STATE OF NEW YORK

7191

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 3, 2025

Introduced by Sen. SCARCELLA-SPANTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to the registration of motor vehicles owned by the parent or guardian of a severely disabled person

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The opening paragraph of subdivision 4 and paragraph (b) of subdivision 5 of section 404-a of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by chapter 376 of the laws of 2015, are amended and a new subdivision 3-a is added to read as follows:

3-a. Registration of vehicles owned by the parent or guardian of a severely disabled person. The commissioner shall assign to such motor vehicles, including any van or pick-up truck used for transporting persons with disabilities which is not used for commercial purposes and which are owned by the parent or guardian of such person a distinctive number and issue and deliver in such manner as the commissioner may select to the owner a certification of registration, in such form as the commissioner shall prescribe and two number plates, called disabled person passenger plates. Such disabled person passenger plates shall conform to the requirements of section four hundred one of this chapter, but shall bear distinctive marks to distinguish them from number plates to be issued to other persons, qualifying under this chapter. The commissioner, in their discretion, may issue, for any registration year, only one plate as a set for a motor vehicle, in which event a set of disabled person plates for a motor vehicle shall consist of one plate. Where the parent or guardian of a severely disabled person owns more than one vehicle and such vehicle or vehicles is or are used for transporting persons with disabilities, the commissioner shall issue one set of plates for each additional vehicle used by such parent or guardian of a severely disabled person.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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The commissioner shall issue sets of plates to such person in accordance with subdivision two **and subdivision three-a** of this section with proof of such disability of such person or such members of [~~his or her~~] **such person's** family certified by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner, to the extent authorized by law and consistent with subdivision three of section six thousand nine hundred two of the education law, or podiatrist pursuant to subdivision four-a of this section or optometrist pursuant to subdivision four-b of this section, to the satisfaction of the commissioner who is empowered to carry out the effects of this section by formulating rules and regulations. **The commissioner shall issue sets of plates to such person in accordance with subdivision three-a of this section with proof of parenthood or guardianship of a severely disabled person including but not limited to a birth certificate, foreign birth certificate, adoption decree, custody agreement, or consistent with article seventeen of the surrogate court procedure act, article seventeen-a of the surrogate court procedure act, or article eighty-three of the mental hygiene law.**

(b) The commissioner may require the applicant for registration to furnish such proof of [~~his or her~~] **such applicant's** disability**, such proof of the disability of such applicant's child or person under their guardianship,** or such proof of disability of such members of [~~his or her~~] **their** family from a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner, to the extent authorized by law and consistent with subdivision three of section six thousand nine hundred two of the education law, or podiatrist pursuant to subdivision four-a of this section or optometrist pursuant to subdivision four-b of this section, as the commissioner deems necessary either for initial registration or renewal thereof; provided, however, that a handicapped or disabled permit issued by a municipality to such applicant pursuant to section twelve hundred three-a of this chapter shall be deemed sufficient proof of disability for purposes of this paragraph.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law.