

2026 -- S 2178 SUBSTITUTE A

LC003225/SUB A/2

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PARKING FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGES

Introduced By: Senators Urso, Felag, Patalano, Rogers, Appollonio, Vargas, Paolino, Tikoian, and Dimitri

Date Introduced: January 16, 2026

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 31-28 of the General Laws entitled "Parking Facilities and  
2 Privileges" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **31-28-7.4. Motor vehicle plates for persons with disabilities -- Adaptive vehicle license**  
4 **plate.**

5 (a) Definitions. As used in the section:

6 (1) "Adaptive vehicle" means a motor vehicle that has been structurally modified or  
7 equipped with specialized equipment (such as ramps, lifts, lowered floors, specialized hand  
8 controls, or restraint systems) to accommodate the transportation needs of an individual with a  
9 significant mobility impairment.

10 (2) "Adaptive vehicle license plate" means a special registration plate issued under this  
11 section that identifies a vehicle as an adaptive or mobility-modified vehicle.

12 (3) "Qualified individual" means a person who has a permanent mobility impairment  
13 certified by a licensed physician or a physical therapist, necessitating the use of an adaptive vehicle  
14 for transport.

15 (b) Eligibility requirements.

16 (1) Completed application form from the division of motor vehicles.

17 (2) Medical certification of disability/need for vehicle modification.

18 (3) Proof of vehicle modification.

1           (4) Standard registration fees apply.

2           (c) Privileges and access. Vehicles displaying an adaptive vehicle license plate shall not be  
3 required to display the disability parking privilege placard issued under § 31-28-7:

4           (d) The division of motor vehicles shall, in addition to the provisions of § 31-28-7, furnish  
5 an "adaptive vehicle license plate" displaying the "International Symbol of Access" for any motor  
6 vehicle eligible for registration as an automobile, commercial vehicle or combination vehicle that  
7 qualifies as an "adaptive vehicle" as defined in this section used exclusively for noncommercial  
8 purposes for a qualified individual.

9           (e) Nothing in this section shall preclude an eligible individual from obtaining both the  
10 disability parking privilege placard pursuant to § 31-28-7 and the adaptive vehicle license plate  
11 pursuant to this section provided all eligibility requirements are met.

12           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect six (6) months after passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would create a new registration plate for qualified individuals to possess an  
2 "adaptive vehicle license plate" to accommodate the transportation needs of an individual with a  
3 significant mobility impairment.

4           This act would take effect six (6) months after passage.

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