

House Bill 961

By: Representatives Sims of the 169th and Lewis of the 15th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles, so
2 as to change certain provisions relating to special parking permits and license plates for
3 persons with disabilities; to provide for suspension of drivers' licenses upon conviction of
4 certain offenses related to such special parking permits and license plates; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles, is amended
9 in Code Section 40-2-74.1, relating to special parking permits for persons with disabilities,
10 by revising subsections (a), (b), and (c) as follows:

11 "(a) The department shall issue parking permits for persons with disabilities and may
12 delegate to county tag agents the responsibility for issuance of such permits to residents of
13 the county served by the tag agent. The department shall receive applications for and issue
14 parking permits by mail to persons with disabilities upon presentation of an affidavit of a
15 practitioner of the healing arts stating that such person is a disabled person, the specific
16 disability that limits or impairs the person's ability to walk, and that he or she is a person
17 with disabilities as specified in paragraph (5) of Code Section 40-6-221. Permits shall be
18 in such form as the department prescribes but shall be of sufficient size and sufficiently
19 distinctively marked to be easily visible when placed on or affixed to the driver's side of
20 the dashboard or hung from the rearview mirror of the parked vehicle. Permits shall be
21 made of plastic or heavyweight cardboard and shall be of sufficient quality to ensure that
22 the coloring of the permit and the ink used thereon will resist fading for a period of at least
23 four years. The front and back surfaces of the permit shall be laminated to prevent
24 alteration of the information printed underneath on the permit. Permits shall be issued to
25 individuals, and the name of the individual and an identification number shall appear on
26 the permit. The individual to whom a permit is issued may use the permit for any vehicle

1 he or she is operating or in which he or she is a passenger. Permits shall also be issued to
 2 institutions when the primary purpose of a vehicle operated by the institution is to transport
 3 individuals with disabilities. The name of the institution, the license number of the
 4 particular vehicle, and an identification number shall appear on the permit. The institution
 5 shall use such permit only for a vehicle which is operated by the institution and which is
 6 used primarily to transport individuals with disabilities.

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

20 (c) The department shall issue a permanent permit to any permanently disabled person
 21 upon presentation of an affidavit of a practitioner of the healing arts stating that such
 22 person is a permanently disabled person. The affidavit shall further state the specific
 23 disability that limits or impairs the person's ability to walk or that he or she is a person with
 24 disabilities as specified in ~~subparagraph (G)~~ of paragraph (5) of Code Section 40-6-221.
 25 The department shall also issue a permanent permit to an institution which operates
 26 vehicles used primarily for the transportation of individuals with disabilities upon
 27 presentation of a certification from the institution regarding use of its vehicles. The
 28 institution shall receive permits only for the number of vehicles so used and shall affix the
 29 permits to the driver's side of the dashboards of such vehicles. The permanent permit shall
 30 be predominantly blue in color and shall show prominently on its face an expiration date
 31 four years from the date it is issued. The expiration date shall be machine printed, not
 32 handwritten, in a boldface type of sufficient size of print that is to be legible when the
 33 permit is displayed on the driver's side of the dashboard or hung from the rearview mirror."

34 SECTION 2.

35 Said title is further amended in said Code Section 40-2-74.1 by adding a new subsection to
 36 read as follows:

