## As Introduced

## 136th General Assembly Regular Session 2025-2026

H. B. No. 526

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## Representatives Ray, Sims

To amend section 4503.44 of the Revised Code to

Symbol of Access in certain circumstances.

windshield placards imprinted with International

require the issuance of orange removable

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:	
Section 1. That section 4503.44 of the Revised Code be	5
amended to read as follows:	6
Sec. 4503.44. (A) As used in this section and in section	7
4511.69 of the Revised Code:	8
(1) "Person with a disability that limits or impairs the	9
ability to walk" means any person who, as determined by a health	10
care provider, meets any of the following criteria:	11
(a) Cannot walk two hundred feet without stopping to rest;	12
(b) Cannot walk without the use of, or assistance from, a	13
brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device,	14
wheelchair, or other assistive device;	15
(c) Is restricted by a lung disease to such an extent that	16
the person's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one	17
second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or	18
the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty millimeters of	19

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mercury on room air at rest;	20
(d) Uses portable oxygen;	21
(e) Has a cardiac condition to the extent that the	22
person's functional limitations are classified in severity as	23
class III or class IV according to standards set by the American	24
heart association;	25
(f) Is severely limited in the ability to walk due to an	26
arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition;	27
(g) Is blind, legally blind, or severely visually	28
impaired.	29
(2) "Organization" means any private organization or	30
corporation, or any governmental board, agency, department,	31
division, or office, that, as part of its business or program,	32
transports persons with disabilities that limit or impair the	33
ability to walk on a regular basis in a motor vehicle that has	34
not been altered for the purpose of providing it with accessible	35
equipment for use by persons with disabilities. This definition	36
does not apply to division (I) of this section.	37
(3) "Health care provider" means a physician, physician	38
assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, optometrist, or	39
chiropractor as defined in this section except that an	40
optometrist shall only make determinations as to division (A)(1)	41
(g) of this section.	42
(4) "Physician" means a person licensed to practice	43
medicine or surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery under	44
Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code.	45
(5) "Chiropractor" means a person licensed to practice	46
chiropractic under Chapter 4734. of the Revised Code.	47

(6) "Advanced practice registered nurse" means a certified	48
nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified	49
registered nurse anesthetist, or certified nurse-midwife who	50
holds a certificate of authority issued by the board of nursing	51
under Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code.	52
(7) "Physician assistant" means a person who is licensed	53
as a physician assistant under Chapter 4730. of the Revised	54
Code.	55
	5.0
(8) "Optometrist" means a person licensed to engage in the	56
practice of optometry under Chapter 4725. of the Revised Code.	57
(9) "Removable windshield placard" includes a standard	58
removable windshield placard, a temporary removable windshield	59
placard, or a permanent removable windshield placard, unless	60
otherwise specified.	61
(B)(1) An organization, or a person with a disability that	62
limits or impairs the ability to walk, may apply for the	63
registration of any motor vehicle the organization or person	64
owns or leases. When an adaptive mobility vehicle is owned or	65
leased by someone other than a person with a disability that	66
limits or impairs the ability to walk, the owner or lessee may	67
apply to the registrar of motor vehicles or a deputy registrar	68
for registration under this section. The application for	69
registration of a motor vehicle owned or leased by a person with	70
a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk shall be	71
accompanied by a signed statement from the applicant's health	72
care provider certifying that the applicant meets at least one	73

of the criteria contained in division (A)(1) of this section and

that the disability is expected to continue for more than six

adaptive mobility vehicle that is owned by someone other than a

consecutive months. The application for registration of an

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person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to 78 walk shall be accompanied by such documentary evidence of 79 vehicle specifications or alterations as the registrar may 80 require by rule.

(2) When an organization, a person with a disability that 82 limits or impairs the ability to walk, or a person who does not 83 have a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk but 84 owns a motor vehicle that has been altered for the purpose of 85 providing it with accessible equipment for a person with a 86 disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk first 87 submits an application for registration of a motor vehicle under 88 this section and every fifth year thereafter, the organization 89 or person shall submit a signed statement from the applicant's 90 health care provider, a completed application, and any required 91 documentary evidence of vehicle specifications or alterations as 92 provided in division (B)(1) of this section, and also a power of 93 attorney from the owner of the motor vehicle if the applicant 94 leases the vehicle. Upon submission of these items, the 95 registrar or deputy registrar shall issue to the applicant 96 appropriate vehicle registration and a set of license plates and 97 validation stickers, or validation stickers alone when required 98 by section 4503.191 of the Revised Code. In addition to the 99 letters and numbers ordinarily inscribed thereon, the license 100 plates shall be imprinted with the international symbol of 101 access. The license plates and validation stickers shall be 102 issued upon payment of the regular license fee as prescribed 103 under section 4503.04 of the Revised Code and any motor vehicle 104 tax levied under Chapter 4504. of the Revised Code, and the 105 payment of a service fee equal to the amount established under 106 section 4503.038 of the Revised Code. 107

(C)(1) A person with a disability that limits or impairs

the ability to walk may apply to the registrar for a removable 109 windshield placard by completing and signing an application 110 provided by the registrar.

- (2) The person shall include with the application a 112 prescription from the person's health care provider prescribing 113 such a placard for the person based upon a determination that 114 the person meets at least one of the criteria contained in 115 division (A)(1) of this section. The health care provider shall 116 state on the prescription the length of time the health care 117 provider expects the applicant to have the disability that 118 limits or impairs the person's ability to walk. If the length of 119 time the applicant is expected to have the disability is six 120 consecutive months or less, the applicant shall submit an 121 application for a temporary removable windshield placard. If the 122 length of time the applicant is expected to have the disability 123 is permanent, the applicant shall submit an application for a 124 permanent removable windshield placard. All other applicants 125 shall submit an application for a standard removable windshield 126 placard. 127
- (3) In addition to one placard or one or more sets of license plates, a person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk is entitled to one additional placard, but only if the person applies separately for the additional placard, states the reasons why the additional placard is needed, and the registrar, in the registrar's discretion determines that good and justifiable cause exists to approve the request for the additional placard.

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(4) An organization may apply to the registrar of motorvehicles for a standard removable windshield placard bycompleting and signing an application provided by the registrar.138

The organization shall comply with any procedures the registrar	139
establishes by rule. The organization shall include with the	140
application documentary evidence that the registrar requires by	141
rule showing that the organization regularly transports persons	142
with disabilities that limit or impair the ability to walk.	143
(5) The registrar or deputy registrar shall issue to an	144
applicant a standard removable windshield placard, a temporary	145
removable windshield placard, or a permanent removable	146
windshield placard, as applicable, upon receipt of all of the	147
following:	148
(a) A completed and signed application for a removable	149
windshield placard;	150
(b) The accompanying documents required under division (C)	151
(2) or (4) of this section;	152
(c) Payment of a service fee equal to the amount	153
established under section 4503.038 of the Revised Code for a	154
standard removable windshield placard or a temporary removable	155
windshield placard, or payment of fifteen dollars for a	156
permanent removable windshield placard.	157
(6) The removable windshield placard shall display the	158
date of expiration on both sides of the placard, or the word	159
"permanent" if the placard is a permanent removable windshield	160
placard, and shall be valid until expired, revoked, or	161
surrendered. Except for a permanent removable windshield	162
placard, which has no expiration, a removable windshield placard	163
expires on the earliest of the following two dates:	164
(a) The date that the person issued the placard is	165
expected to no longer have the disability that limits or impairs	166
the ability to walk, as indicated on the prescription submitted	167

with the application for the placard;	168
(b) Ten years after the date of issuance on the placard.	169
In no case shall a removable windshield placard be valid	170
for a period of less than sixty days.	171
(7) Standard removable windshield placards shall be	172
renewable upon application and upon payment of a service fee	173
equal to the amount established under section 4503.038 of the	174
Revised Code. The registrar shall provide the application form	175
and shall determine the information to be included thereon.	176
(8) The registrar shall determine the form and size of	177
each type of the removable windshield placard, the material of	178
which it is to be made, any differences in color between each	179
type of placard to make them readily identifiable, and any other	180
information to be included thereon, and shall adopt rules	181
relating to the issuance, expiration, revocation, surrender, and	182
proper display of such placards. A temporary removable	183
windshield placard shall display the word "temporary" in letters	184
of such size as the registrar shall prescribe. Any placard	185
issued after October 14, 1999, shall be manufactured in a manner	186
that allows the expiration date of the placard to be indicated	187
on it through the punching, drilling, boring, or creation by any	188
other means of holes in the placard.	189
(9) In addition to the design of the removable windshield	190
placard specified in division (C)(8) of this section, the	191
registrar shall provide for and issue an orange removable	192
windshield placard with a white international symbol of access	193
imprinted on it. A person with a disability that limits or	194
impairs the ability to walk whose disability is not readily	195
apparent to another person may apply to the registrar for a	196

placard in accordance with division (C)(9) of this section. The	197
placard shall otherwise be created with the same form, size, and	198
material, and shall display the same information as the placard	199
issued in accordance with division (C)(8) of this section. All	200
other requirements established under this section and under	201
rules relating to the issuance, expiration, revocation,	202
surrender, and proper display of a placard shall apply. Nothing	203
in this division shall be construed to require a person to apply	204
for and obtain a placard issued in accordance with division (C)	205
(9) of this section.	206
$\frac{(9)}{(10)}$ At the time a removable windshield placard is	207
issued to a person with a disability that limits or impairs the	208
ability to walk, the registrar or deputy registrar shall enter	209
into the records of the bureau of motor vehicles the last date	210
on which the person will have that disability, as indicated on	211
the accompanying prescription. For a standard removable	212
windshield placard, not less than thirty days prior to that date	213
and any renewal dates, the bureau shall send a renewal notice to	214
that person at the person's last known address as shown in the	215
records of the bureau, informing the person that the person's	216
removable windshield placard will expire on the indicated date,	217
and that the person is required to renew the placard by	218
submitting to the registrar or a deputy registrar another	219
prescription, and by complying with the renewal provisions. If	220
such a prescription is not received by the registrar or a deputy	221
registrar by that date, the placard issued to that person	222
expires and no longer is valid, and this fact shall be recorded	223
in the records of the bureau.	224
$\frac{(10)}{(11)}$ At least once every year, on a date determined by	225
the registrar, the bureau shall examine the records of the	226

office of vital statistics, located within the department of

health, that pertain to deceased persons, and also the bureau's	228
records of all persons who have been issued removable windshield	229
placards. If the records of the office of vital statistics	230
indicate that a person to whom a removable windshield placard	231
has been issued is deceased, the bureau shall cancel that	232
placard, and note the cancellation in its records.	233
The office of vital statistics shall make available to the	234

The office of vital statistics shall make available to the 234 bureau all information necessary to enable the bureau to comply 235 with division  $\frac{(C)(10)(C)(11)}{(C)(11)}$  of this section. 236

(11) (12)Nothing in this section shall be construed to237require a person or organization to apply for a removable238windshield placard or accessible license plates if the239accessible license plates issued to the person or organization240under prior law have not expired or been surrendered or revoked.241

(D) Any active-duty member of the armed forces of the 242 United States, including the reserve components of the armed 243 forces and the national guard, who has an illness or injury that 244 limits or impairs the ability to walk may apply to the registrar 245 or a deputy registrar for a temporary removable windshield 246 placard. With the application, the person shall present evidence 247 of the person's active-duty status and the illness or injury. 248 Evidence of the illness or injury may include a current 249 department of defense convalescent leave statement, any 250 department of defense document indicating that the person 251 currently has an ill or injured casualty status or has limited 252 duties, or a prescription from any health care provider 253 prescribing the placard for the applicant. Upon receipt of the 254 application and the necessary evidence, the registrar or deputy 255 registrar shall issue the applicant the temporary removable 256 windshield placard without the payment of any service fee. 257

(E) If an applicant for a removable windshield placard is	258
a veteran of the armed forces of the United States whose	259
disability, as defined in division (A)(1) of this section, is	260
service-connected, the registrar or deputy registrar, upon	261
receipt of the application, presentation of a signed statement	262
from the applicant's health care provider certifying the	263
applicant's disability, and presentation of such documentary	264
evidence from the department of veterans affairs that the	265
disability of the applicant meets at least one of the criteria	266
identified in division (A)(1) of this section and is service-	267
connected as the registrar may require by rule, but without the	268
payment of any service fee, shall issue the applicant a	269
removable windshield placard that is valid until expired,	270
surrendered, or revoked.	271
(F)(1) Upon a conviction of a violation of division (H) or	272
(I) of this section, the court shall report the conviction, and	273
send the placard, if available, to the registrar, who thereupon	274
shall revoke the privilege of using the placard and send notice	275
in writing to the placardholder at that holder's last known	276
address as shown in the records of the bureau, and the	277
placardholder shall return the placard if not previously	278
surrendered to the court, to the registrar within ten days	279
following mailing of the notice.	280

- (2) Whenever a person to whom a removable windshield

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  placard has been issued moves to another state, the person shall

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  surrender the placard to the registrar; and whenever an

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  organization to which a placard has been issued changes its

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  place of operation to another state, the organization shall

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  surrender the placard to the registrar.
  - (3) If a person no longer requires a permanent removable 287

windshield placard, the person shall notify and surrender the	288
placard to the registrar or deputy registrar within ten days of	289
no longer requiring the placard. The person may still apply for	290
a standard removable windshield placard or temporary removable	291
windshield placard, if applicable.	292
(G) Subject to division (F) of section 4511.69 of the	293
Revised Code, the operator of a motor vehicle displaying a	294
removable windshield placard or the accessible license plates	295
authorized by this section is entitled to park the motor vehicle	296
in any accessible parking location reserved for persons with	297
disabilities that limit or impair the ability to walk.	298
(H) No person or organization that is not eligible for the	299
issuance of license plates or any placard under this section	300
shall willfully and falsely represent that the person or	301
organization is so eligible.	302
No person or organization shall display license plates	303
issued under this section unless the license plates have been	304
issued for the vehicle on which they are displayed and are	305
valid.	306
(I) No person or organization to which a removable	307
windshield placard is issued shall do either of the following:	308
(1) Display or permit the display of the placard on any	309
motor vehicle when having reasonable cause to believe the motor	310
vehicle is being used in connection with an activity that does	311
not include providing transportation for persons with	312
disabilities that limit or impair the ability to walk;	313
(2) Refuse to return or surrender the placard, when	314
required.	315

(J) If a removable windshield placard or parking card is

lost, destroyed, or mutilated, the placardholder or cardholder	317
may obtain a duplicate by doing both of the following:	318
(1) Furnishing suitable proof of the loss, destruction, or	319
mutilation to the registrar;	320
(2) Paying a service fee equal to the amount paid when the	321
placardholder obtained the original placard.	322
Any placardholder who loses a placard and, after obtaining	323
a duplicate, finds the original, immediately shall surrender the	324
original placard to the registrar.	325
(K)(1) The registrar shall pay all fees received under	326
this section for the issuance of removable windshield placards	327
or duplicate removable windshield placards into the state	328
treasury to the credit of the public safety - highway purposes	329
fund created in section 4501.06 of the Revised Code.	330
(2) In addition to the fees collected under this section,	331
the registrar or deputy registrar shall ask each person applying	332
for a removable windshield placard or duplicate removable	333
windshield placard or license plate issued under this section,	334
whether the person wishes to make a two-dollar voluntary	335
contribution to support rehabilitation employment services. The	336
registrar shall transmit the contributions received under this	337
division to the treasurer of state for deposit into the	338
rehabilitation employment fund, which is hereby created in the	339
state treasury. A deputy registrar shall transmit the	340
contributions received under this division to the registrar in	341
the time and manner prescribed by the registrar. The	342
contributions in the fund shall be used by the opportunities for	343
Ohioans with disabilities agency to purchase services related to	344
vocational evaluation, work adjustment, personal adjustment, job	345

placement, job coaching, and community-based assessment from	346
accredited community rehabilitation program facilities.	347
(L) For purposes of enforcing this section, every peace	348
officer is deemed to be an agent of the registrar. Any peace	349
officer or any authorized employee of the bureau of motor	350
vehicles who, in the performance of duties authorized by law,	351
becomes aware of a person whose removable windshield placard or	352
parking card has been revoked pursuant to this section, may	353
confiscate that placard or parking card and return it to the	354
registrar. The registrar shall prescribe any forms used by law	355
enforcement agencies in administering this section.	356
No peace officer, law enforcement agency employing a peace	357
officer, or political subdivision or governmental agency	358
employing a peace officer, and no employee of the bureau is	359
liable in a civil action for damages or loss to persons arising	360
out of the performance of any duty required or authorized by	361
this section. As used in this division, "peace officer" has the	362
same meaning as in division (B) of section 2935.01 of the	363
Revised Code.	364
(M) All applications for registration of motor vehicles	365
and removable windshield placards issued under this section, all	366
renewal notices for such items, and all other publications	367
issued by the bureau that relate to this section shall set forth	368
the criminal penalties that may be imposed upon a person who	369
violates any provision relating to accessible license plates	370
issued under this section, the parking of vehicles displaying	371
such license plates, and the issuance, procurement, use, and	372
display of removable windshield placards issued under this	373

(N) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a

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section.

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misdemeanor of the fourth degree.	376
Section 2. That existing section 4503.44 of the Revised	377
Code is hereby repealed.	378
Section 3. Section 4503.44 of the Revised Code is	379
presented in this act as a composite of the section as amended	380
by both H.B. 33 and H.B. 195 of the 135th General Assembly. The	381
General Assembly, applying the principle stated in division (B)	382
of section 1.52 of the Revised Code that amendments are to be	383
harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous operation,	384
finds that the composite is the resulting version of the section	385
in effect prior to the effective date of the section as	386

presented in this act.