

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 139

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 10, 2022

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 139.

This bill provides that parents and primary caregivers of persons with autism may be issued identification cards and corresponding windshield placards that entitle holders to reserved parking privileges.

The bill provides that the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) may issue to the parent or primary caregiver of a person with autism, at the expense of the State of New Jersey, person with autism identification cards upon the application of a parent or primary caregiver of a person with autism, and after investigation of the qualifying status of the person with autism. The card would state that it is for the exclusive use of the person with autism and the person's parent or primary caregiver to whom it has been issued, is nontransferable, and will be forfeited if presented by any other person, and that any abuse will be sufficient cause for revocation and forfeiture.

The chief administrator would also issue to a parent or primary caregiver of a person with autism a windshield placard. The windshield placard would be displayed in a manner as determined by the chief administrator on the motor vehicle used to transport the person with autism, when the vehicle is parked overtime or in special parking places established for use by persons with disabilities or persons with autism. Any windshield placard issued would display the date on which it would become invalid.

The bill further clarifies that a person who is the parent or primary caregiver of a person with autism would be entitled to park in a restricted parking zone in front of a residence occupied by a person with autism, if such parking is permitted by the municipality.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments revise references to “handicapped” parking to “reserved” parking.

The committee amendments clarify that a person who is the parent or primary caregiver of a person with autism would be entitled to park in a restricted parking zone in front of a residence occupied by a person with autism, if such parking is permitted by the municipality.

The committee amendments provide that a person with autism identification card will state that the person with autism is person with autism, rather than person with a disability, that is validly qualified to receive the card.

The committee amendments remove the requirements for the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to develop a placard to be issued to parents or primary caregivers of persons with autism, and instead, amend the existing statutory language in P.L.1949, c.280 (C.39:4-204) to authorize the issuance of a windshield placard and license plates to an individual with a person with a disability identification card or person with autism identification card.

The committee amendments revise the bill’s title and synopsis to reflect these changes.

The committee amendments make various technical changes concerning punctuation and cross-citations.