

Department of Finance and Administration

Legislative Impact Statement

Bill: SB161

Bill Subtitle: TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING LICENSE PLATES FOR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY.

Basic Change :

Sponsors: Sen. Leding and Rep. Godfrey

SB161 amends § 27-15-308(b)(1) to remove the word “disabled” from the special plate issued by DFA to an eligible person. SB161 does not require a person issued a special license plate displaying the word “disabled” to return the plate to DFA prior to the effective date of the bill. SB161 appears to require that a person previously issued a disabled special license plate be issued a new plate at the time of renewal that bears the international sign of access, but not the word “disabled”.

Revenue Impact :

Currently there are approximately 19,000 DAV and DV Plates (combined) that would require a symbol of access or plate replacement. There are approximately 80,000 disabled plates currently registered.

DFA would be required to replace approximately 19,000 DAV and DV Plates within one year. DAV/DV plates cost \$3.52 each. Total replacement cost \$66,880.00. 19,000 decals at approximately \$3,000.00 total cost would also be required.

DFA would also be required to replace approximately 80,000 disabled plates within 1 year. Disabled plates cost \$2.61 each. Total replacement cost \$208,800.

Taxpayer Impact :

SB161 appears to require all 99,000 motor vehicle owners that have disabled plates, DV, or DAV plates to replace their existing plate with a new special plate bearing the international symbol of access. This requirement would inhibit those individuals from renewing their registrations online.

Resources Required :

Replacement of 99,000 plates

Time Required :

Implementation date of January 1, 2020 is requested.

Procedural Changes :

Notify approximately 99,000 motor vehicle owners to return and replace existing plate at renewal period. Update State Revenue Offices manuals and website with new images. Additional training of staff would be required.

Other Comments :

None.

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Legal Analysis :

SB161 would modify the design of the Persons with Disabilities License Plate. Currently, these specialty plates have the international symbol of access on the left-hand side and the word "Disabled" across the bottom of the plate. SB161 would require the design to be changed to remove the word "Disabled" from all future issued license plates. While the temporary language provides that the new license plates would not be required until renewal date, DFA will be required to design and have these plates printed by the effective date of SB161.

SB161 also seeks to amend the definition of a "disability document" used to allow persons with disabilities to operate all-terrain vehicles and golf carts in Arkansas State Parks. Currently, § 22-4-113(a)(2)(B) states that a license plate or certificate from any state showing the international symbol for drivers with disabilities and noting the word "disabled" is one method of proof.

Public Law 100-641 adopted the international symbol of access as the only recognized symbol for identification in the uniformed system for disabled parking. As the Federal Uniform System for Parking for Persons with Disabilities (23 CFR, Part 1235) includes a rule on reciprocity, using the same recognized terminology reduces the chance of an error.