

By: Klick

H.B. No. 2979

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the punishment for certain offenses involving parking
in a space designated for persons with disabilities.

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

SECTION 1. Section 681.011, Transportation Code, is amended
by amending Subsection (g) and adding Subsections (g-1) and (g-2)
to read as follows:

(g) Except as provided by Subsections (g-1), (h), (i), (j),
and (k) [~~(h)-(k)~~], an offense under this section is a misdemeanor
punishable by a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$750.

(g-1) In lieu of imposing a fine on conviction under
Subsection (g), the court may order a person who has not previously
been convicted of an offense under this section to:

(1) perform community service at a nonprofit
organization that serves persons with disabilities or persons with
disabling diseases;

(2) perform any community service that may sensitize
the person to the needs of and obstacles faced by persons with
disabilities; or

(3) attend education classes on disability awareness
and accessible parking.

(g-2) The court shall set the number of hours of community
service or education classes required under Subsection (g-1).

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to

1 an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An
2 offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed
3 by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed, and the
4 former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of
5 this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of
6 this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.