
SENATE BILL 5795

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Kilmer, Haugen, Carrell, Murray, Keiser, Delvin and Jacobsen

Read first time 02/01/2007. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing physician assistants to determine
2 disability for special parking privileges; and amending RCW 46.16.381.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.16.381 and 2006 c 357 s 2 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 ~~((or))~~, an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed
10 under chapter 18.79 RCW, or a physician assistant licensed under
11 chapter 18.71A or 18.57A RCW:

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

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

15 (c) Has such a severe disability, that the person cannot walk
16 without the use of or assistance from a brace, cane, another person,
17 prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistive device;

18 (d) Uses portable oxygen;

1 (e) Is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that forced
2 expiratory respiratory volume, when measured by spirometry is less than
3 one liter per second or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty
4 mm/hg on room air at rest;

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

9 (g) Has a disability resulting from an acute sensitivity to
10 automobile emissions which limits or impairs the ability to walk. The
11 personal physician (~~(or)~~), advanced registered nurse practitioner, or
12 physician assistant of the applicant shall document that the disability
13 is comparable in severity to the others listed in this subsection; or

14 (h) Is legally blind and has limited mobility.

15 (2) The applications for parking permits for persons with
16 disabilities and parking permits for persons with temporary
17 disabilities are official state documents. Knowingly providing false
18 information in conjunction with the application is a gross misdemeanor
19 punishable under chapter 9A.20 RCW. The following statement must
20 appear on each application form immediately below the physician's
21 (~~(or)~~), advanced registered nurse practitioner's, or physician
22 assistant's signature and immediately below the applicant's signature:
23 "A parking permit for a person with disabilities may be issued only for
24 a medical necessity that severely affects mobility (RCW 46.16.381).
25 Knowingly providing false information on this application is a gross
26 misdemeanor. The penalty is up to one year in jail and a fine of up to
27 \$5,000 or both."

28 (3) Persons who qualify for special parking privileges are entitled
29 to receive from the department of licensing a removable windshield
30 placard bearing the international symbol of access and an individual
31 serial number, along with a special identification card bearing the
32 name and date of birth of the person to whom the placard is issued, and
33 the placard's serial number. The special identification card shall be
34 issued to all persons who are issued parking placards, including those
35 issued for temporary disabilities, and special parking license plates
36 for persons with disabilities. The department shall design the placard
37 to be displayed when the vehicle is parked by suspending it from the
38 rearview mirror, or in the absence of a rearview mirror the card may be

1 displayed on the dashboard of any vehicle used to transport the person
2 with disabilities. Instead of regular motor vehicle license plates,
3 persons with disabilities are entitled to receive special license
4 plates under this section or RCW 46.16.385 bearing the international
5 symbol of access for one vehicle registered in the name of the person
6 with disabilities. Persons with disabilities who are not issued the
7 special license plates are entitled to receive a second special placard
8 upon submitting a written request to the department. Persons who have
9 been issued the parking privileges and who are using a vehicle or are
10 riding in a vehicle displaying the placard or special license plates
11 issued under this section or RCW 46.16.385 may park in places reserved
12 for persons with physical disabilities. The director shall adopt rules
13 providing for the issuance of special placards and license plates to
14 public transportation authorities, nursing homes licensed under chapter
15 18.51 RCW, boarding homes licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW, senior
16 citizen centers, private nonprofit agencies as defined in chapter 24.03
17 RCW, and vehicles registered with the department as cabulances that
18 regularly transport persons with disabilities who have been determined
19 eligible for special parking privileges provided under this section.
20 The director may issue special license plates for a vehicle registered
21 in the name of the public transportation authority, nursing home,
22 boarding home, senior citizen center, private nonprofit agency, or
23 cabulance service if the vehicle is primarily used to transport persons
24 with disabilities described in this section. Public transportation
25 authorities, nursing homes, boarding homes, senior citizen centers,
26 private nonprofit agencies, and cabulance services are responsible for
27 insuring that the special placards and license plates are not used
28 improperly and are responsible for all fines and penalties for improper
29 use.

30 (4) Whenever the person with disabilities transfers or assigns his
31 or her interest in the vehicle, the special license plates shall be
32 removed from the motor vehicle. If another vehicle is acquired by the
33 person with disabilities and the vehicle owner qualifies for a special
34 plate, the plate shall be attached to the vehicle, and the director
35 shall be immediately notified of the transfer of the plate. If another
36 vehicle is not acquired by the person with disabilities, the removed
37 plate shall be immediately surrendered to the director.

1 (5) The special license plate shall be renewed in the same manner
2 and at the time required for the renewal of regular motor vehicle
3 license plates under this chapter. No special license plate may be
4 issued to a person who is temporarily disabled. A person who has a
5 condition expected to improve within six months may be issued a
6 temporary placard for a period not to exceed six months. If the
7 condition exists after six months a new temporary placard shall be
8 issued upon receipt of a new certification from the person's physician.
9 The permanent parking placard and identification card of a person with
10 disabilities shall be renewed at least every five years, as required by
11 the director, by satisfactory proof of the right to continued use of
12 the privileges. In the event of the permit holder's death, the parking
13 placard and identification card must be immediately surrendered to the
14 department. The department shall match and purge its data base of
15 parking permits issued to persons with disabilities with available
16 death record information at least every twelve months.

17 (6) Additional fees shall not be charged for the issuance of the
18 special placards or the identification cards. No additional fee may be
19 charged for the issuance of the special license plates except the
20 regular motor vehicle registration fee and any other fees and taxes
21 required to be paid upon registration of a motor vehicle.

22 (7) Any unauthorized use of the special placard, special license
23 plate issued under this section or RCW 46.16.385, or identification
24 card is a traffic infraction with a monetary penalty of two hundred
25 fifty dollars.

26 (8) It is a parking infraction, with a monetary penalty of two
27 hundred fifty dollars for a person to make inaccessible the access
28 aisle located next to a space reserved for persons with physical
29 disabilities. The clerk of the court shall report all violations
30 related to this subsection to the department.

31 (9) It is a parking infraction, with a monetary penalty of two
32 hundred fifty dollars for any person to park a vehicle in a parking
33 place provided on private property without charge or on public property
34 reserved for persons with physical disabilities without a placard or
35 special license plate issued under this section or RCW 46.16.385. If
36 a person is charged with a violation, the person shall not be
37 determined to have committed an infraction if the person produces in
38 court or before the court appearance the placard or special license

1 plate issued under this section or RCW 46.16.385 required under this
2 section. A local jurisdiction providing nonmetered, on-street parking
3 places reserved for persons with physical disabilities may impose by
4 ordinance time restrictions of no less than four hours on the use of
5 these parking places. A local jurisdiction may impose by ordinance
6 time restrictions of no less than four hours on the use of nonreserved,
7 on-street parking spaces by vehicles displaying the special parking
8 placards or special license plates issued under this section or RCW
9 46.16.385. All time restrictions must be clearly posted.

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

15 (11) Except as provided by subsection (2) of this section, it is a
16 traffic infraction with a monetary penalty of two hundred fifty dollars
17 for any person willfully to obtain a special license plate issued under
18 this section or RCW 46.16.385, placard, or identification card in a
19 manner other than that established under this section.

20 (12)(a) A law enforcement agency authorized to enforce parking laws
21 may appoint volunteers, with a limited commission, to issue notices of
22 infractions for violations of this section or RCW 46.61.581.
23 Volunteers must be at least twenty-one years of age. The law
24 enforcement agency appointing volunteers may establish any other
25 qualifications the agency deems desirable.

26 (b) An agency appointing volunteers under this section must provide
27 training to the volunteers before authorizing them to issue notices of
28 infractions.

29 (c) A notice of infraction issued by a volunteer appointed under
30 this subsection has the same force and effect as a notice of infraction
31 issued by a police officer for the same offense.

32 (d) A police officer or a volunteer may request a person to show
33 the person's identification card or special parking placard when
34 investigating the possibility of a violation of this section. If the
35 request is refused, the person in charge of the vehicle may be issued
36 a notice of infraction for a violation of this section.

37 (13) For second or subsequent violations of this section, in

1 addition to a monetary fine, the violator must complete a minimum of
2 forty hours of:

3 (a) Community restitution for a nonprofit organization that serves
4 persons having disabilities or disabling diseases; or

5 (b) Any other community restitution that may sensitize the violator
6 to the needs and obstacles faced by persons who have disabilities.

7 (14) The court may not suspend more than one-half of any fine
8 imposed under subsection (7), (8), (9), or (11) of this section.

9 (15) For the purposes of this section, "legally blind" means a
10 person who: (a) Has no vision or whose vision with corrective lenses
11 is so limited that the individual requires alternative methods or
12 skills to do efficiently those things that are ordinarily done with
13 sight by individuals with normal vision; or (b) has an eye condition of
14 a progressive nature which may lead to blindness.

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