

By: Fletcher

H.B. No. 126

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to parking placards for vehicles of persons with disabilities.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 681.003(b), (c), and (e), Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) An application for a disabled parking placard must be:

(1) on a form furnished by the department;

(2) submitted to the county assessor-collector of the county in which the person with the disability:

(A) resides if the person has a permanent disability and is a resident of this state;

(B) resides or is seeking medical treatment if the person has a temporary disability and is a resident of this state; or

(C) [~~in which the applicant~~] is seeking medical treatment if the person [~~applicant~~] is not a resident of this state;

and

(3) accompanied by a fee of \$5 if the application is for a temporary placard.

(c) Subject to Subsections (e) and (f), the first application must be accompanied by a notarized written statement or written prescription of a physician licensed to practice medicine in this state or a state adjacent to this state, or authorized by

1 applicable law to practice medicine in a hospital or other health
2 facility of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,
3 certifying and providing evidence acceptable to the department that
4 the person making the application or on whose behalf the
5 application is made is legally blind or has a mobility problem that
6 substantially impairs the person's ability to ambulate. The
7 statement or prescription must include a certification of whether
8 the disability is temporary or permanent and information acceptable
9 to the department to determine the type of disabled parking placard
10 for which the person [~~applicant~~] is eligible. The department shall
11 determine a person's eligibility based on evidence provided by the
12 applicant establishing legal blindness or mobility impairment.

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

15 (1) a mobility problem caused by a disorder of the
16 foot, the notarized written statement or written prescription
17 required by Subsection (c) may be issued by a person licensed to
18 practice podiatry in this state or a state adjacent to this state;
19 [~~or~~]

20 (2) a disability caused by an impairment of vision as
21 provided by Section 681.001(2), the notarized written statement or
22 written prescription required by Subsection (c) may be issued by a
23 person licensed to engage in the practice of optometry or the
24 practice of therapeutic optometry in this state or a state adjacent
25 to this state; or

26 (3) a temporary mobility problem that substantially
27 impairs the person's ability to ambulate, the notarized written

1 statement or written prescription required by Subsection (c) may be
2 issued by a person licensed to practice chiropractic, as described
3 by Section 201.002, Occupations Code, in this state or a state
4 adjacent to this state.

5 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.