

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Deckert, George L., Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/21, 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires designation of at least one disabled parking space as “wheelchair only” in parking lots with more than 100 total spaces. Requires one in eight accessible spaces to be designated for wheelchair users in parking lots with more than 500 spaces. Requires these spaces to have a sign that indicates wheelchair-user only. Requires that these wheelchair-only spaces be so designated and marked only when a parking lot is constructed or repainted. Requires the Department of Transportation to issue wheelchair-only parking placards or decals to qualifying persons and to determine by rule how a person may qualify. Requires display of the new placard to park in a wheelchair-only parking space. Adds parking in the designated space by a person without a wheelchair placard to unlawful parking in a space reserved for disabled persons. Applies the fines that apply to unlawful parking in a space reserved for disabled persons. Permits, but does not require, local governments to allow free and unlimited parking at parking meters within their jurisdictions to persons with standard disabled parking placards.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Necessity for additional parking space width in parking lots to accommodate side-loading wheelchairs
- Remaining van accessible disabled parking spots available to non-wheelchair users
- No additional disabled space designations required
- Access as the primary reason for the placards
- Proliferation of disabled parking placards and use at paid parking meters
- Local authority over parking meter payment for placard holders under the measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Allows, but does not require, local governments to offer free and/or unlimited parking within their jurisdictions to persons with standard disabled parking placards. Ties the new wheelchair placard to drivers license or ID card and makes expiration dates the same.

BACKGROUND: Current Oregon law requires owners of buildings that provide parking to designate and uniformly mark and sign certain numbers of parking spaces for use by disabled persons that hold disabled parking placards. The requirements are in state building codes and statutes. The number of required spaces ranges from one, for parking lots with up to 25 spaces, to nine for parking lots with 400-500 total spaces, and a specified formula for larger lots. The current statute also requires that one in every eight disabled parking spaces be at least nine feet wide with an adjacent eight-foot aisle to accommodate vans. Under the current requirements, the designated “van-only” spots may all be taken by disabled persons that do not need the additional side aisle. Wheelchair users usually do require the additional space to unload their chairs from a side door. A normal disabled parking spot without the side aisle may be close to the entrance but may not allow the wheelchair user to exit his or her vehicle. Senate Bill 716-A would require the currently designated van-accessible space to be set aside and signed for wheelchair users only in lots where five or more disabled parking spots are required. For parking lots with more than 500 total spaces, the measure requires one in every eight disabled spaces be for wheelchair users only.

At metered parking, current law requires local parking authorities to allow free and unlimited parking for vehicles legally displaying disabled parking placards. Senate Bill 716-A continues this requirement for holders of wheelchair-only placards. It allows, but does not require, local parking authorities to allow free and unlimited parking at meters for holders of other types of disabled placards.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.