Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Quezon City

18th Congress First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3503



Introduced by: HON. LORNA C. SILVERIO

AN ACT MANDATING THE PROVISION OF EXCLUSIVE PARKING SPACE FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS AND PENALIZING THE UNAUTHORIZED USE THEREOF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Handicapped persons are part of the Philippine society, thus, the State shall give full support to the improvement of the total well-being of handicapped persons, uplift their way of life and their integration into the mainstream of society.

In 1983, the Accessibility Law or Batas Pambansa Blg. 344 was enacted to enhance the mobility of disabled persons and require establishments to install facilities and devices for the disabled. However, this law merely requires, in Section 1 thereof, that establishments reserve sufficient and suitable space for use of disabled persons. Similarly, Republic Act No. 7277, the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons, simply states, in Section 25 thereof, that the State ''shall ensure the attainment of a barrier-free environment for disabled persons in accordance with the Accessibility Law.''

In the absence of clear penalties for the unauthorized use and obstruction of such designated spaces, we see and encounter drivers who shamelessly and deliberately occupy the space provided for the disabled people.

This bill seeks to give guaranteed parking spaces for PWDs/Handicapped persons in public places, set the guidelines on who can utilize such exclusive areas, and penalize those who obstruct their accessibility routes.

For the foregoing reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

Serva lo. Muns

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress Assembled:

- SEC 1. Short Title.- This Act shall be known as the "Parking Space for Handicapped Persons Act."
- SEC 2. Declaration of Policy Persons with disabilities are Filipino citizens and are part of society, thus, the State shall give full support to the improvement of the well being of handicapped persons and uplift their way of life. The State shall adopt policies ensuring self reliance of handicapped persons.
- SEC 3. Exclusive Parking Space for Handicapped Persons Each lot or parking structure where at least twenty five (25) parking spaces are provided for the public as guests, clients, or employees shall provide at least one exclusive and designated parking space for persons with diasabilities. Parking spaces for handicapped persons serving a particular building shall be located on the shortest accessible route of travel from adjacent parking to an accessible entrance. In parking facilities that do not serve a particular building, handicapped persons parking shall be located on the shortest accessible route of travel to an accessible pedestrian entrance of the parking facility. In buildings with multiple accessible entrances with adjacent parking, handicapped persons parking spaces shall be dispersed and located closest to the entrances.

The designation shall be made by posting a sign as described in paragraph one (1), and by either of the markings described in paragraph two (2) or three (3):

- (1.) By posting immediately adjacent to, and visible from, each stall or space, a sign consisting of a profile view of a wheelchair with occupant in white on a blue background. The sign shall also clearly and conspicously state the following "Minimum Fine Php 10,000.00".
- (2.) By outlining or painting the stall or space in blue and outlining on the ground in the stall or space in white or suitable contrasting color a profile view depicting a wheelchair with occupant. The loading and unloading area of the pavement adjacent to a parking stall or space designated for handicapped persons shall be

marked by a border and hatched lines. The border shall be painted in blue and the hatched lines shall be painted a suitable contrasting color to the parking space. Blue or white paint is preferred. In addition, within the border the words "No Parking" shall be painted in white letters no less than 12 inches high.

(3.) By outlining a profile view of a wheelchair with occupant in white on a blue background, of the same dimensions as in paragraph two (2). The profile view shall be located so that it is visible to a traffice enforcement officer when a vehicle is properly parked in the space.

Whenever practicable, a closed-circuit television camera shall be installed with an unobstructed view of the handicapped parking space.

SEC 4. Conditions for use - Only vehicles that display government issued handicapped parking placards may park in spaces marked reserved for the handicapped. These placards are issued only to people whose disabilities impair or limit their ability to walk. Further, vehicles with handicapped-parking tags can park in spots reserved for the handicapped only if the handicapped person is the driver or a passenger in the car. In other words, a vehicle with only able-bodied people inside cannot park in such reserved spot even if the vehicle has a handicap tag. Handicapped-parking privileges are given to a person, not a vehicl, and handicap tags merely signify that a disabled person is using a particular vehicle.

For purposes of this Act, a handicapped person is an individual who has impaired mobility such as arm, leg, foot, or hand amputee, ambulant disabled, wheelchair-bound, or has a condition rendering him or her similarly disabled as certified by a physician such as a heart or lung disease, a hearing or visual impairment, or any ailment that prohibits him or her from being able to walk a distance of two hundred (200) feet without stopping to rest.

SEC 5. Handicapped-parking Placards – Pursuant to the preceding paragraph, the Persons with Disability Affairs Office of every local government unit shall issue, following the guidelines issued in accordance with this Act, a permanent or temporary handicapped-parking placards to handicapped persons. A permanent handicapped-parking placard shall be issued only to persons with a permanent mobility disability as certified by a physician. A permanent permit shall be renewable every five years. A temporary handicapped-parking placard shall be issued to handicapped persons with temporary disability. Upon application, the handicapped person shall attach a certification form from a physician of the particular diasability and the expected length of time of disability. A temporary handicapped-parking placard is valid for no more than one year at a time.

The handicapped-parking placard shall be prominently displayed in the dashboard of the vehicle or hung from the rear view mirror while parked in handicapped-parking spaces.

SEC 6. Violations -

- (1.) Any person parking in a space reserved for handicapped persons who does not have a handicapped parking placard shall pay a minimum fine of ten thousand pesos (Php 10,000.00) to a maximum of forty thousand pesos (Php 40,000.00).
- (2.) A handicapped person who allows a non-handicapped person to use his or her handicapped parking placard shall pay a minimum fine of ten thousand pesos (Php

10,000.00) to a maximum of forty thousand pesos (Php 40,000.00) and have his handicapped-parking privileges revoked.

- (3.) Any person obstructing the access points of handicapped persons to the designated handicapped parking spaces such as the hatched lines and the access ramps shall pay a minimum fine of ten thousand pesos (Php 10,000.00) to a maximum of Forty thousand pesos (Php 40,000.00) and have his or her driver's license suspended for not more than six months.
- (4.) Any person fraudulently obtaining a handicapped parking placard, altering a placard, or using a counterfeit placard shall suffer an imprisonment of not more than six months or a fine ranging from forty thousand pesos (Php 40,000.00) to two hundred thousand pesos (Php 200,000.00), or both.
- (5.) Any establishment covered under Section 3 of this Act who fails to provide the required handicapped parking space shall pay a fine of two hundred thousand pesos (Php 200,000.00).
- SEC 7. Crowdsourcing Within six (6) months from the date of effectivity of this Act, the Department of Transportation shall develop a system whereby citizens can report violations of this Act, substantiated with photographic or video electronic eveidence, through an online secure government portal.
- SEC 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations Within six (6) months from the date of effectivity of this Act, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Health, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the National Council on Disability Affairs, and the Metro Manila Development Authority shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.
- SEC 9. Separability Clause If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.
- SEC 10. Repealing Clause All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, presidential proclamations, letters of instruction, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
- SEC 11. Effectivity This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,

Suna lo. Vilvino