

By: Hegar

S.B. No. 985

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to certification of a person as eligible for disabled parking privileges, including an expectant or new mother.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 681.001, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subdivision (2) and adding Subdivision (3-a) to read as follows:

(2) "Disability" means a condition in which a person ~~has~~:

(A) has mobility problems that substantially impair the person's ability to ambulate;

(B) has visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses; ~~or~~

(C) has visual acuity of more than 20/200 but with a limited field of vision in which the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle of 20 degrees or less; or

(D) is an expectant or new mother.

(3-a) "Expectant or new mother" means a person during the period extending from the 30th day before the person is due to give birth to the 90th day after the person is due to give birth.

SECTION 2. Section 681.003, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(c) Subject to Subsections ~~[Subsection]~~ (e) and (f), the

1 first application must be accompanied by a notarized written
2 statement or written prescription of a physician licensed to
3 practice medicine in this state or a state adjacent to this state[7]
4 or authorized by applicable law to practice medicine in a hospital
5 or other health facility of the Veterans Administration or an
6 advanced practice nurse or physician assistant acting under the
7 delegation and supervision of a licensed physician in conformance
8 with Subchapter B, Chapter 157, Occupations Code, certifying and
9 providing evidence acceptable to the department that the person
10 making the application or on whose behalf the application is made is
11 legally blind or has a mobility problem that substantially impairs
12 the person's ability to ambulate. The statement or prescription
13 must include a certification of whether the disability is temporary
14 or permanent and information acceptable to the department to
15 determine the type of disabled parking placard for which the
16 applicant is eligible. The department shall determine a person's
17 eligibility based on evidence provided by the applicant
18 establishing legal blindness or mobility impairment.

19 (f) An application for a disabled parking placard by an
20 expectant or new mother must be accompanied by evidence of the date
21 the person is due to give birth provided by the person's physician.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.