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By: **Senators DeGrange, Green, Haines, Jacobs, Jimeno, and Mooney**  
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2004  
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Parking for Individuals with Disabilities**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force on Parking for Individuals with  
4 Disabilities; providing for the chairman of the Task Force; providing for the  
5 membership and duties of the Task Force; providing for the staffing of the Task  
6 Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain  
7 compensation; authorizing a member of the Task Force to receive  
8 reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to report to the  
9 General Assembly by a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act;  
10 and generally relating to the establishment of a Task Force on Parking for  
11 Individuals with Disabilities.

12 **Preamble**

13 WHEREAS, Governmental bodies, agencies, and commissions and citizens  
14 throughout the State have expressed concerns about the process for obtaining parking  
15 placards or special registration plates for individuals with disabilities and the  
16 potential for abuse within that process; and

17 WHEREAS, The increasing number of applications for parking placards and  
18 special registration plates for individuals with disabilities has made it increasingly  
19 difficult for the Motor Vehicle Administration to effectively and efficiently process  
20 those applications; and

21 WHEREAS, Misinformation and a lack of empathy may contribute to abuse of  
22 the privileges conferred by parking placards and special registration plates for  
23 individuals with disabilities and to misuse of parking spaces designated for the use of  
24 individuals; now, therefore,

25 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
26 MARYLAND, That:

27 (a) There is a Task Force on Parking for Individuals with Disabilities.

28 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

1 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President  
2 of the Senate;

3 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
4 the House;

5 (3) the Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Officer of the  
6 Department of Transportation, or the Compliance Officer's designee;

7 (4) the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator of the Maryland  
8 Department of Aging, or the Coordinator's designee;

9 (5) the Compliance, Enforcement, and Training Manager of the  
10 Maryland Codes Administration, or the Manager's designee;

11 (6) the Commander of Automotive Safety of the Department of State  
12 Police, or the Commander's designee;

13 (7) the Director of the Office for Individuals with Disabilities, or the  
14 Director's designee;

15 (8) the Motor Vehicle Administrator, or the Administrator's designee;

16 (9) a representative of each county of the State; and

17 (10) a representative of the Maryland Retailers' Association.

18 (c) The Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Officer of the Department  
19 of Transportation, or the Compliance Officer's designee, shall be chairman of the Task  
20 Force.

21 (d) The Task Force shall:

22 (1) study current laws regarding parking privileges for individuals with  
23 disabilities, with a focus on laws governing parking spaces designated for Class M  
24 (multipurpose) vehicles and for the use of individuals with disabilities; and

25 (2) make specific recommendations, including developing draft  
26 legislation and regulations, on issues relating to parking placards and special  
27 registration plates for individuals with disabilities and parking spaces designated for  
28 use by individuals with disabilities.

29 (e) The Department of Transportation shall provide staffing for the Task  
30 Force.

31 (f) A member of the Task Force:

32 (1) may not receive compensation for serving on the Task Force; but

33 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
34 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

1 (g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
2 General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on or  
3 before December 31, 2004.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
5 effect June 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end  
6 of December 31, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this  
7 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.