

By: Fletcher

H.B. No. 1683

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to specialized license plates and parking placards for  
3 vehicles of persons with disabilities.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 504.201, Transportation Code, is amended  
6 by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsections (d-2) and (d-3)  
7 to read as follows:

8 (d) Except as provided by Subsections [~~Subsection~~] (d-1),  
9 (d-2), and (d-3), the initial application for specialty license  
10 plates under this section must be accompanied by a written  
11 statement from a physician who is licensed to practice medicine in  
12 this state or in a state adjacent to this state or who is authorized  
13 by applicable law to practice medicine in a hospital or other health  
14 facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs. [~~If the applicant~~  
15 ~~has a mobility problem caused by a disorder of the foot, the written~~  
16 ~~statement may be issued by a person licensed to practice podiatry in~~  
17 ~~this state or a state adjacent to this state. In this subsection,~~  
18 ~~"podiatry" has the meaning assigned by Section 681.001.] The~~

19 statement must certify that the person making the application or on  
20 whose behalf the application is made is legally blind or has a  
21 mobility problem that substantially impairs the person's ability to  
22 ambulate. The statement must also certify whether a mobility  
23 problem is temporary or permanent. A written statement is not  
24 required as acceptable medical proof if:

1 (1) the person with a disability:

2 (A) has had a limb, hand, or foot amputated; or

3 (B) must use a wheelchair; and

4 (2) the applicant and the county assessor-collector  
5 processing the application execute an affidavit attesting to the  
6 person's disability.

7 (d-2) If the initial application for specialty license  
8 plates under this section is made by or on behalf of a person with a  
9 mobility problem that substantially impairs the person's ability to  
10 ambulate, the written statement required by Subsection (d) may be  
11 issued by a person licensed to practice chiropractic in this state  
12 or a state adjacent to this state. In this subsection,  
13 "chiropractic" has the meaning assigned by Section 201.002,  
14 Occupations Code.

15 (d-3) If the initial application for specialty license  
16 plates under this section is made by or on behalf of a person with a  
17 mobility problem caused by a disorder of the foot, the written  
18 statement may be issued by a person licensed to practice podiatry in  
19 this state or a state adjacent to this state. In this subsection,  
20 "podiatry" has the meaning assigned by Section 681.001.

21 SECTION 2. Section 681.003, Transportation Code, is amended  
22 by amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsection (h) to read as  
23 follows:

24 (e) If a first application for a disabled parking placard  
25 under this section is made by or on behalf of a person with:

26 (1) a mobility problem caused by a disorder of the  
27 foot, the notarized written statement or written prescription

1 required by Subsection (c) may be issued by a person licensed to  
2 practice podiatry in this state or a state adjacent to this state;  
3 [~~or~~]

4 (2) a disability caused by an impairment of vision as  
5 provided by Section 681.001(2), the notarized written statement or  
6 written prescription required by Subsection (c) may be issued by a  
7 person licensed to engage in the practice of optometry or the  
8 practice of therapeutic optometry in this state or a state adjacent  
9 to this state; or

10 (3) a mobility problem that substantially impairs the  
11 person's ability to ambulate, the notarized written statement or  
12 written prescription required by Subsection (c) may be issued by a  
13 person licensed to practice chiropractic in this state or a state  
14 adjacent to this state.

15 (h) In this section, "chiropractic" has the meaning  
16 assigned by Section 201.002, Occupations Code.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.