

The House Committee on Motor Vehicles offers the following substitute to HB 961:

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 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

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

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

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

6 (b) The department shall issue a temporary permit to any temporarily disabled person upon
 7 presentation of an affidavit of a ~~practitioner of the healing arts~~ licensed doctor of medicine,
 8 licensed doctor of osteopathic medicine, licensed doctor of podiatric medicine, or licensed
 9 optometrist stating that such person is a temporarily disabled person, the specific disability
 10 that limits or impairs the person's ability to walk, that he or she is a person with disabilities
 11 as specified in paragraph (5) of Code Section 40-6-221, and a date until which such person
 12 is likely to remain disabled. The temporary permit shall be predominantly red in color and
 13 shall show prominently on its face an expiration date the same as the date specified by ~~the~~
 14 ~~physician~~ such doctor for the likely termination of the disability, which date shall not be
 15 more than 180 days after the date the permit is issued. The expiration date shall be
 16 machine printed, not handwritten, in a boldface type of sufficient size of print that is to be
 17 legible when the permit is displayed on the driver's side of the dashboard or hung from the
 18 rearview mirror. (c) The department shall issue a permanent permit to any permanently
 19 disabled person upon presentation of an affidavit of a ~~practitioner of the healing arts~~
 20 licensed doctor of medicine, licensed doctor of osteopathic medicine, licensed doctor of
 21 podiatric medicine, or licensed optometrist stating that such person is a permanently
 22 disabled person. The affidavit shall further state the specific disability that limits or
 23 impairs the person's ability to walk or that he or she is a person with disabilities as
 24 specified in ~~subparagraph (G)~~ of paragraph (5) of Code Section 40-6-221. The department
 25 shall also issue a permanent permit to an institution which operates vehicles used primarily
 26 for the transportation of individuals with disabilities upon presentation of a certification
 27 from the institution regarding use of its vehicles. The institution shall receive permits only
 28 for the number of vehicles so used and shall affix the permits to the driver's side of the
 29 dashboards of such vehicles. The permanent permit shall vary in color from one period to
 30 the next renewal period but shall not be predominantly ~~blue~~ red in color and shall show
 31 prominently on its face an expiration date four years from the date it is issued. The
 32 expiration date shall be machine printed, not handwritten, in a boldface type of sufficient
 33 size of print that is to be legible when the permit is displayed on the driver's side of the
 34 dashboard or hung from the rearview mirror."

SECTION 2.

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

"(h) For purposes of this Code section, an active duty military physician shall be entitled to submit an affidavit in support of the application of active duty or retired military personnel for parking permits for persons with disabilities whether or not such physician is licensed to practice in Georgia. Such affidavit shall state that the applicant is in active military service and is stationed in Georgia pursuant to military orders or is retired from the military and is a resident of Georgia and that such person is a disabled person, the specific disability that limits or impairs the person's ability to walk, and that he or she is a person with disabilities as specified in paragraph (5) of Code Section 40-6-221."

SECTION 3.

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