

SENATE BILL 112

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2002 Regular Session
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(PRE-FILED)

By: **Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee (Departmental -
Transportation) and Senators Colburn, Ferguson, Forchard, and
Jacobs**

Requested: October 19, 2001
Introduced and read first time: January 9, 2002
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: January 18, 2002

CHAPTER 129

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Registration Plates and Parking Placards - Individuals with**
3 **Disabilities**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a medical certification for certain disabilities when an
5 applicant applies to the Motor Vehicle Administration for disability registration
6 plates or a parking placard; modifying the disabilities for which an applicant
7 may self-certify for purposes of obtaining disability plates or a parking placard;
8 and generally relating to disability plates and placards for individuals with
9 disabilities.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - Transportation
12 Section 13-616(b) and 13-616.1(a)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article - Transportation**

18 13-616.

19 (b) (1) The owner of any vehicle described in paragraph (3) of this subsection
20 may apply to the Administration for the assignment to that vehicle of a special

1 disability registration number and special disability registration plates, if a licensed
2 physician, licensed chiropractor, licensed optometrist, or licensed podiatrist certifies,
3 in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection, that the applicant, a dependent of
4 the applicant, or any individual who depends on the applicant for transportation:

5 (i) Has lung disease to such an extent that forced (respiratory)
6 expiratory volume for one second when measured by spirometry is less than one liter,
7 or arterial oxygen tension (P02) is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at rest;

8 (ii) Has cardiovascular disease limitations classified in severity as
9 Class III or Class IV according to standards accepted by the American Heart
10 Association;

11 (iii) Is unable to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest;

12 (iv) Is unable to walk without the use of, or assistance from, a brace,
13 cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, or other assistive device;

14 (v) Requires a wheelchair for mobility;

15 (vi) Has lost[, or lost the use of,] a foot [or], leg, HAND, OR ARM;

16 (vii) Has [lost, or lost the use of, an arm or a hand] LOST THE USE
17 OF A FOOT, LEG, HAND, OR ARM;

18 (viii) Has a permanent impairment of both eyes so that:

19 1. The central visual acuity is 20/200 or less in the better eye,
20 with corrective glasses; or

21 2. There is a field defect in which the peripheral field has
22 contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an
23 angular distance no greater than 20 degrees in the better eye; or

24 (ix) Has a permanent disability which is so severe that the person
25 would endure a hardship or be subject to a risk of injury if the privileges accorded a
26 person for whom a vehicle is specially registered under this section were denied.

27 (2) For the purposes of this section, the qualifying disabilities specified
28 in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be certified as follows:

29 (i) A licensed physician may certify conditions specified in
30 paragraph (1)(i) through (ix) of this subsection;

31 (ii) A licensed chiropractor or a licensed podiatrist may certify
32 conditions specified in paragraph (1)(iii) through (vii) and (ix) of this subsection;

33 (iii) A licensed optometrist may certify the condition specified in
34 paragraph (1)(viii) of this subsection; and

1 (iv) Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (1) of this
2 subsection, the applicant may self-certify conditions specified in paragraph (1)(vi)
3 [and (vii)] of this subsection by appearing in person with proper identification at a
4 full-service Motor Vehicle Administration office during normal business hours.

5 (3) This section applies only to:

6 (i) A Class A (passenger) vehicle;

7 (ii) A Class D (motorcycle) vehicle;

8 (iii) A Class M (multipurpose) vehicle;

9 (iv) A Class E (truck) vehicle with a one ton or less manufacturer's
10 rated capacity; or

11 (v) A Class H, I, or J vehicle that is specially equipped for the
12 transportation of individuals with disabilities and is used exclusively for the
13 transportation of individuals with disabilities.

14 13-616.1.

15 (a) A person may apply to the Administration for a parking placard on a form
16 provided by the Administration if the applicant, a dependant of the applicant, or any
17 individual who depends on the applicant for transportation:

18 (1) Has a permanent disability as described in § 13-616(b)(1) of this
19 subtitle and as certified by a licensed physician, licensed chiropractor, licensed
20 optometrist, or licensed podiatrist, as defined in § 13-616(a) of this subtitle; or

21 (2) Has a permanent disability as described in § 13-616(b)(1)(vi) [or
22 (vii)] of this subtitle and as self-certified as provided by § 13-616(b)(2)(iv) of this
23 subtitle.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
25 effect October 1, 2002.