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Bill Analysis

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Primary Sponsors: Reps. Ray and Sims

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SUMMARY

- Authorizes a person who has a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk, but whose disability is not readily apparent to another person, to apply for an orange removable windshield placard with a white International Symbol of Access printed on it.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Orange removable windshield placard

The bill authorizes a person who has a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk, but whose disability is not readily apparent to another person, to apply for an orange removable windshield placard (“placard”) with a white International Symbol of Access printed on it.¹ Two of Ohio’s current placards are pictured in the image below. The orange placard would presumably be similar, but with the alternative color.²



¹ R.C. 4503.44(C)(9).

² Picture taken from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles website at: bmv.ohio.gov.

Under current law, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) issues three other types of removable windshield placards to either a qualifying person or an organization that regularly transports such a person. The current placards are a blue standard placard that expires ten years after the date of issuance, a red temporary placard that expires within six months, and a blue permanent placard that has no expiration date. The temporary placard is issued to a person whose disability is expected to last for less than six months (e.g., a broken leg).³ Under the bill, the orange-colored placard could replace any of the three existing placards for purposes of its expiration date.⁴

Qualifying disabilities

Under law unchanged by the bill, to qualify for a placard, and the accessible parking it provides, an authorized health care provider must determine that the person meets at least one of the following criteria:

- Cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest;
- Cannot walk without the use of, or assistance from, a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistive device;
- Is restricted by a lung disease to such an extent that the person's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 millimeters of mercury on room air at rest;
- Uses portable oxygen;
- Has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards set by the American Heart Association;
- Is severely limited in the ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition; or
- Is blind, legally blind, or severely visually impaired.⁵

Invisible disabilities

The bill's new orange placard is in lieu of the current placard options (either blue or red). The orange placard is meant to signal to the public that the person qualifies for the accessible parking spot, however, that person's disability is not as clearly visible as, for example, a person using a wheelchair. The bill does not impact or add to any of the disabilities that qualify a person to apply for a placard and accessible parking.

All other current law requirements relating to the issuance, expiration, revocation, surrender, and proper display of the placards apply to the new one created by the bill.

³ R.C. 4503.44(C)(2).

⁴ R.C. 4503.44(A)(9) and (C)(9).

⁵ R.C. 4503.44(A)(1).

Additionally, while available to a person with an invisible disability, that person is not required to apply for and display the orange placard instead of the placards currently available.⁶

Current federal law states that special license plates, removable windshield placards, or temporary removable windshield placards displaying the International Symbol of Access are the only recognized means of identifying vehicles that are allowed to use accessible parking spaces. However, federal law defines each placard through its identifying color (i.e., blue or red). It is unclear whether the bill's authorization for an orange placard would conflict with that federal law.⁷

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-15-25

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⁶ R.C. 4503.44(C)(9).

⁷ 23 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) 1235.2(d) and (e) and 23 C.F.R. 1235.6.