

SENATE No. 2178

Senate October 12, 2017, – Text of the Senate Bill relative to handicapped parking (being the text of Senate document number 2168, printed as amended)

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)

An Act relative to handicapped parking.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The eighth paragraph of section 2 of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word
3 “handicapped”, in line 303, the following words:- ; and provided further, that the registrar may,
4 in its discretion, waive the requirement that an agency of the commonwealth prominently display
5 the name of the agency on such vehicle.

6 SECTION 1A. The ninth paragraph of said section 2 of said chapter 90, as so appearing,
7 is hereby amended by inserting after the seventh sentence the following sentence:- Obstruction
8 of the placard number or expiration date, including the failure to display the placard in a way that
9 makes the placard number or expiration date readily visible through the windshield, or the failure
10 to follow instructions printed on the placard shall be subject to a fine of \$50.

11 SECTION 2. Said ninth paragraph of said section 2 of said chapter 90, as so appearing,
12 is hereby further amended by inserting after the eighth sentence the following sentence:- The
13 registrar may require documents or information from an applicant to verify information

14 contained in an application for a handicapped plate or placard and may refuse to process the
15 application until such documentation or information is provided to the registrar by the applicant.

16 SECTION 3. Said section 2 of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
17 amended by striking out, in line 328, the word “in”, the first time it appears, and inserting in
18 place thereof the following words:- , including the use or display of a handicapped plate or
19 placard belonging to a deceased person, in.

20 SECTION 4. Said section 2 of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
21 amended by striking out, in line 335, the figure “30” and inserting in place thereof the following
22 figure:- 60.

23 SECTION 5. Said section 2 of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
24 amended by striking out, in line 336, the figure “90” and inserting in place thereof the following
25 figure:- 120.

26 SECTION 6. The ninth paragraph of said section 2 of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is
27 hereby amended by inserting after the twelfth sentence the following 6 sentences:- The registrar
28 may investigate allegations that an individual has falsely obtained a handicapped plate or placard
29 or is using a handicapped plate or placard without meeting eligibility requirements. The registrar
30 may, upon a finding of ineligibility or that a handicapped plate or placard was falsely obtained,
31 revoke the handicapped plate or placard in addition to any other penalties allowed by this
32 chapter. An application for a handicapped plate or placard or report of a lost or stolen
33 handicapped plate or placard shall be made under the penalties of perjury. A person who
34 intentionally makes a false statement related to their eligibility in an application for a
35 handicapped plate or placard, including for the renewal of a handicapped plate or placard or

36 when reporting a handicapped plate or placard lost or stolen shall be subject to a fine of \$500 for
37 a first offense and \$1,000 for a second or subsequent offense. The registrar shall require the
38 return of a handicapped plate or placard that has been revoked or canceled. Failure to return a
39 handicapped plate or placard that has been revoked or canceled shall be subject to a fine of \$100.

40 SECTION 6A. Section 13 of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
41 striking out, in line 4, the word “or”, the first time it appears, and inserting in place thereof the
42 following words:- , including the display of a handicap identification placard during such
43 operation, or.

44 SECTION 6B. Said section 13 of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
45 inserting after the first sentence the following sentence:- The display of a handicap parking
46 identification placard in such a manner as to interfere with or impede the proper operation of a
47 vehicle shall be enforced by law enforcement agencies only when an operator of a motor vehicle
48 has been stopped for an unrelated violation of the motor vehicle laws or some other offense

49 SECTION 7. Said section 24B of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
50 amended by inserting after the word “vehicles”, in line 30, the following words:- , a special
51 parking identification disability placard.

52 SECTION 8. Said section 24B of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
53 amended by inserting after the word “vehicles”, in line 32, the following words:- , special
54 parking identification disability placard.

55 SECTION 9. Said section 24B of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
56 amended by inserting after the word “operate”, in line 34, the following words:- , special parking
57 identification disability placards.

58 SECTION 10. Said section 24B of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
59 amended by inserting after the word “vehicles”, in lines 45 and 50, each time it appears, the
60 following words:- or special parking identification disability placard.

61 SECTION 11. Said section 24B of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby further
62 amended by inserting after the word “license”, in line 48, the following words:- , permit or
63 placard.

64 SECTION 12. The registrar of motor vehicles shall conduct a feasibility study to examine
65 the current process to issue a handicapped placard to an applicant under section 2 of chapter 90
66 of the General Laws and the efficiencies that can be obtained by transitioning to a new
67 information technology system. The study shall include: (i) methods to reduce the wait time for
68 an applicant to receive a determination on a submitted application; (ii) methods for posting
69 online information related to the number of individual applications received, including the
70 average time to process an application after the date it is received and the number of applicants
71 that did not receive a determination within 30 days after the date their applications were
72 received; and (iii) a procedure to contact individuals who have not received a determination on
73 their application within 30 days after the date their applications were received. The registrar shall
74 submit a report to the chairs of the joint committee on transportation not later than February 1,
75 2018.