
SENATE BILL 6083

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen and Fairley

Read first time 03/18/97. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to disabled persons' parking placards; and amending
2 RCW 46.16.381.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16.381 and 1995 c 384 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The director shall grant special parking privileges to any
7 person who has a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk
8 and meets one of the following criteria, as determined by a licensed
9 physician:

10 (a) Cannot walk two hundred feet without stopping to rest;

11 (b) Is severely limited in ability to walk due to arthritic,
12 neurological, or orthopedic condition;

13 (c) Is so severely disabled, that the person cannot walk without
14 the use of or assistance from a brace, cane, another person, prosthetic
15 device, wheelchair, or other assistive device;

16 (d) Uses portable oxygen;

17 (e) Is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that forced
18 expiratory respiratory volume, when measured by spirometry is less than

1 one liter per second or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty
2 mm/hg on room air at rest;

3 (f) Impairment by cardiovascular disease or cardiac condition to
4 the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified as
5 class III or IV under standards accepted by the American Heart
6 Association; or

7 (g) Has a disability resulting from an acute sensitivity to
8 automobile emissions which limits or impairs the ability to walk. The
9 personal physician of the applicant shall document that the disability
10 is comparable in severity to the others listed in this subsection.

11 (2) Persons who qualify for special parking privileges are entitled
12 to receive from the department of licensing a removable windshield
13 placard bearing the international symbol of access. The department
14 shall design the placard to be displayed when the vehicle is parked by
15 suspending it from the rearview mirror, or in the absence of a rearview
16 mirror the card may be displayed on the dashboard of any vehicle used
17 to transport the disabled person. The placard shall bear the full name
18 and photograph of, and a distinguishing number assigned to, the
19 disabled person to whom it is assigned. Instead of regular motor
20 vehicle license plates, disabled persons are entitled to receive
21 special license plates bearing the international symbol of access for
22 one vehicle registered in the disabled person's name. Disabled persons
23 who are not issued the special license plates are entitled to receive
24 a second special placard. Persons who have been issued the parking
25 privileges and who are using a vehicle or are riding in a vehicle
26 displaying the special license plates or placard may park in places
27 reserved for mobility disabled persons. The director shall adopt rules
28 providing for the issuance of special placards and license plates to
29 public transportation authorities, nursing homes licensed under chapter
30 18.51 RCW, boarding homes licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW, senior
31 citizen centers, private nonprofit agencies as defined in chapter 24.03
32 RCW, and vehicles registered with the department as cabulances that
33 regularly transport disabled persons who have been determined eligible
34 for special parking privileges provided under this section. The
35 director may issue special license plates for a vehicle registered in
36 the name of the public transportation authority, nursing home, boarding
37 homes, senior citizen center, private nonprofit agency, or cabulance
38 service if the vehicle is primarily used to transport persons with
39 disabilities described in this section. Public transportation

1 authorities, nursing homes, boarding homes, senior citizen centers,
2 private nonprofit agencies, and cabulance services are responsible for
3 insuring that the special placards and license plates are not used
4 improperly and are responsible for all fines and penalties for improper
5 use.

6 (3) Whenever the disabled person transfers or assigns his or her
7 interest in the vehicle, the special license plates shall be removed
8 from the motor vehicle. If another vehicle is acquired by the disabled
9 person and the vehicle owner qualifies for a special plate, the plate
10 shall be attached to the vehicle, and the director shall be immediately
11 notified of the transfer of the plate. If another vehicle is not
12 acquired by the disabled person, the removed plate shall be immediately
13 surrendered to the director.

14 (4) The special license plate shall be renewed in the same manner
15 and at the time required for the renewal of regular motor vehicle
16 license plates under this chapter. No special license plate may be
17 issued to a person who is temporarily disabled. A person who has a
18 condition expected to improve within six months may be issued a
19 temporary placard for a period not to exceed six months. The director
20 may issue a second temporary placard during that period if requested by
21 the person who is temporarily disabled. If the condition exists after
22 six months a new temporary placard shall be issued upon receipt of a
23 new certification from the disabled person's physician. The parking
24 placard of a disabled person shall be renewed, when required by the
25 director, by satisfactory proof of the right to continued use of the
26 privileges.

27 (5) Additional fees shall not be charged for the issuance of the
28 special placards. No additional fee may be charged for the issuance of
29 the special license plates except the regular motor vehicle
30 registration fee and any other fees and taxes required to be paid upon
31 registration of a motor vehicle.

32 (6) Any unauthorized use of the special placard or the special
33 license plate is a misdemeanor.

34 (7) It is a parking infraction, with a monetary penalty of one
35 hundred seventy-five dollars for any person to park a vehicle in a
36 parking place provided on private property without charge or on public
37 property reserved for physically disabled persons without a special
38 license plate or placard. If a person is charged with a violation, the
39 person shall not be determined to have committed an infraction if the

1 person produces in court or before the court appearance the special
2 license plate or placard required under this section. A local
3 jurisdiction providing on-street parking places reserved for physically
4 disabled persons may impose by ordinance time restrictions on the use
5 of these parking places.

6 (8) The penalty imposed under subsection (7) of this section shall
7 be used by that local jurisdiction exclusively for law enforcement.
8 The court may also impose an additional penalty sufficient to reimburse
9 the local jurisdiction for any costs it may have incurred in removal
10 and storage of the improperly parked vehicle.

11 (9) It is a misdemeanor for any person to willfully obtain a
12 special license plate or placard in a manner other than that
13 established under this section.

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