

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

ENGROSSED

Senate Bill No. 246

As Amended

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 246 -- By BROWN of the Senate and KIRBY of the House.

An Act relating to public safety; amending 47 O.S. 1991, Sections 11-1007, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 21, O.S.L. 1997 and 15-112, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 94, O.S.L. 1997 (47 O.S. Supp. 1998, Sections 11-1007 and 15-112), which relate to parking areas for physically disabled persons and disability placards; modifying amount of certain fines; providing expiration dates for certain placards; authorizing a city, town or municipality to establish a civilian volunteer handicapped parking violation unit; providing for appointments to the unit; establishing training programs for volunteers; providing procedures for reporting of violations; setting procedures for photographs to be used as evidence; setting procedures for notices of violation; authorizing confiscation of placards for certain violations; providing for percentage of fine to be used for civilian volunteer handicapped parking violation unit; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 1991, Section 11-1007, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 21, O.S.L. 1997

(47 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 11-1007), is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-1007. A. It shall be unlawful for any person to place or park a motor vehicle in any parking space, wheelchair ramp, wheelchair unloading area or any portion thereof that is designated and posted as a reserved area for the parking of a motor vehicle operated by or transporting a physically disabled person unless such person has applied for and been issued a detachable insignia indicating physical disability under the provisions of Section 15-112 of this title, and such insignia is displayed as provided in Section 15-112 of this title or in rules adopted pursuant thereto, or has applied for and been issued a physically disabled special license plate pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 8 of Section 1136 of this title, and such license plate is displayed pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act.

B. Violation of these provisions shall be a misdemeanor and upon conviction such person shall be fined not ~~more~~ less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) and not more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) and, in addition thereto, such person shall pay any and all reasonable and necessary charges incurred by the landowner or other person in having any motor vehicle removed from the property and stored.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 1991, Section 15-112, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 94, O.S.L. 1997

(47 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 15-112), is amended to read as follows:

Section 15-112. A. As used in this section:

1. "Physician" means any person holding a valid license to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine, chiropractic, podiatric medicine, or optometry, pursuant to the state licensing provisions of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
and

2. "Physical disability" means an illness, disease, injury or condition by reason of which a person:

- a. cannot walk two hundred (200) feet without stopping to rest,
- b. cannot walk without the use of or assistance from a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair or other assistance device,
- c. is restricted to such an extent that the person's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one (1) second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one (1) liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty (60) mm/hg on room air at rest,
- d. must use portable oxygen,
- e. has functional limitations which are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards set by the American Heart Association,
- f. is severely limited in the person's ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition, or
- g. is certified legally blind.

B. 1. The Department of Public Safety shall issue a detachable temporary placard indicating physical disability to any person who submits an application on a form furnished by the Department and certified by a physician, attesting that the applicant has a physical disability, together with the fee required in subsection D of this section. The attestation of the physician shall denote "temporary" as the type of placard requested and shall indicate an expiration date which the physician estimates to be the date of termination of such physical disability; however, if the physician certifies that the physical disability is permanent, the physician shall denote "five-year" as the type of placard requested.

2. The person to whom such placard is issued shall be entitled to the special parking privileges provided for in Section 15-111 of this title; provided, however, the placard is properly displayed on the parked vehicle.

C. Any placard issued by the Department of Public Safety shall remain valid until:

1. The placard, if temporary, expires;

2. The person to whom the placard was issued requests a replacement placard, whether a five-year or temporary, whereupon such person shall pay to the Department the replacement fee specified in subsection D of this section; or

3. The placard, whether a five-year or temporary, is no longer needed by the person to whom such placard was issued for the disability for which the placard was originally issued, whereupon such placard shall be returned to the Department.

D. On and after July 1, 1995:

1. A five-year placard shall expire five (5) years from the last day of the month in which the placard was issued. Upon the expiration of a five-year placard, the person to whom such placard was issued may obtain a subsequent placard by reapplying to the Department, in the same manner as provided in subsection B of this section. If the physician certifying the application attests that the applicant's physical disability still exists, the physician shall so denote on the application, and the expiration date shall be extended an additional five (5) years;

2. A temporary placard shall indicate the expiration date which the physician certifying the physical disability estimates to be the date of termination of such physical disability, which shall not be later than six (6) months from the date of issuance and upon which date such placard shall expire and shall be returned to the Department; provided, however, nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prevent the holder from applying for another placard, as provided for in this section; and

3. In the event that a placard, whether a five-year or temporary, is lost or destroyed, the person to whom such placard was issued may apply in writing to the Department for a replacement placard, which the Department shall issue with the same expiration date as the original placard. The Department shall charge and the applicant shall pay to the Department a replacement fee of Two Dollars (\$2.00) for each replacement placard issued. On and after January 1, 1998, all placards issued prior to October 31, 1990, shall expire on the last day of the month in which the placard was issued, and the person to whom such placard was issued may follow the procedure provided for in subsection B of this section to obtain a second or subsequent placard. All placards issued after October 31, 1990, and before July 1, 1995, shall expire in the year 2000 on the last day of the month in which the placard was issued.

E. A physician may sign an application certifying that a person has a physical disability, as provided in subsection B of this section, only if care and treatment of the illness, disease, injury or condition causing the physical disability of such person falls within the authorized scope of practice of the physician.

F. The Department shall recognize handicap and disability stickers issued by the Veterans Administration and federal military bases in the same manner as the placard issued by the Department as provided for in this section. For purposes of this section and other sections of law relating to the physical disability placard, the term "physical disability placard", "five-year placard" or "temporary placard" shall include those handicap and disability stickers issued by the Veterans Administration and federal military bases.

G. The Department shall have the power to formulate, adopt and promulgate rules as may be necessary to implement and administer the provisions of this section, including, but not limited to, prescribing the manner in which the five-year placard and the temporary placard are to be displayed on a motor vehicle.

H. The Commissioner of Public Safety is hereby authorized to enter into reciprocity agreements with other states for the purpose of recognizing parking placards or license plates indicating physical disability issued by those states.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-1007.1 of Title 47, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. A city, town or municipality may, by adoption of a local law or ordinance, establish a civilian volunteer handicapped parking violation unit to assist in the enforcement of handicapped parking laws or ordinances. Persons appointed to such unit shall be volunteers, shall serve without compensation, and shall be authorized to provide evidence of violations of handicapped parking laws or ordinances to the appropriate law enforcement authority. Such evidence may include photographing a violation, provided that such photograph is taken in compliance with the requirements of this section.

B. A local law or ordinance enacted in accordance with the provisions of this section shall:

1. Establish a training program of no less than two hours in length and require each volunteer to participate in and complete such training program;
2. Provide for the assignment of an identification number to each volunteer, and provide official identification and equipment to assist volunteer personnel in the conduct of their duties;
3. Establish uniform procedures for volunteers to follow in determining whether a violation has occurred;
4. Establish procedures for the uniform reporting of violations, which reporting shall include the identification number of the volunteer making the report;
5. If such local law or ordinance provides for the taking of photographs of violations: (i) grant only the local law enforcement agency the authority to process or to **CONTRACT** for the processing of all film submitted by volunteers; (ii)

require any photographs evidencing a violation to be available for inspection in any proceeding to adjudicate the liability for such violation; (iii) provide that a certificate, sworn to or affirmed by a technician employed by the municipality in which the charged violation occurred, or a facsimile thereof, based upon inspection of photographs produced from film submitted by volunteers, shall be prima facie evidence of the facts contained therein; and (iv) prohibit the use of such a photograph for any purpose other than as evidence of a handicapped parking violation; and

6. Provide the following with respect to notices of violation: (i) a notice of violation shall be sent by first class mail to each person alleged to be liable as an owner for a violation of a handicapped parking law or ordinance. A manual or automatic record of mailing prepared in the ordinary course of business shall be prima facie evidence of the facts contained therein; (ii) a notice of violation shall reference the law which was allegedly violated, and shall contain the name and address of the person alleged to be liable as an owner for a violation of a handicapped parking law or ordinance, the license tag number of the vehicle involved in such violation, the location where such violation took place, the date and time of such violation, and the identification number of the volunteer who recorded the violation; (iii) a notice of violation shall contain information advising the person charged of the manner and the time in which he or she may contest the violation alleged in the notice, and shall also contain a warning to advise the persons charged that failure to contest in the manner and time provided shall be deemed an admission of liability and that a default judgment may be entered thereon.

C. Upon a conviction of a local law or ordinance which complies with the provisions of subsection B of this section, notwithstanding any other law, the local law enforcement entity shall have the authority:

1. To confiscate the placard if not valid or used fraudulently, report the conviction, and send the placard to the Department of Public Safety, who shall then revoke the privilege of using the placard; and

2. To dedicate **NOT LESS THAN** twelve and one-half percent (12 1/2%) of any fine imposed resulting from citations or for violations of the handicapped parking regulations, which shall be deposited in a special dedicated fund to be used by the local municipality for the sole purpose of establishing, maintaining and perpetuating a citizen volunteer handicapped parking violation unit.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 1999.