

House Bill 1176 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Martin of the 37th, Jones of the 38th, Powell of the 23rd, Chambers of the 53rd, and Millar of the 52nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Part 2 of Article 10 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to parking for persons with disabilities, so as to provide for parking permits for blind persons; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Part 2 of Article 10 of Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to parking for persons with disabilities, is amended by striking paragraph (5) of Code Section 40-6-221, relating to definitions, and inserting in its place the following:

"(5) 'Person with disabilities' means a person who:

(A) Is so ambulatorily disabled that he or she cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest;

(B) Cannot walk without the use of or assistance from a brace, a cane, a crutch, another person, a prosthetic device, a wheelchair, or other assistive device;

(C) Is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that his or her forced respiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or when at rest, his or her arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 millimeters of mercury on room air;

(D) Uses portable oxygen;

(E) Has a cardiac condition to the extent that his or her functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards set by the American Heart Association; ~~or~~

(F) Is severely limited in his or her ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition or complications due to pregnancy; or

(G) Is a blind individual whose central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses or whose visual acuity, if better than 20/200, is

1 accompanied by a limit to the field of vision in the better eye to such a degree that its
2 widest diameter subtends an angle of no greater than 20 degrees."

3 **SECTION 2.**

4 Said part is further amended by striking subsections (b) and (c) of Code Section 40-6-222,
5 relating to permits, and inserting in their place the following:

6 "(b) The department shall issue a temporary permit to any temporarily disabled person
7 upon presentation of an affidavit of a practitioner of the healing arts stating that such
8 person is a temporarily disabled person, the specific disability that limits or impairs the
9 person's ability to walk or that he or she is a person with disabilities as specified in
10 subparagraph (G) of paragraph (5) of Code Section 40-6-221, and a date until which such
11 person is likely to remain disabled. The temporary permit shall be predominantly red in
12 color and shall show prominently on its face an expiration date the same as the date
13 specified by the physician for the likely termination of the disability, which date shall not
14 be more than 180 days after the date the permit is issued. The expiration date shall be
15 printed in a size of print that is legible when the permit is hung from the rearview mirror
16 or displayed on the driver's side of the dashboard.

17 (c) The department shall issue a permanent permit to any person who is obviously
18 permanently disabled and to any other permanently disabled person upon presentation of
19 an affidavit of a practitioner of the healing arts stating that such person is a permanently
20 disabled person. The affidavit shall further state and the specific disability that limits or
21 impairs the person's ability to walk or that he or she is a person with disabilities as
22 specified in subparagraph (G) of paragraph (5) of Code Section 40-6-221. The department
23 shall also issue a permanent permit to an institution which operates vehicles used primarily
24 for the transportation of individuals with disabilities, upon presentation of a certification
25 from the institution regarding use of its vehicles. The institution shall receive permits only
26 for the number of vehicles so used and shall affix the permits to the driver's side of the
27 dashboards of such vehicles. The permanent permit shall be predominantly blue in color
28 and shall show prominently on its face an expiration date four years from the date it is
29 issued. The expiration date shall be printed in a size of print that is legible when the permit
30 is hung from the rearview mirror or displayed on the driver's side of the dashboard."

31 **SECTION 3.**

32 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.