

1-1 By: Campbell S.B. No. 792
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 24, 2021; March 11, 2021,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs &
1-4 Border Security; April 1, 2021, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; April 1, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Campbell	X		
1-9	Hall	X		
1-10	Blanco	X		
1-11	Eckhardt	X		
1-12	Gutierrez	X		
1-13	Seliger	X		
1-14	Taylor	X		

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to specialty license plates and parking placards for
1-18 vehicles of certain disabled veterans.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Section 502.410(b), Transportation Code, is
1-21 amended to read as follows:

1-22 (b) Subsection (a) does not apply to a statement or
1-23 application filed or given under Section 502.060, 502.092, 502.093,
1-24 502.094, 502.095, 504.201, 504.202(b-1), 504.508, or 504.515.

1-25 SECTION 2. Section 504.202, Transportation Code, is amended
1-26 by adding Subsections (b-1), (b-2), and (k) and amending
1-27 Subsections (g) and (j) to read as follows:

1-28 (b-1) A person described by Subsection (b) who is eligible
1-29 to receive license plates under Section 504.201 may elect to
1-30 receive license plates under this section that include the symbol
1-31 described by Section 504.201(f). The initial application for
1-32 license plates under this subsection must be accompanied by:

1-33 (1) the written statement required by Section
1-34 504.201(d), unless the applicant is an organization described by
1-35 Subsection (b-2); and

1-36 (2) any other information required for an application
1-37 under this section.

1-38 (b-2) An organization that registers a motor vehicle under
1-39 Subsection (c) may elect to receive license plates under Subsection
1-40 (b-1) if the vehicle regularly transports veterans who are eligible
1-41 to receive license plates under Subsection (b-1). The department
1-42 shall adopt rules prescribing satisfactory proof of eligibility
1-43 under this subsection.

1-44 (g) A person who receives license plates under Subsection
1-45 (b-1) [this section] may receive a disabled parking placard under
1-46 Section 681.004 for each set of license plates [without providing
1-47 additional documentation].

1-48 (j) A person entitled to license plates under this section
1-49 may instead use, for a vehicle that meets the requirements of
1-50 Section 504.501 or 504.502, disabled veteran license plates issued
1-51 by this state that [are]:

1-52 (1) are embossed with an alphanumeric pattern;

1-53 (2) are of a plate design that was issued in the same
1-54 year as the model year of the vehicle; [and]

1-55 (3) are approved for use by the department; and

1-56 (4) include the symbol described by Section
1-57 504.201(f), if the person satisfies the requirements for the
1-58 issuance of license plates under Subsection (b-1) and elects to
1-59 include the symbol on the plates.

1-60 (k) A reference in law to license plates issued under
1-61 Subsection (b-1) includes disabled veteran license plates

2-1 described by Subsection (j)(4).

2-2 SECTION 3. Section 681.004(a), Transportation Code, is
2-3 amended to read as follows:

2-4 (a) A person with a permanent disability may receive:

2-5 (1) two disabled parking placards, if the person does
2-6 not receive a set of special license plates under Section 504.201;

2-7 (2) one disabled parking placard, if the person
2-8 receives a set of special license plates under Section 504.201; or

2-9 (3) two disabled parking placards, if the person
2-10 receives two sets of special license plates under Section
2-11 504.202(b-1) [~~504.202~~].

2-12 SECTION 4. Section 681.008(a), Transportation Code, is
2-13 amended to read as follows:

2-14 (a) A vehicle may be parked for an unlimited period in a
2-15 parking space or area that is designated specifically for persons
2-16 with physical disabilities if [~~the vehicle~~]:

2-17 (1) the vehicle [~~is being operated by or for the~~
2-18 ~~transportation of~~]:

2-19 (A) [~~the person who registered the vehicle under~~
2-20 ~~Section 504.202(a) or a person described by Section 504.202(b) if~~
2-21 ~~the vehicle is registered under that subsection; and~~

2-22 [~~(B)~~] displays special license plates issued
2-23 under Section 504.202(b-1) [~~504.202~~]; and

2-24 (B) is being operated by or for the
2-25 transportation of the person to whom the plates were issued; or

2-26 (2) the vehicle displays license plates issued by
2-27 another state of the United States that indicate on the face of the
2-28 license plates that the owner or operator of the vehicle is a
2-29 disabled veteran of the United States armed forces.

2-30 SECTION 5. Section 681.009(e), Transportation Code, is
2-31 amended to read as follows:

2-32 (e) Parking spaces or areas designated for the exclusive use
2-33 of vehicles transporting persons with disabilities may be used by
2-34 vehicles displaying a white on blue shield disabled parking
2-35 placard, license plates issued under Section 504.201 or
2-36 504.202(b-1) [~~504.202~~], or a white on red shield disabled parking
2-37 placard.

2-38 SECTION 6. Sections 681.011(a), (b), and (l),
2-39 Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:

2-40 (a) A person commits an offense if:

2-41 (1) the person stands a vehicle on which are displayed
2-42 license plates issued under Section 504.201 or 504.202(b-1)
2-43 [~~504.202~~] or a disabled parking placard in a parking space or area
2-44 designated specifically for persons with disabilities by:

2-45 (A) a political subdivision; or

2-46 (B) a person who owns or controls private
2-47 property used for parking as to which a political subdivision has
2-48 provided for the application of this section under Subsection (f);
2-49 and

2-50 (2) the standing of the vehicle in that parking space
2-51 or area is not authorized by Section 681.006, 681.007, or 681.008.

2-52 (b) A person commits an offense if the person stands a
2-53 vehicle on which license plates issued under Section 504.201 or
2-54 504.202(b-1) [~~504.202~~] are not displayed and a disabled parking
2-55 placard is not displayed in a parking space or area designated
2-56 specifically for individuals with disabilities by:

2-57 (1) a political subdivision; or

2-58 (2) a person who owns or controls private property
2-59 used for parking as to which a political subdivision has provided
2-60 for the application of this section under Subsection (f).

2-61 (l) A person commits an offense if the person:

2-62 (1) stands a vehicle on which are displayed license
2-63 plates issued under Section 504.201 or 504.202(b-1) or a disabled
2-64 parking placard in a parking space or area for which this chapter
2-65 creates an exemption from payment of a fee or penalty imposed by a
2-66 governmental unit;

2-67 (2) does not have a disability;

2-68 (3) is not transporting a person with disability; and

2-69 (4) does not pay any applicable fee related to

3-1 standing in the space or area imposed by a governmental unit or
3-2 exceeds a limitation on the length of time for standing in the space
3-3 or area.

3-4 SECTION 7. Not later than December 1, 2021, the Texas
3-5 Department of Motor Vehicles shall adopt rules for issuing
3-6 specialty license plates under Section 504.202(b-1),
3-7 Transportation Code, as added by this Act.

3-8 SECTION 8. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
3-9 an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An
3-10 offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed
3-11 by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed, and the
3-12 former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of
3-13 this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of
3-14 this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

3-15 SECTION 9. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this
3-16 section, this Act takes effect January 1, 2022.

3-17 (b) Section 7 of this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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