auditoriums, convention centers, lecture halls, or other places of public gatherings;

(E) Bakeries, grocery stores, clothing stores, hardware stores, shopping centers, or other sales or rental establishments;

(F) Laundromats, dry cleaners, banks, barber and beauty shops, travel agencies, shoe repair shops, funeral parlors, gas or service stations, offices of accountants and attorneys, pharmacies, insurance offices, offices of professional health care providers, hospitals, or other service establishments;

(G) Terminals, depots, or other stations used for public transportation;

(H) Museums, libraries, galleries, or other places of public display or collection;

(I) Parks, zoos, amusement parks, or other places of recreation;

(J) Public or private nursery, elementary, secondary, undergraduate, or post-graduate schools or other places of learning and day care centers, senior citizen centers, homeless shelters, food banks, adoption agencies, or other social services establishments; and

(K) Gymnasiums, health spas, bowling alleys, golf courses, or other places of exercise or recreation.

(8) "Commercial facility" means a facility whose operations affect commerce and which are intended for nonresidential use by a private entity;

(9) "Accessible parking" formerly known as "handicapped parking" is the present phrase consistent with language within the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);

(10) "Parking enforcement personnel" includes any law-enforcement officer as defined by §30-29-1 of this code, and private security guards, parking personnel, and other personnel authorized by a city, county, or the state to issue parking citations.

Any person who falsely or fraudulently obtains or seeks to obtain the special plate or the removable windshield placard provided for in this section, and any person who falsely certifies that a person is mobility impaired in order that an applicant may be issued the special registration plate or windshield placard under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction

107 thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined \$500. Any
108 person who fabricates, uses, or sells unofficially issued windshield placards to any person or
109 organization is committing a fraudulent act and is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction
110 thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined \$500 per
111 placard fabricated, used, or sold. Any person who fabricates, uses, or sells unofficially issued
112 identification cards to any person or organization is committing a fraudulent act and is guilty of a
113 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may
114 otherwise incur, shall be fined \$700 per identification card fabricated, used, or sold. Any person
115 who fabricates, uses, or sells unofficially issued labels imprinted with a future expiration date to
116 any person or organization is committing a fraudulent act and is guilty of a misdemeanor and,
117 upon conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be
118 fined \$700. Any person covered by this section who sells or gives away their officially issued
119 windshield placard to any person or organization not qualified to apply for or receive the placard
20 and then reapplies for a new placard on the basis it was stolen is committing a fraudulent act and
121 is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or
122 she, or they may otherwise incur, shall lose their right to receive or use a special placard or special
123 license plate for a period of not less than five years.

124 (c) The commissioner shall set the expiration date for special registration plates on the
125 last day of a given month and year, to be valid for a minimum of one year but not more than five
126 years, after which time a new application must be submitted to the commissioner. After the
127 commissioner receives the new application, signed by a certified physician, chiropractor,
128 advanced nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant if required under this subsection, the
129 commissioner shall issue: (i) A new special registration plate or new permanent or temporary
130 removable windshield placard; or (ii) official labels imprinted with the new expiration date and
131 designed so as to be placed over the old dates on the original registration plate or windshield
132 placard: *Provided*, That a new application under this subsection must not be accompanied by a

133 certificate pursuant to §17C-13-6(a)(4) of this code if a prior application is on file with the
134 commissioner, such application includes a certificate issued pursuant to §17C-13-6(a)(4) of this
135 code, such certificate specifies that the applicant's disability is permanent for life, and such
136 certificate was made within 10 years of the new application.

137 (d) The commissioner shall set the expiration date of temporary removable windshield
138 placards to be valid for a period of approximately six months after the application was received
139 and approved by the commissioner. Permanent removable windshield placards are valid for the
140 duration of the applicant's life.

141 (e) The commissioner shall issue to each applicant who is granted a special registration
142 plate or windshield placard an identification card bearing the applicant's name, assigned
143 identification number, and expiration date. The applicant shall thereafter carry this identification
144 card on his or her person whenever parking in an accessible parking space. The identification
145 card shall be identical in design for both registration plates and removable windshield placards.

146 (f) An accessible parking space should comply with the provisions of the Americans with
147 Disabilities Act accessibility guidelines, contained in 28 C.F.R. 36, Appendix A, Section 4.6. In
148 particular, the parking space should be a minimum of eight feet wide with an adjacent eight-foot
149 access aisle for vans having side mounted hydraulic lifts or ramps, or a five-foot access aisle for
150 standard vehicles. Access aisles should be marked using diagonal two- to four-inch-wide stripes
151 spaced every 12 or 24 inches apart along with the words "no parking" in painted letters which are
152 at least 12 inches in height. All accessible parking spaces must have a signpost in front or
153 adjacent to the accessible parking space displaying the international symbol of access sign
154 mounted at a minimum of eight feet above the pavement or sidewalk and the top of the sign. Lines
155 or markings on the pavement or curbs for parking spaces and access aisles may be in any color,
156 although blue is the generally accepted color for accessible parking.

157 (g) A vehicle displaying a disabled veterans special registration plate issued pursuant to
158 §17A-3-14(c)(6) of this code shall be recognized and accepted as meeting the requirements of
159 this section.

160 (h) A vehicle from any other state, United States territory, or foreign country displaying an
161 officially issued special registration plate, placard, or decal bearing the international symbol of
162 access shall be recognized and accepted as meeting the requirements of this section, regardless
163 of where the plate, placard, or decal is mounted or displayed on the vehicle.

164 (i) Stopping, standing, or parking places marked with the international symbol of access
165 shall be designated in close proximity to all public entities, including state, county, and municipal
166 buildings and facilities, places of public accommodation, and commercial facilities. These parking
167 places shall be reserved solely for persons with a mobility impairment and disabled veterans at
168 all times.

169 (j) Any person whose vehicle properly displays a valid, unexpired special registration plate
170 or removable windshield placard may park the vehicle for unlimited periods of time in parking
171 zones unrestricted as to length of parking time permitted: *Provided*, That this privilege does not
172 mean that the vehicle may park in any zone where stopping, standing, or parking is prohibited or
173 which creates parking zones for special types of vehicles or which prohibits parking during heavy
174 traffic periods during specified rush hours or where parking would clearly present a traffic hazard.
175 To the extent any provision of any ordinance of any political subdivision of this state is contrary to
176 the provisions of this section, the provisions of this section take precedence and apply.

177 The parking privileges provided for in this subsection apply only during those times when
178 the vehicle is being used for the loading or unloading of a person with a mobility impairment. Any
179 person who knowingly exercises, or attempts to exercise, these privileges at a time when the
180 vehicle is not being used for the loading or unloading of a person with a mobility impairment is
181 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon first conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or
182 she may otherwise incur, shall be fined \$200; upon second conviction thereof, in addition to any

183 other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined \$300; and upon third and subsequent
184 convictions thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined
185 \$500.

186 (k) Any person whose vehicle does not display a valid, special registration plate or
187 removable windshield placard may not stop, stand, or park a motor vehicle in an area designated,
188 zoned, or marked for accessible parking with signs or instructions displaying the international
189 symbol of access, either by itself or with explanatory text. The signs may be mounted on a post
190 or a wall in front of the accessible parking space and instructions may appear on the ground or
191 pavement, but use of both methods is preferred. Accessible parking spaces for vans having an
192 eight-foot adjacent access aisle should be designated as "van accessible" but may be used by
193 any vehicle displaying a valid special registration plate or removable windshield placard.

194 Any person who violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and,
195 upon conviction thereof, shall be fined \$200; upon second conviction thereof, in addition to any
196 other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined \$300; and upon third and subsequent
197 convictions thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined
198 \$500.

199 (l) All signs that designate areas as "accessible parking" or that display the international
200 symbol of access shall also include the words "up to \$500 fine".

201 (m) No person may stop, stand, or park a motor vehicle in an area designated or marked
202 off as an access aisle adjacent to a van-accessible parking space or regular accessible parking
203 space. Any person, including a driver of a vehicle displaying a valid removable windshield placard
204 or special registration plate, who violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a
205 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined \$200; upon second conviction thereof,
206 in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined \$300; and upon third
207 and subsequent convictions thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise
208 incur, shall be fined \$500.

(n) Parking enforcement personnel who otherwise enforce parking violations may issue citations for violations of this section and shall reference the number on the vehicle's license plate, since the driver normally will not be present.

(o) Law-enforcement agencies may establish a program to use trained volunteers to collect information necessary to issue citations to persons who illegally park in designated accessible parking spaces. Any law-enforcement agency choosing to establish a program shall provide for workers' compensation and liability coverage. The volunteers shall photograph the illegally parked vehicle and complete a form, to be developed by supervising law-enforcement agencies, that includes the vehicle's license plate number, date, time, and location of the illegally parked vehicle. The photographs must show the vehicle in the accessible space and a readable view of the license plate. Within the discretion of the supervising law-enforcement agency, the volunteers may issue citations or the volunteers may submit the photographs of the illegally parked vehicle and the form to the supervising law-enforcement agency, who may issue a citation, which includes the photographs and the form, to the owner of the illegally parked vehicle. Volunteers shall be trained on the requirements for citations for vehicles parked in marked, zoned, or designated accessible parking areas by the supervising law-enforcement agency.

(p) Local authorities who adopt the basic enforcement provisions of this section and issue their own local ordinances shall retain all fines and associated late fees. These revenues shall be used first to fund the provisions of subsection (o) of this section, if adopted by local authorities, or otherwise shall go into the local authorities' General Revenue Fund. Otherwise, any moneys collected as fines shall be collected for and remitted to the state.

(q) The commissioner shall prepare and issue a document to applicants describing the privileges accorded a vehicle having a special registration plate and removable windshield placard as well as the penalties when the vehicle is being inappropriately used as described in this section and shall include the document along with the issued special registration plate or windshield placard. In addition, the commissioner shall issue a separate document informing the general

235 public regarding the new provisions and increased fines being imposed either by way of
236 newspaper announcements or other appropriate means across the state.

237 (r) The commissioner shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the
238 provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

239 (s)(1) A public entity may not require a person to pay for parking a vehicle in an accessible
240 parking space with a parking meter if the following requirements are met:

241 (A) The vehicle displays a special registration plate or placard that entitles the person to
242 park in an accessible parking space pursuant to this section;

243 (B) The driver has a mobility impairment and is unable to walk;

244 (C) The parking meter is not accessible to the driver while sitting in a wheelchair or without
245 traveling more than 30 feet from the parked vehicle; and

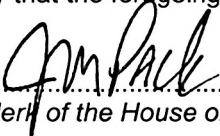
246 (D) The parked vehicle displays an unexpired parking certification that is plainly visible
247 with pertinent information through its windshield. For purposes of this subsection, "parking
248 certification" means a letter completed by a licensed medical provider on the provider's letterhead
249 that is titled "Parking Certification pursuant to W.Va. Code §17C-13-6(s)" and that certifies that
250 the person is physically able to drive but unable to walk, which means for purposes of this
251 subsection that the person cannot ambulate without the aid of a wheelchair. Such letter shall
252 specify whether the inability to walk is permanent or temporary. If the inability to walk is temporary,
253 the letter shall include the date on which such temporary disability is anticipated to end, and the
254 letter may not be displayed in a windshield after such date.

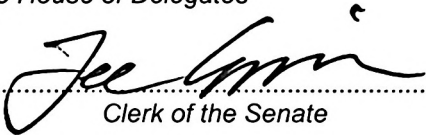
255 (2) By displaying a parking certification in the windshield of a vehicle that is parked in an
256 accessible parking space with an expired parking meter, the person is swearing under penalty of
257 false swearing that he or she is unable to access the parking meter without unreasonable effort.

258 (3) Parking enforcement personnel may not cite a vehicle that is parked in an accessible
259 parking space of a public entity for parking at an expired meter if the requirements of this
260 subsection are met: *Provided*, That if a parking citation is issued, it shall be prima facie evidence

261 that the person was entitled to park in the accessible parking space with an expired meter if the
262 person produces his or her parking certification.

The Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Clerk of the Senate hereby certify that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.


.....
Clerk of the House of Delegates


.....
Clerk of the Senate

Originated in the House of Delegates.

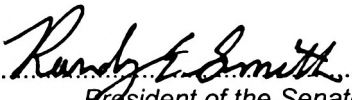
In effect 90 days from passage.

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

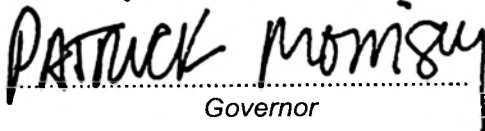
2025 APR 25 P 3:09

FILED


.....
Speaker of the House of Delegates


.....
President of the Senate

The within is approved this the 25th
Day of April, 2025.


.....
Governor

Pratt & Whitney

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

APR 15 2025

Time 2:40pm