

STORAGE NAME: h1653z.tr
DATE: May 15, 2000

****FAILED TO PASS THE LEGISLATURE****

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AS FURTHER REVISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION
FINAL ANALYSIS**

BILL #: CS/HB 1653

RELATING TO: Disabled Parking Permits

SPONSOR(S): Committee on Transportation, Representative Futch and others

TIED BILL(S): None

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

- (1) TRANSPORTATION (EDC) YEAS 10 NAYS 0
 - (2) COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (PRC) (W/D)
 - (3) FINANCE AND TAXATION (FRC) YEAS 11 NAYS 0
 - (4) TRANSPORTATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS (FRC)
 - (5)
-

I. SUMMARY:

Currently, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles may issue a disabled parking permit for a period of up to four years to a person with a long-term mobility impairment, or a temporary disabled parking permit, not to exceed one year, to a person with a temporary mobility impairment. There is a \$15 fee for each initial four year permit or renewal permit and for each temporary permit.

The bill eliminates the fees associated with the disabled parking permit for persons with long-term mobility impairments. Therefore, no fee would be assessed for the issuance or renewal of the four-year parking permit. The bill, however, increases the fee for the temporary parking permit from \$15 to \$17.50. The amount from each fee collected for a temporary parking permit to be distributed to the tax collector is increased from \$2.50 to \$5.

The bill also authorizes a licensed, advanced registered nurse practitioner who practices under the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to provide a certificate of disability for a disabled veteran.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2000.

The bill has a significant fiscal impact to the state and local governments and the private sector. See III. Fiscal Analysis & Economic Impact Statement for details.

Note: See Part VI. Amendments or Committee Substitute Changes for the effect of the proposed changes to the bill.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

1. Less Government Yes No N/A

2. Lower Taxes Yes No N/A

The fee for a four-year permit would be eliminated, however, the fee for a temporary parking permit would be increased.

3. Individual Freedom Yes No N/A

4. Personal Responsibility Yes No N/A

5. Family Empowerment Yes No N/A

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

Section 320.0848, F.S., provides that the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles may issue a disabled parking permit for a period of up to four years to a person with a long-term mobility impairment, or a temporary disabled parking permit, not to exceed one year, to a person with a temporary mobility impairment.

This section provides for a \$15 fee for each initial four year-permit or renewal permit. Of each fee collected, \$13.50 is to be distributed to the State Transportation Trust Fund and \$1.50 is to be distributed to the tax collector of the county in which the fee was collected.

An applicant who is a disabled veteran, is a resident of the state, was honorably discharged, and can show proof of a service connected disability tied to disability retirement pay and a signed physician statement, pays a reduced fee of \$1.50 for the initial or renewal four-year permit, and \$1 for each additional initial or renewal four-year permit. The tax collector of the county in which the fee was collected retains the funds.

An applicant who presents to the department a statement from the Federal Government or the State of Florida indicating that he or she is a recipient of supplemental security income pays a fee of \$9 for the initial four-year permit or renewal permit. Of each fee collected, \$6.75 is distributed to the State Transportation Trust Fund and \$2.25 is distributed to the tax collector of the county in which the fee was collected.

Florida currently offers the option of a free disabled parking license plate to all persons who qualify for a disabled parking permit. Section 320.0848 (2)(e), F.S., provides that a person who qualifies for a permanent disabled parking permit may be issued an international wheelchair user symbol license plate under s. 320.0843, F.S., in lieu of the disabled parking permit. Pursuant to s. 320.0843, F.S., the international wheelchair user symbol license plate entitles the person to all privileges afforded by a permanent disabled parking permit. Thus, under current law, a person who qualifies for a disabled parking permit may receive all the privileges afforded by a permanent disability parking permit without the purchase of such a permit. However, according to the DHS&MV, most disability parking permit qualifiers who choose to use an international wheelchair user symbol license plate

will also purchase a disability parking permit since the permit may be used in any vehicle in which the disability qualifier is being transported.

Current law further authorizes the issuance of free disabled license plates to certain disabled veterans. These license plates entitle the veteran to all privileges afforded by a permanent disabled parking permit. Section 320.084, F.S., provides that a free motor vehicle license plate displaying a "DV" to certain disabled veterans (100 percent service related disability rating). Section 320.0842, F.S., provides for free license plates displaying the international symbol of accessibility to disabled veterans (100 percent service related disability rating) confined to wheel chairs.

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill amends s. 320.0848, F.S., to eliminate the fees associated with the disabled parking permit for persons with long-term mobility impairments. Therefore, no fee would be assessed for the issuance or renewal of the four-year parking permit. The bill, however, increases the fee for the temporary parking permit from \$15 to \$17.50. The amount from each fee collected for a temporary parking permit to be distributed to the tax collector is increased from \$2.50 to \$5.

The bill provides that a licensed, advanced registered nurse practitioner who practices under the United States Department of Veterans Affairs may provide a certificate of disability for a disabled veteran in order to obtain a permanent disabled parking permit.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

N/A

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

According to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the loss of the four-year permit fee could result in a total revenue loss of approximately \$12.2 million over a four year period to the Department of Transportation's State Transportation Trust Fund. The following shows the impact for the next two fiscal years:

	<u>FY 2000-01</u>	<u>FY 2001-02</u>
State Transportation Trust Fund	(\$2.8) M	(\$4.0) M

2. Expenditures:

The bill has an insignificant impact on state government expenditures.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

County tax collectors will no longer receive \$1.50 from the sale of each permanent disabled parking permit sold in their county. This will have a state-wide negative fiscal impact to county tax collectors. The CS provides an increase in the amount of funds that are distributed to the tax collector for issuing a temporary disabled parking permit from \$2.50 to \$5 which would increase revenue to the tax collectors state wide by approximately \$60,000 annually. The following shows the net impact for the next two fiscal years: **See amendment section for changes to the bill.**

<u>FY 2000-01</u>	<u>FY 2001-02</u>
(\$0.3) M	(\$0.5)

2. Expenditures:

This bill does not affect local government expenditures.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Qualified disabled persons will no longer have to pay a \$15 fee for a permanent disabled parking permit. However, persons purchasing a temporary disabled parking permit would have a \$2.50 increase in cost for a permit, and any person purchasing a replacement disabled parking permit would have a \$4 increase in cost.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to expend funds or to take action requiring the expenditure of funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate, as such authority existed on February 1, 1989.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill does not reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

N/A

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B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

N/A

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Civil Rights found the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in violation of the Uniform System of Handicapped Parking guidelines. The NHTSA found that:

Although Florida provides special license plates to certain groups for free or for the same fee as is charged for normal license plates, it does not make these plates available to all individuals with disabilities which limit or impair the ability to walk. Certain individuals whose disabilities limit or impair the ability to walk are denied the right to obtain a special plate. Rather, these individuals must obtain a disabled parking placard. Moreover, they must pay an additional fee for the placard in addition to the fee they pay for the normal license plate.

There are also several court cases pending which challenge the disabled parking permit fee including *Rendon v. DHSMV and FDOT* in the 11th Circuit Court and *Doughtery v. DHSMV* in the 2nd Judicial Circuit. These cases are stayed until the United States Supreme Court decides *Department of Corrections v. Dickson* and *Alsbrook v. City of Maumelie*.

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

The Committee on Transportation considered this bill on April 10, 2000, and adopted one amendment which provides that an advanced registered nurse practitioner, practicing within a facility of the United States Department of Veteran Affairs and under the supervision of a licensed physician, may provide a certificate of disability.

The bill was reported favorably as a Committee Substitute.

On April 26, 2000, the Committee on Finance and Taxation adopted a "strike everything" amendment which conforms to the Senate companion (SB 202). The amendment:

- Establishes the administrative fee portion of the bill. Currently, the distribution of the \$15 disabled parking permits is \$13.50 to the State Transportation Trust fund and \$1.50 to the counties. The original bill deleted the entire fee. The amendment provides that the portion of the permit fee the counties need to administer the program will be retained so that the county tax collectors' portion of the bill is revenue neutral.
- Clarifies the position of the DHSMV with regard to the issuance of additional disabled veterans license plates to those disabled veterans who own more than one vehicle for the fee charged for a base Florida license plate.
- Provides that certain revenues from the Sea Turtle License Plate shall be used for sea turtle conservation activities and that revenues from the Share the Road License Plate shall be distributed to Bike Florida, Inc.
- Authorizes physician assistants in a facility operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to certify a veteran as disabled for the purpose of acquiring a disabled parking permit.

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VII. SIGNATURES:

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