## SENATE BILL 531

## 44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

### INTRODUCED BY

Joseph J. Carraro

### AN ACT

RELATING TO DISABILITIES; AMENDING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF
THE NMSA 1978 TO EXPAND PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH SEVERE
MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT OF CERTAIN
PARKING PRIVILEGES; CREATING PENALTIES.

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

Section 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE. -- Sections 1 through 3 of this act may be cited as the "Parking Placard Abuse Act".

Section 2. [NEW MATERIAL] PROGRAM CREATED. -- The "placard abuse prevention program" is created in the governor's committee on concerns of the handicapped to ensure compliance with statutes affecting parking privileges for persons with severe mobility impairment and safe and effective use of designated disabled parking space. The committee shall design . 124896. 3

and	i mpl	ement	a	program	to:
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- A. monitor the system of eligibility for and use of parking placards and special registration plates;
- B. provide public awareness education and training to address barriers to the appropriate use of designated disabled parking space;
- C. pursue efforts to reduce abuse and misuse of designated disabled parking space privileges, including revocation of parking placards and special registration plates; and
- D. provide education, training and technical assistance to local law enforcement agencies and volunteers on enforcement of statutes affecting use of designated disabled parking space.
- Section 3. [NEW MATERIAL] LOCAL ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS--VOLUNTEERS--TRAINING.--
- A. Municipalities and counties may establish programs that include the use of trained volunteers for enforcement of state statutes and local ordinances on designated disabled parking space.
- B. Prior to issuing citations, volunteers shall receive a minimum of sixteen hours of training in the specifics of enforcement of parking statutes and ordinances, including behavioral training for dealing with the public in stressful circumstances, and shall be issued a certificate if .124896.3

deemed to have successfully completed the training.

- C. If a volunteer provides less than fifty hours service per year he shall be required to be recertified on a biennial basis by completing a four-hour refresher course, to ensure familiarity with citation procedures and any changes in statutes or ordinances.
- D. Volunteers shall wear a distinctive laminated shield, designed by the governor's committee on concerns of the handicapped, to include personal photo and local government identification indicating authority to issue parking placard violation citations. Volunteers shall not wear a uniform.
- E. Volunteers are not peace officers or law enforcement officers as defined in Chapter 29 NMSA 1978 and are not authorized to make arrests or to detain individuals and are prohibited from carrying or using weapons of any sort in carrying out their designated responsibilities.
- F. Volunteers are authorized to issue citations only for the enforcement of the provisions of Sections 3-51-46, 66-3-16, 66-3-16.1, 66-7-352.4 and 66-7-352.5 NMSA 1978. If a volunteer cannot place the citation securely on the windshield of a vehicle, he shall assist the local law enforcement agency to ensure the citation is mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle.
- Section 4. Section 3-51-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, .124896.3

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hereby declared that:

Chapter 300, Section 14-52-2, as amended) is amended to read: "3-51-2. FINDING AND DECLARATION OF NECESSITY.--It is

A. there [exists] exist in cities in the state of New Mexico serious conditions of congestion of street traffic preventing free circulation of traffic, obstructing access to and use of both public and private property, increasing traffic hazards, impeding rapid and effective fighting of fires and the disposition of police forces and endangering the public peace, health and safety;

- B. [this condition is] these conditions are caused in substantial part by insufficiency of space or accommodations for the parking of motor vehicles off the public streets;
- C. the installation of parking meters and the establishment of additional parking facilities, together with all undertakings incidental or advantageous thereto, for the improvement of traffic control and regulation are public uses and purposes for which [putlic] public money may be spent and private property acquired;
- D. projects for such purposes will, in addition, confer special benefits on property within their environs;
  [and]
- E. it is in the public interest that work on projects for such purposes be commenced as soon as possible in .124896.3

order to relieve traffic congestion; and

F. the public interest is best served by the exclusive use of designated disabled parking spaces by persons eligible for and displaying special registration plates or parking placards issued pursuant to Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978; that municipal law enforcement personnel do not have sufficient time to devote to enforcement of statutes and ordinances relating to designated disabled parking spaces for persons with severe mobility impairment; and that volunteers trained specifically for that purpose can best ensure appropriate use of such parking spaces, both on public and private property, through issuance of parking citations.

The necessity in the public interest for the provisions [hereinafter] enacted by the Greater Municipality Parking Law is hereby declared as a matter of legislative determination."

Section 5. Section 3-51-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 300, Section 14-52-5) is amended to read:

"3-51-5. POWERS OF CITY.--Every city shall have all the powers necessary, convenient, desirable or appropriate to carry out the purposes and provisions of the Greater Municipality Parking Law, including the following powers in addition to other powers conferred by the Greater Municipality Parking Law to:

A. [to] purchase and install, maintain, regulate, operate and manage parking meters and parking spaces upon the .124896.3

streets of the city;

B. [to] purchase, acquire, lease, rent, construct, reconstruct, improve, alter, repair, maintain, operate and manage parking facilities for the parking of motor vehicles off the public streets, together with public rights of way necessary or convenient [therefor] for the parking facilities, including the leasing of the operation [thereof] of the parking facilities and including the leasing of a portion of the space at any such parking facility to private operators for commercial purposes when in the judgment of the governing body it is convenient or necessary to permit such leasing in order to utilize the balance of the property as a parking facility;

- C. [to] purchase, acquire by gift, grant, bequest or devise or otherwise any real or personal property or any interest therein, together with the improvement thereon, to be used as parking facilities or incident [thereto] to parking facilities;
- D. [to] insure or provide for the insurance of any parking facility established by the city against such risks and hazards as the city may deem advisable;
- E. [to] acquire by the exercise of the power of eminent domain any real property or personal property or any interest therein which it deems necessary for its purposes under the Greater Municipality Parking Law after the adoption

by it of an ordinance declaring that its acquisition is necessary for such purposes. This power shall be exercised in the manner provided by any applicable statutory provisions and laws of the state of New Mexico and acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto. Title to property so acquired shall be taken in the name of the city;

- F. [to] sell, lease, exchange, transfer, assign or otherwise dispose of any real or personal property or any interest therein acquired for the purpose of the Greater Municipality Parking Law; [and]
- G. [to] receive, control, invest <u>and</u> order the expenditure of any and all [moneys] <u>money</u> and funds pertaining to parking facilities and parking meters or related properties if the same are not otherwise committed; and
- H. authorize and implement a program for use of trained volunteers to enforce statutes and municipal ordinances relating to parking accommodations for persons with severe mobility impairment, pursuant to the Parking Placard Abuse Act."

Section 6. 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 <u>and</u>
<u>carrying</u> disabled persons and [<u>carrying</u>] <u>displaying</u> special
registration plates, <u>or passenger motor vehicles carrying</u>

persons with severe mobility 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] fee of the state or its political subdivisions. The provisions of this section shall prevail over any other law, [regulation] rule 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 7. A new Section 4-41-5.1 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"4-41-5.1. [NEW MATERIAL] SPECIAL PARKING ENFORCEMENT--VOLUNTEER USE AUTHORIZED. --Subject to authorization by a board of county commissioners, a sheriff may implement a program for use of trained volunteers to enforce statutes and county ordinances relating to parking accommodations for persons with severe mobility impairment pursuant to the Parking Placard Abuse Act."

Section 8. Section 66-1-4.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990, Chapter 120, Section 2) is amended to read:

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"66-1-4.1. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Motor Vehicle Code:

- 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;
- $\hspace{1cm} \hbox{(3)} \hspace{0.2cm} \hbox{not to have been claimed by any person} \\ \hbox{asserting ownership; and } \\$
- (4) not to have been shown by normal record checking procedures to be owned by any person;
- B. "access aisle" means a space designed to allow a person with severe mobility impairment to safely exit and enter a motor vehicle and that is immediately adjacent to a designated disabled parking space and that may be common to two such parking spaces of at least sixty inches in width or, if the parking space is designed for van accessibility, ninety-six inches in width, and clearly marked with blue striping;
- [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 .124896.3

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does	not	mean	ı a l	ocati	on us	ed sole	ly for	sto	orage a	and	that is	
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[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."

Section 9. Section 66-1-4.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990, Chapter 120, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-1-4.4. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Motor Vehicle Code:

- A. "day" means calendar day, unless otherwise provided in the Motor Vehicle Code;
- B. "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 .124896.3

trailers	subj ect	to	registration	in	thi s	state;	"deal er"	does
not inclu	ıde:							
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- (1) receivers, trustees, administrators, executors, guardians or other persons appointed by or acting under judgment, decree or order of any court;
- (2) public officers while performing their duties as such officers;
- (3) persons making casual sales of their own vehicles:
- (4) finance companies, banks and other lending institutions making sales of repossessed vehicles; or
- (5) licensed brokers under the Manufactured 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;
- 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 considerations;
- D. "department" means the taxation and revenue department, the secretary of taxation and revenue or any employee of the department exercising authority lawfully

delegated to that employee by the secretary;

- E. "designated disabled parking space" means any space, <u>including an access aisle</u>, marked and reserved for the parking of a passenger vehicle that carries registration plates or a <u>parking</u> placard indicating disability in accordance with Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978, [<u>such a place shall be</u>] <u>and</u> designated by a conspicuously posted sign bearing the international disabled symbol of a wheelchair [<del>or</del>] <u>and if</u> <u>paved</u>, by a clearly visible depiction of this symbol painted <u>in blue</u> on the pavement of the space;
  - F. "director" means the secretary;
- G. "disqualification" means a prohibition against driving a commercial motor vehicle;
- H. "distinguishing number" means the number 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 . 124896.3

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 operation in which any 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 motive power."

Section 10. 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 .124896.3

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 condition that is owned by a collector to furnish parts that are usually nonobtainable 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 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;
- device that identifies the vehicle as being currently in use to transport a person with severe mobility impairment and issued pursuant to Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 to be displayed inside a motor vehicle so as to be readily visible to an observer outside the vehicle;
- [G.] <u>H.</u> "pneumatic tire" means every tire in which compressed air is designed to support the load;

[H] I. "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;

[H-] J. "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-]  $\underline{K}$ . "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

 $[\underbrace{K.}]$   $\underline{L.}$  "property owner" means the owner of a piece of land or the agent of that property owner."

Section 11. Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Chapter 35, Section 36, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-3-16. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES--DISABLED
PERSONS--[DISPLAY DEVICE] PARKING PLACARD. --

A. The division shall issue distinctive registration plates to any disabled person who so requests and who proves satisfactorily to the division that he has suffered the loss, or the complete and total loss of use of, one or both . 124896. 3

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 <u>so</u> as to be eligible to be issued <u>a</u> special registration [plates] plate or [display devices] <u>a parking placard</u> pursuant to this section when he is in fact not disabled. Upon notice and opportunity to be heard, the division may revoke and demand return of any placard when:
- (1) it was issued in error or with false information:
- (2) the person receiving the placard is no longer eligible; or
- (3) the placard is being used by ineligible persons.
- C. Upon written application to the division accompanied by a medical statement by a licensed physician attesting to the <u>permanent</u> disability, a resident of the state who has a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk, as provided in Subsection G of this section, may apply for and be granted the issuance of [a placard] no more than two <u>parking placards</u> 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 replacement program.] The physician shall provide the division all information and records necessary to issue a permanent parking placard. Once approved for use of a permanent parking placard, a person shall not be required to furnish further medical information about his mobility impairment.

- D. A <u>parking</u> placard issued pursuant to this section shall expire [in no more than two years] on the same date the person's license or identification card issued pursuant to Section 66-5-401 NMSA 1978 expires.
- E. 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 placard and shall be at least three inches in height, centered on the placard and white on a blue [shield] field;
- (2) an identification number enabling the division to identify the holder of each placard. The division shall maintain this information in a readily retrievable format, provide it to the governor's committee on concerns of the handicapped and make it available on demand to any law . 124896.3

enforcement agency <u>just as it provides vehicle registration and</u> driver's license information;

- (3) the date of expiration; and
- (4) the division seal or other identification of the issuing authority.
- F. Upon written application to the division accompanied by a medical statement from a licensed physician attesting to a temporary disability, a person who has a temporary disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk may be issued a temporary placard [which shall be distinguishable in appearance from placards valid for two-years. The medical statement shall include the period of time that the physician determines the applicant will have the disability. A temporary placard issued pursuant to this section shall be valid] for no more than [six months] one year. The physician shall provide the division all information and records necessary to issue a temporary placard.
- G. For the purpose of obtaining a placard, a person with a ["disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk"] "severe mobility impairment" means the person:
- $\hspace{1cm} \textbf{(1)} \hspace{0.2cm} \textbf{cannot walk one hundred feet without} \\ \textbf{stopping to rest;} \\$
- (2) cannot walk without the use of a brace, a cane, a crutch, assistance from 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.
- H. Special registration plates or placards issued to [the disabled] a person with severe mobility impairment by another state or foreign jurisdiction shall be [granted reciprocity while] honored until the vehicle [and disabled operator are] is registered or the placard holder establishes residency in this state [for a period not to exceed thirty days].
- I. All parking placards [shall be] issued [in accordance with this section beginning on July 1, 1995. All placards issued prior to July 1, 1995 shall expire on July 1, 1996] on or after July 1, 1999 shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of this section."

Section 12. 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--PENALTY] PROHIBITED ACTS--PENALTIES.--

A. Any person who provides false information in order to acquire, or who assists an unqualified person [in acquiring] to acquire, 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 NMSA 1978.

B. Any person, other than the person to whom a special registration plate or a parking placard was issued, who in the absence of the holder of the plate or placard, parks in a designated disabled parking space while displaying the plate or placard, is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978.

C. A special registration plate or parking placard displayed on a vehicle parked in a designated disabled parking space in the absence of the holder of that plate or placard, is subject to immediate seizure by a law enforcement official and if seized shall be delivered to the division within seventy-two hours. 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 13. 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 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 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

	Thicking Sinces
[ <del>0 to 14</del>	<del>0</del>
<del>15</del> ] <u>1</u> to 25	1
26 to 35	2
36 to 50	3
51 to 100	4
101 to 300	8
301 to 500	12
501 to 800	16
801 to 1,000	20
[more than 1,000	<del>20, plus 3 for each</del>

PARKING SPACES

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20, plus 1 for each 100 over 1,000.

additional 1,000]

The designated disabled parking spaces shall be located so as to provide the most convenient access to entranceways or to the nearest curb cut. Every parking lot shall have at least one designated disabled parking space designed to accommodate a motor vehicle passenger van, and there shall be a minimum of one such space for every eight designated disabled parking spaces. "

Section 66-7-352.5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws Section 14. 1983, Chapter 45, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read: "66-7-352.5. UNAUTHORIZED USE--[PENALTY] PENALTIES.--

It is unlawful for any person to park a motor vehicle not [carrying] displaying a special registration [plates] plate or a parking placard [indicating disability in accordance with] issued pursuant to Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 in a designated disabled parking space. or blocking a curb cut. Any person who violates this subsection is subject to a fifty-dollar (\$50.00) fine.

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

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was entitled to such at the time of the violation.

B. It is unlawful for any person to park a motor vehicle in such a manner so as to block access to any part of a curb cut designed for access by persons with severe mobility impairment.

C. Any person convicted of violating Subsection A or B of this section is subject to a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) or more than three hundred dollars (\$300). Failure to properly display a parking placard or special registration plate issued pursuant to Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 is not a defense against a charge of violation of Subsection A or B of this section.

D. A vehicle parked in violation of Subsection A or

B of this section is subject to being towed at the expense of

the vehicle owner upon authorization by law enforcement

personnel or by the property owner or manager of a parking

lot."

- 23 -

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## FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1999

March 1, 1999

Mr. President:

Your PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

SENATE BILL 531

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it DO PASS, and thence referred to the JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

Respectfully submitted,

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    Adopted_____
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             (Chief Clerk)
                                                 (Chief Clerk)
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    No:
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    Excused: Ingle, Leavell, Stockard, Smith
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    Absent:
            None
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## FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1999

March 13, 1999

Mr. President:

Your JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

## SENATE BILL 531

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it DO NOT PASS, but that

## SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 531

DO PASS.

Respectfully submitted,

## Michael S. Sanchez, Chairman

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## SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 531

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999

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AN ACT

RELATING TO DISABILITIES; AMENDING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978 TO EXPAND PARKING FOR PERSONS WITH SEVERE MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT OF CERTAIN PARKING PRIVILEGES: CREATING PENALTIES.

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

Section 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE. -- Sections 1 and 2 of this act may be cited as the "Parking Placard Abuse Act".

Section 2. [NEW MATERIAL] PROGRAM CREATED.--The "placard abuse prevention program" is created in the governor's committee on concerns of the handicapped to ensure compliance with statutes affecting parking privileges for persons with severe mobility impairment and safe and effective use of designated disabled parking space. The committee shall design and implement a program to:

- A. monitor the system of eligibility for and use of parking placards and special registration plates;
- B. provide public awareness education and training to address barriers to the appropriate use of designated disabled parking space;
- C. pursue efforts to reduce abuse and misuse of designated disabled parking space privileges, including revocation of parking placards and special registration plates; and
- D. provide education, training and technical assistance to local law enforcement agencies and volunteers on enforcement of statutes affecting use of designated disabled parking space.

Section 3. 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 and carrying disabled persons and [carrying] displaying special registration plates, or passenger motor vehicles carrying persons with severe mobility 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] fee of the state or its political subdivisions. The provisions of this section shall prevail over any other law, [regulation] rule 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 4. Section 66-1-4.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990, Chapter 120, Section 2) is amended to read:

- "66-1-4.1. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Motor Vehicle Code:
- 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 a space designed to allow a person with severe mobility impairment to safely exit and enter a motor vehicle and that is immediately adjacent to a designated disabled parking space and that may be common to two such parking spaces of at least sixty inches in width or, if the parking space is designed for van accessibility,

ninety-six inches in width, and clearly marked with blue striping;

[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."

Section 5. Section 66-1-4.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990, Chapter 120, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

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- "66-1-4.4. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Motor Vehicle Code:
- A. "day" means calendar day, unless otherwise provided in the Motor Vehicle Code;
- B. "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;
- (2) public officers while performing their duties as such officers;
- (3) persons making casual sales of their own vehicles;
- (4) finance companies, banks and other lending institutions making sales of repossessed vehicles; or
- (5) licensed brokers under the Manufactured 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;
- C. "declared gross weight" means the maximum gross vehicle weight or combination gross vehicle weight at which a . 129034.1

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 considerations;

- D. "department" means the taxation and revenue department, the secretary of taxation and revenue or any employee of the department exercising authority lawfully delegated to that employee by the secretary;
- E. "designated disabled parking space" means any space, <u>including an access aisle</u>, marked and reserved for the parking of a passenger vehicle that carries registration plates or a <u>parking</u> placard indicating disability in accordance with Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978, [<u>such a place shall be</u>] <u>and</u> designated by a conspicuously posted sign bearing the international disabled symbol of a wheelchair [or] <u>and if</u> <u>paved</u>, by a clearly visible depiction of this symbol painted <u>in blue</u> on the pavement of the space;
  - F. "director" means the secretary;
- G. "disqualification" means a prohibition against driving a commercial motor vehicle;
- H. "distinguishing number" means the number 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;

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- 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 operation in which any 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 motive power."

Section 6. 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 condition that is owned by a collector to furnish parts that are usually nonobtainable 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 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. "placard" or "parking placard" means a card-like

  device that identifies the vehicle as being currently in use to

  .129034.1

transport a person with severe mobility impairment and issued
pursuant to Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 to be displayed inside a
motor vehicle so as to be readily visible to an observer
outside the vehicle;

- [G.] <u>H.</u> "pneumatic tire" means every tire in which compressed air is designed to support the load;
- [H.] I. "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;
- [H.] J. "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.] <u>K.</u> "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
- $\left[\frac{K.}{L.}\right]$  \_L\_ "property owner" means the owner of a piece of land or the agent of that property owner."

Section 7. Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Chapter 35, Section 36, as amended) is amended to read:

# "66-3-16. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES--DISABLED PERSONS--[DISPLAY DEVICE] PARKING PLACARD.--

A. The division shall issue distinctive registration plates to any disabled person who so requests and who proves satisfactorily to the division that he has suffered the loss, 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 <u>so</u> as to be eligible to be issued <u>a</u> special registration [<u>plates</u>] <u>plate</u> or [<u>display devices</u>] <u>a parking placard</u> pursuant to this section when he is in fact not disabled. Upon notice and opportunity to be heard, the division may revoke and demand return of any placard when:
- (1) it was issued in error or with false information;
- (2) the person receiving the placard is no longer eligible; or
- (3) the placard is being used by ineligible persons.
- C. Upon written application to the division accompanied by a medical statement by a licensed physician . 129034.1

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attesting to the permanent disability, a resident of the state who has a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk, as provided in Subsection G of this section, may apply for and be granted the issuance of [a placard] no more than two parking placards for display upon a motor vehicle registered to him or motor vehicle owned by another person who is [The director may charge a reasonable fee to transporting him. cover the cost of the placard and of its issuance. The feeshall be retained by the division and shall be appropriated to the division for expenditures incurred in the implementation of the placerd replacement program. The physician shall provide the division all information and records necessary to issue a permanent parking placard. Once approved for use of a permanent parking placard, a person shall not be required to furnish further medical information about his mobility i mpai rment.

- D. A <u>parking</u> placard issued pursuant to this section shall expire [in no more than two years] on the same date the <u>person's license or identification card issued pursuant to</u>

  Section 66-5-401 NMSA 1978 expires.
- E. 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 placard and shall be at least three inches in height, centered on the placard and white on a .129034.1

blue [shield] field;

- (2) an identification number enabling the division to identify the holder of each placard. The division shall maintain this information in a readily retrievable format, provide it to the governor's committee on concerns of the handicapped and make it available on demand to any law enforcement agency just as it provides vehicle registration and driver's license information;
  - (3) the date of expiration; and
- (4) the division seal or other identification of the issuing authority.
- F. Upon written application to the division accompanied by a medical statement from a licensed physician attesting to a temporary disability, a person who has a temporary disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk may be issued a temporary placard [which shall be distinguishable in appearance from placards valid for two-years. The medical statement shall include the period of time that the physician determines the applicant will have the disability. A temporary placard issued pursuant to this section shall be valid] for no more than [six months] one year. The physician shall provide the division all information and records necessary to issue a temporary placard.
- G. For the purpose of obtaining a placard, a person with a ["disability that limits or impairs the ability to . 129034.1

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 cane, a crutch, <u>assistance from</u> 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.
- H. Special registration plates or placards issued to [the disabled] a person with severe mobility impairment by another state or foreign jurisdiction shall be [granted reciprocity while] honored until the vehicle [and disabled operator are] is registered or the placard holder establishes residency in this state [for a period not to exceed thirty days].
- I. All <u>parking</u> placards [<del>shall be</del>] issued [<del>in</del> accordance with this section beginning on July 1, 1995. All
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placards issued prior to July 1, 1995 shall expire on July 1, 1996] on or after July 1, 1999 shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of this section."

Section 8. 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 -- PENALTY ] PROHIBITED ACTS--PENALTIES.--

A. Any person who provides false information in order to acquire, or who assists an unqualified person [in acquiring] to acquire, 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 NMSA 1978.

B. Any person, other than the person to whom a special registration plate or a parking placard was issued, who in the absence of the holder of the plate or placard, parks in a designated disabled parking space while displaying the plate or placard, is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 31-19-1 NMSA 1978.

C. A special registration plate or parking placard displayed on a vehicle parked in a designated disabled parking space in the absence of the holder of that plate or placard, is subject to immediate seizure by a law enforcement official and if seized shall be delivered to the division within seventy-two

hours. 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 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 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 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

## PARKI NG SPACES

[ <del>0 to 14</del>	<del>0</del>
<del>15</del> ] <u>1</u> to 25	1
26 to 35	2
36 to 50	3
51 to 100	4

L	101 to 300	8
;	301 to 500	12
3	501 to 800	16
ŀ	801 to 1,000	20
,	[more than 1,000	20, plus 3 for each
•		addi ti onal 1, 000]
,	more than 1,000	20, plus 1 for each
3		100 over 1,000.

The designated disabled parking spaces shall be located so as to provide the most convenient access to entranceways or to the nearest curb cut. Every parking lot shall have at least one designated disabled parking space designed to accommodate a motor vehicle passenger van, and there shall be a minimum of one such space for every eight designated disabled parking spaces."

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] PENALTIES.--

A. It is unlawful for any person to park a motor vehicle not [carrying] displaying a special registration [plates] plate or a parking placard [indicating disability in accordance with] issued pursuant to Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 in a designated disabled parking space. [or blocking a curb cut. Any person who violates this subsection is subject to a fifty-dollar (\$50.00) fine.

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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.

B. It is unlawful for any person to park a motor

vehicle in such a manner so as to block access to any part of a

curb cut designed for access by persons with severe mobility

impairment.

C. Any person convicted of violating Subsection A or B of this section is subject to a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) or more than three hundred dollars (\$300). Failure to properly display a parking placard or special registration plate issued pursuant to Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 is not a defense against a charge of violation of Subsection A or B of this section.

D. A vehicle parked in violation of Subsection A or

B of this section is subject to being towed at the expense of

the vehicle owner upon authorization by law enforcement

personnel or by the property owner or manager of a parking

lot."

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DO PASS.

FORTY- FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

March 13, 1999

Mr. President:

Your JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

### SENATE BILL 531

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it DO NOT PASS, but that

# SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 531

Respectfully submitted,

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12	Date	
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15	The roll call vote was $\underline{5}$ For $\underline{0}$	_ Agai nst
16	Yes: 5	
17	No: None	
18	Excused: Davis, McSorley, Tsosie	
19	Absent: None	
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# FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1999

March 16, 1999

Mr. Speaker:

Your CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

## SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 531

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO PASS.** 

 ${\bf Respectfully\ submitted,}$ 

Patsy Trujillo Knauer, Chairwonan

1		FORTY-FC	OURTH LEGISLATURE	
2	SJC/SB	531 FIRST	SESSION, 1999	
3 <sup>HCI</sup>	AC/SB 53	1		Page 48
4	Adopted _		Not Adopted	
5		(Chief Clerk)	(Chief Clerk)	
6				
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9		call vote was <u>7</u> For	r <u>0</u> Against	
10	Yes:	7		
11	Excused: Absent:	None		
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# FORTY- FOURTH LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1999 3

March 16, 1999

Mr. Speaker:

Your **CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**, to whom has been referred

## SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 531

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO PASS**.

 $Respectfully \ \ submitted,$ 

Patsy Trujillo Knauer, Chairwonan

1		FOR?	ΓY-FOUR'	TH LEGIS	SLATURE	
2	SJC/SE	3 531 F	'IRST SE	SSION,	1999	
<b>3</b> HC	PAC/SB 5	31				Page 50
4	Adopted			Not Adopt	ced	
5	^ -	(Chief Clerk)		•	(Chief Clerk)	_
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7			Date _			
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9	The roll	call vote was _	7 For <u>0</u>	_ Agai nst		
10	Yes:	7				
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