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SENATE BILL 58

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 1998

INTRODUCED BY

MARY JANE M. GARCIA

AN ACT

RELATING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES; CHANGING CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATED TO DESIGNATED DISABLED PARKING; AMENDING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

A new section of the Motor Vehicle Code is Section 1. enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY PLACARDS--DEPOSITS -- MISDEMEANOR PENALTIES. --

Upon application to the division, accompanied by a payment of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), an administrator of a long-term care facility licensed by the department of health may be granted one parking placard for a long-term care facility in this state under his direct supervision for use in the transport of persons with severe

mobility impairments as defined in Subsection H of Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 in situations where it is impractical for the person being transported to obtain and use his own parking placard.

B. A person who uses a long-term care facility's parking placard when not engaged in the transport of a person with a severe mobility impairment or an administrator who knowingly allows such use of the parking placard in violation of Subsection A of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 66-8-7 NMSA 1978."

Section 2. Section 3-51-46 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 22, Section 3) is amended to read:

"3-51-46. PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE OF DISABLED PERSON-PARKING PRIVILEGE. -- Passenger motor vehicles owned by
[disabled] persons with severe mobility impairment and
carrying special registration plates or passenger motor
vehicles carrying persons with severe mobility impairment or
severe visual impairment and displaying parking placards
issued pursuant to Section [64-3-12.3 NMSA 1953] 66-3-16 NMSA
1978 shall be permitted to park for unlimited periods of time
in parking zones restricted as to length of time parking is
normally permitted and are exempt from payment of any parking
meter or parking authorization fee of the state or its
political subdivisions. The provisions of this section shall

Code:

prevail over any other law, regulation or local ordinance but
do not apply to zones where stopping, standing or parking is
prohibited, zones reserved for special types of vehicles,
zones where parking is prohibited during certain hours of the
day in order to facilitate traffic during those hours when
parking is prohibited and zones subject to similar regulation
because parking presents a traffic hazard."
Section 3. Section 66-1-4.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990,
Chapter 120, Section 2) is amended to read:
"66-1-4.1. DEFINITIONSAs used in the Motor Vehicle

A. "abandoned vehicle" means a vehicle or motor vehicle that has been determined by a New Mexico law enforcement agency:

- (1) to have been left unattended on either public or private property for at least thirty days;
 - (2) not to have been reported stolen;
- (3) not to have been claimed by any person asserting ownership; and
- (4) not to have been shown by normal record checking procedures to be owned by any person;
- B. "access aisle" means an accessible pedestrian
 space of at least sixty inches in width that allows side
 access the length of its adjacent designated disabled parking
 space and is marked with blue striping; provided that van-

accessible access aisles shall be at least ninety-six inches in width;

[B.-] C. "additional place of business", for dealers and wreckers of vehicles, means locations in addition to an established place of business as defined in Section 66-1-4.5 NMSA 1978 and meeting all the requirements of an established place of business, except Paragraph (5) of Subsection B of Section 66-1-4.5 NMSA 1978, but "additional place of business" does not mean a location used solely for storage and that is not used for wrecking, dismantling, sale or resale of vehicles;

[C.] D. "alcoholic beverages" means any and all distilled or rectified spirits, potable alcohol, brandy, whiskey, rum, gin, aromatic bitters or any similar alcoholic beverage, including all blended or fermented beverages, dilutions or mixtures of one or more of the foregoing containing more than one-half of one percent alcohol but excluding medicinal bitters; and

[D.] E. "authorized emergency vehicle" means any fire department vehicle, police vehicle, ambulance and any emergency vehicles of municipal departments or public utilities that are designated or authorized as emergency vehicles by the director of the New Mexico state police division of the department of public safety or local authorities."

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Secti on	4. S	ecti on	6	6-1-4.4	NMSA	1978	(being	Laws	1990
Chapter 120,	Section	on 5, a	as	amended) is	amend	ed to 1	read:	

- "66-1-4.4. DEFINITIONS. -- As used in the Motor Vehicle Code:
- "day" means calendar day, unless otherwise provided in the Motor Vehicle Code;
- "dealer", except as herein specifically excluded, means any person who sells or solicits or advertises the sale of new or used motor vehicles, manufactured homes or trailers subject to registration in this state; "dealer" does not include:
- (1) receivers, trustees, administrators, executors, guardians or other persons appointed by or acting under judgment, decree or order of any court;
- public officers while performing their duties as such officers:
- persons making casual sales of their own (3) vehi cles;
- **(4)** finance companies, banks and other lending institutions making sales of repossessed vehicles; or
- licensed brokers under the Manufactured **(5)** Housing Act who, for a fee, commission or other valuable consideration, engage in brokerage activities related to the sale, exchange or lease purchase of pre-owned manufactured homes on a site installed for a consumer;

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- C. "declared gross weight" means the maximum gross vehicle weight or combination gross vehicle weight at which a vehicle or combination will be operated during the registration period, as declared by the registrant for registration and fee purposes; the vehicle or combination shall have only one declared gross weight for all operating consi derati ons:
- "department" means the taxation and revenue D. department, the secretary of taxation and revenue or any employee of the department exercising authority lawfully delegated to that employee by the secretary;
- Ε. "designated disabled parking space" means any space marked and reserved for the parking of a passenger vehicle that carries registration plates or a placard indicating disability in accordance with Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978; such a place shall be designated by a conspicuously posted sign bearing the international disabled symbol of a wheelchair [or] and by a clearly visible depiction of this symbol painted on the pavement of the space and an access aisle adjacent to the space; provided that two designated disabled parking spaces may share a common access aisle;
 - F. "director" means the secretary;
- G. "disqualification" means a prohibition against driving a commercial motor vehicle;
- "distinguishing number" means the number H. . 121043. 1

assigned by the department to a vehicle whose identifying number has been destroyed or obliterated or the number assigned by the department to a vehicle that has never had an identifying number;

- I. "distributor" means any person who distributes or sells new or used motor vehicles to dealers and who is not a manufacturer;
- J. "division", without further specification,

 "division of motor vehicles" or "motor vehicle division" means
 the department;
- K. "driver" means every person who drives or is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle, including a motorcycle, upon a highway, who is exercising control over or steering a vehicle being towed by a motor vehicle or who operates or is in actual physical control of an off-highway motor vehicle:
- L. "driver's license" means a license or a class of license issued by a state or other jurisdiction to an individual that authorizes the individual to drive a motor vehicle; and
- M "driveaway-towaway operation" means [any] an operation in which [any] a motor vehicle, new or used, is the item being transported when one set or more of wheels of any such motor vehicle is on the roadway during the course of transportation, whether or not the motor vehicle furnishes the .121043.1

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motive power."

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Section 5. Section 66-1-4.14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990, Chapter 120, Section 15, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-1-4.14. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Motor Vehicle Code:

- A. "park" or "parking" means the standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, other than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading and unloading;
- B. "parking lot" means a parking area [containing fifteen or more parking spaces] provided for the [free] use of patrons of any office of state or local government or of any public accommodation, retail or commercial establishment;
- C. "parts car" means a motor vehicle generally in [nonoperable] inoperable condition that is owned by a collector to furnish parts that are usually [nonobtainable] unobtainable from normal sources, thus enabling a collector to preserve, restore and maintain a motor vehicle of historic or special interest;
 - D. "pedestrian" means any natural person on foot;
- E. "person" means every natural person, firm, copartnership, association, corporation or other legal entity;
- F. "personal information" means information that identifies an individual, including an individual's photograph, social security number, driver identification . 121043.1

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number, name, address other than zip code, telephone number and medical or disability information, but "personal information" does not include information on vehicles, vehicle ownership, vehicular accidents, driving violations or driver status:

- G. "pneumatic tire" means every tire in which compressed air is designed to support the load;
- H. "pole trailer" means any vehicle without motive power, designed to be drawn by another vehicle and attached to the towing vehicle by means of a reach or pole or by being boomed or otherwise secured to the towing vehicle and ordinarily used for transporting long or irregularly shaped loads such as poles, structures, pipes and structural members capable, generally, of sustaining themselves as beams between the supporting connections;
- I. "police or peace officer" means every officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of the Motor Vehicle Code;
- J. "private road or driveway" means every way or place in private ownership used for vehicular travel by the owner and those having express or implied permission from the owner, but not other persons; and
- K. "property owner" means the owner of a piece of land or the agent of that property owner."
- Section 6. Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, .121043.1

Chapter	35 ,	Secti	on 36	, as	amen	ded)	is	amend	led t	o rea	d:
"6	6-3-	16.	SEVERE	E MOB	BILITY	IMP	AI RI	<u>ÆNT</u> -	- SPE	CIAL	
REGI STRA	ATI O	N PLAT	ΓES [DI SA	BLED	PERS	ONS-	- DI SI	PLAY	DEVI C	E]
DARKING	DI A	SAGAS									

A. The division shall issue distinctive registration plates to any [disabled] person with severe mobility impairment who so requests and who proves satisfactorily to the division that he has suffered the loss of, or the complete and total loss of use of one or both legs at or above the ankle or of one or both arms at or above the wrist for use on motor vehicles owned by the person. No fee in addition to the regular registration fee, if any, applicable to the motor vehicle shall be collected for issuance of special registration plates pursuant to this section.

- B. No person shall falsely represent himself to [be disabled] have a severe mobility impairment or severe visual impairment so as to be eligible to be issued special registration plates or [display devices] a parking placard pursuant to this section when he is in fact not [disabled] severely mobility impaired or severely visually impaired.
- <u>C.</u> Upon notice and opportunity to be heard, scheduled within forty-five days of a complaint filed by the governor's committee on concerns of the handicapped or another concerned person, the division may revoke and demand return of . 121043. 1

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any placard when $\underline{it\ is\ found\ that}$:

- (1) it was issued in error or with false information:
- $\begin{tabular}{ll} (2) & the person receiving the placard is no \\ longer eligible; or \\ \end{tabular}$
- (3) the placard is being used by ineligible persons.

[C.] D. Upon written application to the division accompanied by a medical statement by a licensed physician attesting to the [disability] severe mobility impairment or severe visual impairment, a resident of the state who has a [disability] severe mobility impairment that limits or impairs the ability to walk [as provided in Subsection G of this section] or a severe visual impairment may apply for and be granted the issuance of [a placard] not more than two parking placards for display upon a motor vehicle registered to him or motor vehicle owned by another person who is transporting him. The director may charge a reasonable fee to cover the cost of the placard and of its issuance. The fee shall be retained by the division and shall be appropriated to the division for expenditures incurred in the implementation of the placard The application shall provide for a replacement program. certification of permanence of the severe mobility impairment or severe visual impairment that, if indicated by the signing physician, shall preclude the necessity of subsequent medical

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certifications on renewals. The application for a parking placard shall be deemed to be a waiver of the doctor-patient privilege of confidentiality to the minimum extent necessary to verify the information contained in the application, and the application shall advise the applicant of this waiver.

- [D.] E. A parking placard issued pursuant to this section shall expire [in no more than two years] on the same date that the holder's driver's license or identification card expires.
- [E.] F. The division shall issue two-sided hanger-style parking placards with the following characteristics:
- (1) the international symbol of access shall be displayed on both sides of the parking placard and shall be at least three inches in height, centered on the parking placard and white on a blue [shield] field;
- [an identification number enabling the **(2)** division to identify an indelible imprinting of the driver's license or iden<u>tification card number of</u> the holder of each The division shall maintain this parking placard. information, including permanence of the severe mobility impairment or severe visual impairment, in a readily retrievable format in the same data base as used for recording driver's license information and make it available on demand to any law enforcement agency or the governor's committee on

concerns of the handi capped;

- (3) the date of expiration; and
- (4) the division seal or other identification of the issuing authority.

[F.] G. Upon written application to the division accompanied by a medical statement from a licensed physician attesting to a temporary [disability] severe visual impairment or severe mobility impairment, a person, whether resident or nonresident, who has a temporary [disability] severe visual impairment or severe mobility impairment that limits or impairs the ability to walk may be issued a temporary parking placard, which shall be distinguishable in color and in appearance from parking placards valid for [two] four years. The medical statement shall include the period of time that the physician determines the applicant will have the [disability] severe visual impairment or severe mobility impairment. A temporary parking placard issued pursuant to this section shall be valid no more than six months.

[G.] H. For the purpose of obtaining a <u>parking</u> placard, a person with a ["disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk"] "severe mobility impairment" means the person:

- (1) cannot walk one hundred feet without
 stopping to rest;
- (2) cannot walk without the use of a brace, a .121043.1

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cane, a crutch, another person, a prosthetic device, a wheelchair or another assistive device:

- (3) is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that the person's forced respiratory volume, when exhaling for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty millimeters on room air at rest;
 - (4) uses portable oxygen;
 - (5) has a severe cardiac condition; or
- (6) is so severely limited in his ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurologic or orthopedic condition that the person cannot ascend or descend more than ten stair steps.
- I. For the purpose of obtaining a parking placard,

 "severe visual impairment" means a person who has not more

 than ten percent visual acuity in his better eye with

 correction. This means a person who has:
- (1) not more than twenty/two hundred central visual acuity in his better eye after correction; or
- (2) a limitation in visual field so that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than twenty degrees. The person's blindness shall be certified by a duly licensed ophthalmologist, subject to approval of the New Mexico board of medical examiners;
- [H.] <u>J.</u> Special registration plates or <u>parking</u>
 . 121043.1

placards issued to [the disabled] a person with severe
mobility impairment or severe visual impairment by another
state or foreign jurisdiction shall be granted reciprocity
while the vehicle [and disabled operator are] or parking
placard holder is in this state. [for a period not to exceed
thirty days

Help K. All parking placards shall be issued in accordance with this section beginning on July 1, [1995] 1998. All placards issued prior to July 1, [1995] shall expire on July 1] 1996 are void. Two-year placards issued between July 1, 1996 and July 1, 1998 shall be renewed for a period to expire on the same date as the holder's driver's license expires."

Section 7. Section 66-3-16.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 129, Section 2) is amended to read:

"66-3-16.1. PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION-- <u>FALSE USE OF</u>

<u>PLACARD</u>--PENALTY--<u>PLACARD CONFISCATED</u>.--

A. Any person who provides false information in order to acquire, or who assists an unqualified person in acquiring, a special registration plate or [special] parking placard as provided in Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section [31-19-1] 66-8-7 NMSA 1978.

B. A person who uses a parking placard to park in a designated disabled parking space and is neither the holder . 121043.1

of the parking placard nor assisting in the transportation of the holder is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 66-8-7 NMSA 1978. When a law enforcement officer finds that a person is using a parking placard that does not belong to him or his passenger, the officer may confiscate the placard. The law enforcement agency shall return the parking placard to the division. The division shall hold the parking placard until it receives a written request for its return from the parking placard holder. The division shall retain a record of the identification numbers of confiscated parking placards.

Failure to surrender the parking placard on demand of a law enforcement officer is a petty misdemeanor and punishable by a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100)."

Section 8. Section 66-5-408 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Chapter 35, Section 335, as amended) is amended to read:

A. Upon application for an identification card, there shall be paid to the division a fee of five dollars (\$5.00), but no fee shall be charged to an applicant for an identification card if the applicant is at least seventy-five years of age or eligible for a registration plate or parking placard pursuant to Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978.

B. The department with the approval of the governor may increase the amount of the identification card . 121043.1

fee by an amount not to exceed three dollars (\$3.00) for the purpose of implementing an enhanced licensing system. The additional amounts collected pursuant to this subsection are appropriated to the division to defray the expense of the new system of licensing."

Section 9. Section 66-7-352.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1983, Chapter 45, Section 4) is amended to read:

"66-7-352. 4. PARKING LOTS--STANDARDS. --

A. Every parking lot coming under the provisions of the Disabled Parking Standards and Enforcement Act shall have designated disabled parking spaces, <u>including access</u>

<u>aisles</u>, as provided in Subsection B of this section [provided that an office of state or local government shall have a minimum of one such parking space]. No building permit shall be issued by the state or any local government for the construction or substantial renovation of a commercial building inviting public access unless the parking lot has designated disabled parking spaces as delineated in Subsection B of this section.

B. The minimum numbers of designated disabled parking spaces are as follows:

TOTAL SPACES IN PARKING LOT MINIMUM DESIGNATED DISABLED

PARKING SPACES

[0 to 14]

15] 1 to 25

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1	26 to 35	2
2	36 to 50	3
3	51 to 100	4
4	101 to 300	8
5	301 to 500	12
6	501 to 800	16
7	801 to 1,000	20
8	more than 1,000	20, plus [3] <u>1</u>
9		for each
10		addi ti onal
11		[1, 000] <u>100</u> .
12	The designated disabled parking spaces shall	be located so as

The designated disabled parking spaces shall be located so as to provide the most convenient access to entrance ways or to the nearest curb cut. One of every eight designated disabled parking spaces, but not less than one, shall be designated as van accessible.

C. In parking lots with five or fewer parking spaces, one accessible parking space shall be provided but need not be designated by sign and pavement painting. Use of the undesignated accessible parking space by a vehicle without a special registration plate or parking placard shall not be a violation of Section 66-7-352.5 NMSA 1978.

Section 10. Section 66-7-352.5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1983, Chapter 45, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read: "66-7-352.5. UNAUTHORIZED USE--PENALTY.--[A-] It is

unlawful for any person to park a motor vehicle not carrying special registration plates or a parking placard indicating [disability] severe mobility impairment or severe visual impairment in accordance with Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 in a designated disabled parking space [or blocking a curb cut]. It is unlawful for any person to park a vehicle with or without a special registration plate or parking placard in a position that blocks a curb cut or access aisle. Any person who violates this subsection is subject to a [fifty-dollar (\$50.00)] minimum three hundred dollar (\$300) fine and the vehicle may be towed at the owner's expense.

[B. A person charged with a violation of Subsection

A of this section shall not be determined to have committed an infraction if he produces in court special disabled registration plates or a placard indicating disability in accordance with Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 or demonstrates he was entitled to such at the time of the violation.]"

Section 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. -- The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 1998.

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1	FORTY- THIRD LEGISLATURE
2	SECOND SESSION, 1998
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5	January 30, 1998
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7	Mr. President:
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9	Your COMMITTEES' COMMITTEE , to whom has been referred
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11	SENATE BILL 58
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13	has had it under consideration and finds same to be NOT GERMANE
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15	Respectfully submitted,
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21	Manny M Aragon, Chairnan
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25	Adopted Not Adopted
	(Chi ef Clerk) (Chi ef Clerk)

Date _____

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE **SECOND SESSION, 1998** January 30, 1998 Mr. President: Your COMMITTEES' COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred **SENATE BILL 58** has had it under consideration and finds same to be NOT GERMANE. Respectfully submitted, Manny M Aragon, Chairnan ______ Not Adopted_____ Adopted___ (Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk)

Date _____

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