



STATE of RHODE ISLAND
Executive Department
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
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Legislative Impact Statement

To: Senator Walter S. Felag Chair
From: Elisabeth Hubbard, Executive Secretary
Re: 26 Senate 2178 AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PARKING FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGES

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Legislation Committee has developed a Legislative Impact Statement on the bill listed below. The Commission would be pleased to present testimony to the committee. Please contact me (462-0110) if testimony is desired or for additional information.

Introduced by Senator Urso

The Commission finds this bill beneficial.

This bill would allow for vehicles that are specially adapted as accessible vehicles to have a license plate that would allow the same privileges as an accessible parking placard. This would not replace the placard program.

We recognize the utility of the adapted vehicle license plate as reasonable accommodation. Some people with mobility impairments may not be able to place the placards if their mobility is limited. Their reach may not allow them to hang the placard from their rear-view mirror. The option of a license plate will resolve the issue of having to place the placard each time they park.

We do have some concerns about the implementation of the program and confusion that having both placards and license plates may cause. The public, parking enforcement and businesses will need to be educated about the license plates- both that they are not replacing the placards and that people may have the plate instead of a placard. In addition, it should be clarified that the plates do not give an exclusive right to those who have them to park in accessible spaces with access aisles. This would be the responsibility of the Department of Motor Vehicles, although the Commission will be happy to assist through our social media and contacts.