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43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

GARY K. KING

AN ACT

RELATING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES; CREATING A PLACARD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING VOLUNTEER ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS; CHANGING CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATED TO DESIGNATED DISABLED PARKING; INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR PARKING IN A DESIGNATED DISABLED PARKING SPACE ILLEGALLY; AMENDING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE. -- Sections 1 through 4 of this act may be cited as the "Placard Act".

Section 2. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITION. -- As used in the Placard Act, "parking placard" means a display device issued by the taxation and revenue department that indicates that the driver or passenger of a motor vehicle has a severe mobility impairment that allows him to park in a designated disabled

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parking space.

Section 3. [NEW MATERIAL] PROGRAM CREATED. -- The "placard abuse prevention program" is created in the governor's committee on concerns of the handicapped. The program shall:

- A. monitor the system of eligibility and use of parking placards to identify barriers to the goal of providing safe and close parking for persons with severe mobility impairments;
- B. provide training and public awareness to address the barriers to safe and close parking for persons with severe mobility impairments;
- C. pursue revocation of parking placards held by persons who appear to be ineligible or permit misuse of their parking placards;
- D. contract with advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities to conduct the activities described in Subsections A through C of this section and to make recommendations for improvements in governing statutes or operating policies of entities involved with the parking placard issuance and parking enforcement systems; and
- E. provide technical assistance and training to law enforcement agencies regarding implementation of a volunteer enforcement program.
- Section 4. [NEW MATERIAL] VOLUNTEER ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

 AUTHORIZED. -

A. A law enforcement agency authorized to enforce parking statutes or ordinances may appoint placard abuse volunteers to issue citations for violations of Sections 66-3-16.1 and 66-7-352.5 NMSA 1978 and any local parking ordinances that make parking in a designated disabled parking space illegal. Volunteers appointed pursuant to this subsection shall be at least twenty-one years of age. The law enforcement agency appointing the placard abuse prevention volunteers may establish any other qualifications the agency deems necessary.

- B. A law enforcement agency appointing placard abuse volunteers pursuant to this section shall provide training to the placard abuse prevention volunteers before authorizing them to issue citations.
- C. A citation issued by a placard abuse prevention volunteer pursuant to this section shall have the same effect as a citation issued by a police officer for the same offense.
- Section 5. Section 3-51-46 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 22, Section 3) is amended to read:

"3-51-46. PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE OF DISABLED PERSON-PARKING PRIVILEGE. -- Passenger motor vehicles owned by disabled
persons and carrying special registration plates or passenger
motor vehicles carrying disabled persons with parking placards
issued pursuant to Section [64-3-12.3 NMSA 1953] 66-3-16 NMSA
1978 shall be permitted to park for unlimited periods of time in
parking zones restricted as to length of time parking is

normally permitted and are exempt from payment of any parking meter or parking authorization fee of the state or its political subdivisions. The provisions of this section shall prevail over any other law, regulation or local ordinance but do not apply to zones where stopping, standing or parking is prohibited, zones reserved for special types of vehicles, zones where parking is prohibited during certain hours of the day in order to facilitate traffic during those hours when parking is prohibited and zones subject to similar regulation because parking presents a traffic hazard."

Section 6. Section 66-1-4.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990, Chapter 120, Section 2) is amended to read:

"66-1-4.1. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Motor Vehicle Code:

A. "abandoned vehicle" means a vehicle or motor vehicle that has been determined by a New Mexico law enforcement agency:

- (1) to have been left unattended on either public or private property for at least thirty days;
 - (2) not to have been reported stolen;
- (3) not to have been claimed by any person asserting ownership; and
- (4) not to have been shown by normal record checking procedures to be owned by any person;
 - B. "access aisle" means an accessible pedestrian

space of at least sixty inches in width that allows side access
the length of its adjacent designated disabled parking space and
marked with blue striping; provided that van-accessible access
aisles shall be at least ninety-six inches in width;

[B.-] C. "additional place of business", for dealers and wreckers of vehicles, means locations in addition to an established place of business as defined in Section 66-1-4.5 NMSA 1978 and meeting all the requirements of an established place of business, except Paragraph (5) of Subsection B of Section 66-1-4.5 NMSA 1978, but "additional place of business" does not mean a location used solely for storage and that is not used for wrecking, dismantling, sale or resale of vehicles;

[6.] D. "alcoholic beverages" means any and all distilled or rectified spirits, potable alcohol, brandy, whiskey, rum, gin, aromatic bitters or any similar alcoholic beverage, including all blended or fermented beverages, dilutions or mixtures of one or more of the foregoing containing more than one-half of one percent alcohol but excluding medicinal bitters; and

[D.] E. "authorized emergency vehicle" means any fire department vehicle, police vehicle, ambulance and any emergency vehicles of municipal departments or public utilities that are designated or authorized as emergency vehicles by the director of the New Mexico state police division of the department of public safety or local authorities."

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Section 7. Section 66-1-4.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990, Chapter 120, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-1-4.4. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Motor Vehicle Code:

- A. "day" means calendar day, unless otherwise provided in the Motor Vehicle Code;
- B. "dealer", except as herein specifically excluded, means any person who sells or solicits or advertises the sale of new or used motor vehicles, manufactured homes or trailers subject to registration in this state; "dealer" does not include:
- (1) receivers, trustees, administrators, executors, guardians or other persons appointed by or acting under judgment, decree or order of any court;
- (2) public officers while performing their duties as such officers;
- (3) persons making casual sales of their own vehicles;
- (4) finance companies, banks and other lending institutions making sales of repossessed vehicles; or
- (5) licensed brokers under the Manufactured Housing Act who, for a fee, commission or other valuable consideration, engage in brokerage activities related to the sale, exchange or lease purchase of pre-owned manufactured homes on a site installed for a consumer;

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- C. "declared gross weight" means the maximum gross vehicle weight or combination gross vehicle weight at which a vehicle or combination will be operated during the registration period, as declared by the registrant for registration and fee purposes; the vehicle or combination shall have only one declared gross weight for all operating considerations;
- D. "department" means the taxation and revenue department, the secretary of taxation and revenue or any employee of the department exercising authority lawfully delegated to that employee by the secretary;
- E. "designated disabled parking space" means any space marked and reserved for the parking of a passenger vehicle that carries registration plates or a placard indicating disability in accordance with Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978; such a place shall be designated by a conspicuously posted sign bearing the international disabled symbol of a wheelchair [or] and by a clearly visible depiction of this symbol painted on the pavement of the space, and an access aisle adjacent to the space; provided that two designated disabled parking spaces may share a common access aisle;
 - F. "director" means the secretary;
- G. "disqualification" means a prohibition against driving a commercial motor vehicle;
- H. "distinguishing number" means the number assigned by the department to a vehicle whose identifying number has been

destroyed or obliterated or the number assigned by the department to a vehicle that has never had an identifying number;

- I. "distributor" means any person who distributes or sells new or used motor vehicles to dealers and who is not a manufacturer;
- J. "division", without further specification,

 "division of motor vehicles" or "motor vehicle division" means
 the department;
- K. "driver" means every person who drives or is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle, including a motorcycle, upon a highway, who is exercising control over or steering a vehicle being towed by a motor vehicle or who operates or is in actual physical control of an off-highway motor vehicle;
- L. "driver's license" means a license or a class of license issued by a state or other jurisdiction to an individual that authorizes the individual to drive a motor vehicle; and
- M "driveaway-towaway operation" means any operation in which any motor vehicle, new or used, is the item being transported when one set or more of wheels of any such motor vehicle is on the roadway during the course of transportation, whether or not the motor vehicle furnishes the motive power."
- Section 8. Section 66-1-4.14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990, Chapter 120, Section 15, as amended) is amended to read:

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"66-1-4.14. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Motor Vehicle Code:

- A. "park" or "parking" means the standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, other than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading and unloading;
- B. "parking lot" means a parking area [containing fifteen or more parking spaces] provided for the [free] use of patrons of any office of state or local government or of any public accommodation, retail or commercial establishment;
- C. "parts car" means a motor vehicle generally in nonoperable condition that is owned by a collector to furnish parts that are usually nonobtainable from normal sources, thus enabling a collector to preserve, restore and maintain a motor vehicle of historic or special interest;
 - D. "pedestrian" means any natural person on foot;
- E. "person" means every natural person, firm, copartnership, association, corporation or other legal entity;
- F. "personal information" means information that identifies an individual, including an individual's photograph, social security number, driver identification number, name, address other than zip code, telephone number and medical or disability information, but "personal information" does not include information on vehicles, vehicle ownership, vehicular accidents, driving violations or driver status;
 - G. "pneumatic tire" means every tire in which

compressed air is designed to support the load;

H. "pole trailer" means any vehicle without motive power, designed to be drawn by another vehicle and attached to the towing vehicle by means of a reach or pole or by being boomed or otherwise secured to the towing vehicle and ordinarily used for transporting long or irregularly shaped loads such as poles, structures, pipes and structural members capable, generally, of sustaining themselves as beams between the supporting connections;

- I. "police or peace officer" means every officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of the Motor Vehicle Code;
- J. "private road or driveway" means every way or place in private ownership used for vehicular travel by the owner and those having express or implied permission from the owner, but not other persons; and
- K. "property owner" means the owner of a piece of land or the agent of that property owner."

Section 9. Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Chapter 35, Section 36, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-3-16. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES--DISABLED
PERSONS--[DISPLAY DEVICE] PARKING PLACARDS. --

A. The division shall issue distinctive registration plates to any disabled person who so requests and who proves satisfactorily to the division that he has suffered the loss, or

the complete and total loss of use of, one or both legs at or above the ankle or of one or both arms at or above the wrist for use on motor vehicles owned by the person. No fee in addition to the regular registration fee, if any, applicable to the motor vehicle shall be collected for issuance of special registration plates pursuant to this section.

- B. No person shall falsely represent himself to be disabled <u>so</u> as to be eligible to be issued special registration plates or [display devices] a parking placard pursuant to this section when he is in fact not disabled.
- <u>C.</u> Upon notice and opportunity to be heard, scheduled within forty-five days of a complaint filed by the governor's committee on concerns of the handicapped or another concerned person, the division may revoke and demand return of any placard when it is found that:
- (1) it was issued in error or with false information;
- (2) the person receiving the placard is no longer eligible; or
- (3) the placard is being used by ineligible persons.
- [C.] D. Upon written application to the division accompanied by a medical statement by a licensed physician attesting to the disability, a resident of the state who has a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk, as

provided in Subsection [6] \underline{H} of this section, may apply for and
be granted the issuance of a placard for display upon a motor
vehicle registered to him or motor vehicle owned by another
person who is transporting him. The director may charge a
reasonable fee to cover the cost of the placard and of its
issuance. The fee shall be retained by the division and shall
be appropriated to the division for expenditures incurred in the
implementation of the placard replacement program. $\underline{\text{The}}$
application shall provide for a certification of permanence of
the mobility impairment that, if indicated by the signing
physician, shall preclude the necessity of subsequent medical
certifications on renewals. The application for a parking
placard shall be deemed to be a waiver of the doctor-patient
privilege of confidentiality to the minimum extent necessary to
verify the information contained in the application, and the
application shall advise the applicant of this waiver.

- [D.] E. A parking placard issued pursuant to this section shall expire [in no more than two years] on the same date that the holder's driver's license or identification card expires.
- $[\underline{E}.]$ $\underline{F}.$ The division shall issue two-sided hanger-style parking placards with the following characteristics:
- $\hbox{ (1) the international symbol of access shall be} \\$ displayed on both sides of the $\underline{parking}$ placard and shall be at

least three inches in height, centered on the <u>parking</u> placard and white on a blue [<u>shield</u>] <u>field</u>;

- (2) [an identification number enabling the division to identify] an indelible imprinting of the driver's license or identification card number of the holder of each parking placard. The division shall maintain this information including permanence of the mobility impairment, in a readily retrievable format in the same database as used for recording driver's license information and make it available on demand to any law enforcement agency or the governor's committee on concerns of the handicapped;
 - (3) the date of expiration; and
- (4) the division seal or other identification of the issuing authority.

[F.] G. Upon written application to the division accompanied by a medical statement from a licensed physician attesting to a temporary disability, a person, whether resident or nonresident, who has a temporary disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk may be issued a temporary parking placard, which shall be distinguishable in color and in appearance from parking placards valid for [two] four years. The medical statement shall include the period of time that the physician determines the applicant will have the disability. A temporary parking placard issued pursuant to this section shall be valid no more than six months.

1	[G.] <u>H.</u> For the purpose of obtaining a <u>parking</u>
2	placard, a person with a "disability that limits or impairs the
3	ability to walk" means the person:
4	(1) cannot walk one hundred feet without
5	stopping to rest;
6	(2) cannot walk without the use of a brace, a
7	cane, a crutch, another person, a prosthetic device, a
8	wheelchair or another assistive device;
9	(3) is restricted by lung disease to such an
10	extent that the person's forced respiratory volume, when
11	exhaling for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less
12	than one liter or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty
13	millimeters on room air at rest;
14	(4) uses portable oxygen;
15	(5) has a severe cardiac condition; or
16	(6) is so severely limited in his ability to
17	walk due to an arthritic, neurologic or orthopedic condition
18	that the person cannot ascend or descend more than ten stair
19	steps.
20	[II.] <u>I.</u> Special registration plates or <u>parking</u>
21	placards issued to the disabled person by another state or
22	foreign jurisdiction shall be granted reciprocity while the
23	vehicle [and disabled operator are] <u>or parking placard holder is</u>
24	in this state. [for a period not to exceed thirty days
	I. l J. All parking placards shall be issued in

issued in

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accordance with this section beginning on July 1, [1995] 1997.

All placards issued prior to July 1, 1995 [shall expire on July 1, 1996] are void."

Section 10. Section 66-3-16.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 129, Section 2) is amended to read:

"66-3-16.1. PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION--<u>FALSE USE OF</u>

<u>PLACARD</u>--PENALTY--<u>PLACARD CONFISCATED</u>.--

A. Any person who provides false information in order to acquire, or who assists an unqualified person in acquiring, a special registration plate or [special] parking placard as provided in Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section [31-19-1] 66-8-7 NMSA 1978.

B. A person who uses a parking placard to park in a designated disabled parking space and is neither the holder of the parking placard nor assisting in the transportation of the holder is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 66-8-7 NMSA 1978. When a law enforcement officer finds that a person is using a parking placard that does not belong to him or his passenger, the officer may confiscate the placard. The law enforcement agency shall return the parking placard to the division. The division shall hold the parking placard until it receives a written request for its return from the parking placard holder. The division shall retain a record of the identification numbers of

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confiscated parking placards. Failure to surrender the parking placard on demand of a law enforcement officer is a petty misdemeanor and punishable by a fine not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300)."

Section 11. Section 66-5-408 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Chapter 35, Section 335, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-5-408. FEES. - -

A. Upon application for an identification card, there shall be paid to the division a fee of five dollars (\$5.00), but no fee shall be charged to an applicant for an identification card if the applicant is at least seventy-five years of age or eligible for a registration plate or parking placard pursuant to Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978

B. The department with the approval of the governor may increase the amount of the identification card fee by an amount not to exceed three dollars (\$3.00) for the purpose of implementing an enhanced licensing system. The additional amounts collected pursuant to this subsection are appropriated to the division to defray the expense of the new system of licensing."

Section 12. Section 66-7-352.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1983, Chapter 45, Section 4) is amended to read:

"66-7-352. 4. PARKING LOTS--STANDARDS. --

A. Every parking lot coming under the provisions of the Disabled Parking Standards and Enforcement Act shall have

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designated disabled parking spaces, including access aisles, as provided in Subsection B of this section [provided that an office of state or local government shall have a minimum of one such parking space]. No building permit shall be issued by the state or any local government for the construction or substantial renovation of a commercial building inviting public access unless the parking lot has designated disabled parking spaces as delineated in Subsection B of this section.

The minimum numbers of designated disabled parking spaces are as follows:

TOTAL SPACES IN PARKING LOT MINIMUM DESIGNATED

DI SABLED

	PARKING SPACES
[0 to 14	$oldsymbol{ heta}$
15] <u>1</u> to 25	1
26 to 35	2
36 to 50	3
51 to 100	4
101 to 300	8
301 to 500	12
501 to 800	16
801 to 1,000	20
more than 1,000	20, plus [3] <u>1</u>
	for each
	addi ti onal

[1,000] <u>100</u>.

The designated disabled parking spaces shall be located so as to provide the most convenient access to entranceways or to the nearest curb cut. One of every eight designated disabled parking spaces, but not less than one, shall be designated as van accessible."

Section 13. Section 66-7-352.5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1983, Chapter 45, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-7-352.5. UNAUTHORIZED USE--PENALTY.--[A.] It is unlawful for any person to park a motor vehicle not carrying special registration plates or a parking placard indicating disability in accordance with Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 in a designated disabled parking space [or blocking a curb cut]. It is unlawful for any person to park a vehicle with or without a special registration plate or parking placard in a position that blocks a curb cut or access aisle. Any person who violates this subsection is subject to a [fifty-dollar (\$50.00)] three hundred dollar (\$300) fine and the vehicle may be towed at the owner's expense.

[B. A person charged with a violation of Subsection A of this section shall not be determined to have committed an infraction if he produces in court special disabled registration plates or a placard indicating disability in accordance with Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 or demonstrates he was entitled to such at the time of the violation.]"

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Section 14. APPROPRIATIONTwo hundred thousand dollars
(\$200,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
governor's committee on concerns of the handicapped for
expenditure in fiscal year 1998 to implement the provisions of
the Placard Abuse Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance
remaining at the end of fiscal year 1998 shall revert to the
general fund.

Section 15. EFFECTIVE DATE. -- The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 1998.

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Underscored material = new [bracketed material] = delete

State of New Mexico House of Representatives

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1997

February 27, 1997

7 Mr. Speaker:

Your **CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**, to whom has been referred

HOUSE BILLS 933, 31 & 557

has had them under consideration and reports same with recommendation that they **DO NOT PASS**, but that

HOUSE CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILLS 933, 31 & 557

DO PASS, and thence referred to the **JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.**

Underscored material = new [bracketed material] = delete

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1997

Page 21 Respectfully submitted, Gary King, Chairman Adopted ______ Not Adopted _____ (Chief Clerk) (Chief Clerk) Date _____ The roll call vote was 7 For 0 Against Yes: 7 Excused: Rios, Sandel, Vigil Absent: None M: \H0933

HOUSE CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILLS 933. 31 & 557

43rd Legislature - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - First Session, 1997

AN ACT

RELATING TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: CREATING A PLACARD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM: AUTHORIZING VOLUNTEER ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS; CHANGING CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATED TO DESIGNATED DISABLED PARKING: INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR PARKING IN A DESIGNATED DISABLED PARKING SPACE ILLEGALLY; AMENDING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

[NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE. -- Sections 1 through Section 1. 4 of this act may be cited as the "Placard Act".

[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITION. -- As used in the Section 2. Placard Act, "parking placard" means a display device issued by the taxation and revenue department that indicates that the driver or passenger of a motor vehicle has a severe mobility impairment as defined in Subsection H of Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 that allows him to park in a designated disabled parking space.

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Section 3. [NEW MATERIAL] PROGRAM CREATEDThe "placard
abuse prevention program" is created in the governor's committee
on concerns of the handicapped. The program shall:
A. monitor the system of eligibility and use of
parking placards to identify barriers to the goal of providing
safe and close parking for persons with severe mobility
impairments;
B. provide training and public awareness to address
the barriers to safe and close parking for persons with severe
mobility impairments;
C. pursue revocation of parking placards held by
persons who appear to be ineligible or permit misuse of their
parking placards;
D. contract with advocates for the rights of persons
with disabilities to conduct the activities described in
Subsections A through C of this section and to make
recommendations for improvements in governing statutes or
operating policies of entities involved with the parking placard
issuance and parking enforcement systems; and
E. provide technical assistance and training to law
enforcement agencies regarding implementation of a volunteer
enforcement program.
Section 4. [NEW MATERIAL] VOLUNTEER ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS
AUTHORI ZED
A. A law enforcement agency authorized to enforce
parking statutes or ordinances may appoint placard abuse
volunteers to issue citations for violations of Sections

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66-3-16.1 and 66-7-352.5 NMSA 1978 and any local parking

ordinances that make parking in a designated disabled parking space illegal. Volunteers appointed pursuant to this subsection shall be at least twenty-one years of age. The law enforcement agency appointing the placard abuse prevention volunteers may establish any other qualifications the agency deems necessary.

- B. A law enforcement agency appointing placard abuse volunteers pursuant to this section shall provide training to the placard abuse prevention volunteers before authorizing them to issue citations.
- C. A citation issued by a placard abuse prevention volunteer pursuant to this section shall have the same effect as a citation issued by a police officer for the same offense.
- Section 5. A new section of the Motor Vehicle Code is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] NURSING HOME PLACARDS--DEPOSITS--MISDEMEANOR
PENALTIES. --

A. Upon application to the division, accompanied by a payment of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), a nursing home administrator as defined in Section 61-13-2 NMSA 1978 may be granted one parking placard for each nursing home in this state under his direct supervision for use in the transport of persons with severe mobility impairments as defined in Subsection H of Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 in situations where it is impractical for the person being transported to obtain and use his own parking placard.

- B. Money received pursuant to Subsection A of this section shall be deposited in the fund for the handicapped to be used for the parking placard abuse prevention program.
- C. A person who uses a nursing home administrator's parking placard when not engaged in the transport of a person with a severe mobility impairment or an administrator who willfully allows such use of the parking placard is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 66-8-7 NMSA 1978."

Section 6. Section 3-51-46 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 22, Section 3) is amended to read:

"3-51-46. PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE OF DISABLED PERSON--PARKING PRIVILEGE.--Passenger motor vehicles owned by [disabled] persons with severe mobility impairment and carrying special registration plates or passenger motor vehicles carrying persons with severe mobility impairment with parking placards issued pursuant to Section [64-3-12.3 NMSA 1953] 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 shall be permitted to park for unlimited periods of time in parking zones restricted as to length of time parking is normally permitted and are exempt from payment of any parking meter or parking authorization fee of the state or its political subdivisions. The provisions of this section shall prevail over any other law, regulation or local ordinance but do not apply to zones where stopping, standing or parking is prohibited, zones reserved for special types of vehicles, zones where parking is prohibited during certain hours of

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1	the day in order to facilitate traffic during those hours when
2	parking is prohibited and zones subject to similar regulation
3	because parking presents a traffic hazard."
4	Section 7. Section 66-1-4.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990,
5	Chapter 120, Section 2) is amended to read:
6	"66-1-4.1. DEFINITIONSAs used in the Motor Vehicle Code:

A. "abandoned vehicle" means a vehicle or motor vehicle that has been determined by a New Mexico law enforcement agency:

- (1) to have been left unattended on either public or private property for at least thirty days;
 - (2) not to have been reported stolen;
- (3) not to have been claimed by any person asserting ownership; and
- (4) not to have been shown by normal record checking procedures to be owned by any person;
- B. "access aisle" means an accessible pedestrian space of at least sixty inches in width that allows side access the length of its adjacent designated disabled parking space and marked with blue striping; provided that van-accessible access aisles shall be at least ninety-six inches in width;
- [B.] C. "additional place of business", for dealers and wreckers of vehicles, means locations in addition to an established place of business as defined in Section 66-1-4.5 NMSA 1978 and meeting all the requirements of an established place of business, except Paragraph (5) of Subsection B of Section 66-1-4.5 NMSA 1978,

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1 but "additional place of business" does not mean a location used solely for storage and that is not used for wrecking, dismantling, 2 sale or resale of vehicles: 3 [C.] D. "alcoholic beverages" means any and all distilled 4

or rectified spirits, potable alcohol, brandy, whiskey, rum, gin, aromatic bitters or any similar alcoholic beverage, including all blended or fermented beverages, dilutions or mixtures of one or more of the foregoing containing more than one-half of one percent alcohol but excluding medicinal bitters; and

[D.] E. "authorized emergency vehicle" means any fire department vehicle, police vehicle, ambulance and any emergency vehicles of municipal departments or public utilities that are designated or authorized as emergency vehicles by the director of the New Mexico state police division of the department of public safety or local authorities."

Section 8. Section 66-1-4. 4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990, Chapter 120, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-1-4.4. DEFINITIONS. -- As used in the Motor Vehicle Code:

"day" means calendar day, unless otherwise provided in the Motor Vehicle Code;

"dealer", except as herein specifically excluded, means any person who sells or solicits or advertises the sale of new or used motor vehicles, manufactured homes or trailers subject to registration in this state; "dealer" does not include:

> receivers, trustees, administrators, executors, (1)

guardians or other persons appointed by or acting under judgment, decree or order of any court;

- (2) public officers while performing their duties as such officers;
- (3) persons making casual sales of their own vehicles;
- (4) finance companies, banks and other lending institutions making sales of repossessed vehicles; or
- (5) licensed brokers under the Manufactured Housing Act who, for a fee, commission or other valuable consideration, engage in brokerage activities related to the sale, exchange or lease purchase of pre-owned manufactured homes on a site installed for a consumer;
- C. "declared gross weight" means the maximum gross vehicle weight or combination gross vehicle weight at which a vehicle or combination will be operated during the registration period, as declared by the registrant for registration and fee purposes; the vehicle or combination shall have only one declared gross weight for all operating considerations;
- D. "department" means the taxation and revenue department, the secretary of taxation and revenue or any employee of the department exercising authority lawfully delegated to that employee by the secretary;
- E. "designated disabled parking space" means any space marked and reserved for the parking of a passenger vehicle that

carries registration plates or a placard indicating disability in accordance with Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978; such a place shall be designated by a conspicuously posted sign bearing the international disabled symbol of a wheelchair [ex] and by a clearly visible depiction of this symbol painted on the pavement of the space, and an access aisle adjacent to the space; provided that two designated disabled parking spaces may share a common access aisle.

- F. "director" means the secretary;
- G. "disqualification" means a prohibition against driving a commercial motor vehicle;
- H. "distinguishing number" means the number assigned by the department to a vehicle whose identifying number has been destroyed or obliterated or the number assigned by the department to a vehicle that has never had an identifying number;
- I. "distributor" means any person who distributes or sells new or used motor vehicles to dealers and who is not a manufacturer;
- J. "division", without further specification, "division of motor vehicles" or "motor vehicle division" means the department;
- K. "driver" means every person who drives or is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle, including a motorcycle, upon a highway, who is exercising control over or steering a vehicle being towed by a motor vehicle or who operates or is in actual physical control of an off-highway motor vehicle;

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that autho	rizes the	i ndi vi dual	to drive	a motor	vehi c	le: and	

M "driveaway-towaway operation" means any operation in which any motor vehicle, new or used, is the item being transported when one set or more of wheels of any such motor vehicle is on the roadway during the course of transportation, whether or not the motor vehicle furnishes the motive power."

Section 9. Section 66-1-4.14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990, Chapter 120, Section 15, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-1-4.14. DEFINITIONS. -- As used in the Motor Vehicle Code:

A. "park" or "parking" means the standing of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, other than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading and unloading;

- B. "parking lot" means a parking area [containing fifteen or more parking spaces] provided for the [free] use of patrons of any office of state or local government or of any public accommodation, retail or commercial establishment;
- C. "parts car" means a motor vehicle generally in nonoperable condition that is owned by a collector to furnish parts that are usually nonobtainable from normal sources, thus enabling a collector to preserve, restore and maintain a motor vehicle of historic or special interest;
 - D. "pedestrian" means any natural person on foot;
 - E. "person" means every natural person, firm,

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copartnership, association, corporation or other legal entity;

"personal information" means information that identifies an individual, including an individual's photograph,

social security number, driver identification number, name, address

other than zip code, telephone number and medical or disability

information, but "personal information" does not include

information on vehicles, vehicle ownership, vehicular accidents,

driving violations or driver status;

"pneumatic tire" means every tire in which compressed G. air is designed to support the load;

"pole trailer" means any vehicle without motive power, designed to be drawn by another vehicle and attached to the towing vehicle by means of a reach or pole or by being boomed or otherwise secured to the towing vehicle and ordinarily used for transporting long or irregularly shaped loads such as poles, structures, pipes and structural members capable, generally, of sustaining themselves as beams between the supporting connections;

- "police or peace officer" means every officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make arrests for violations of the Motor Vehicle Code;
- "private road or driveway" means every way or place in private ownership used for vehicular travel by the owner and those having express or implied permission from the owner, but not other persons; and
 - K. "property owner" means the owner of a piece of land or

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the agent of that property owner."

Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Chapter 35, Section 36, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-3-16. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES -- DISABLED PERSONS--[DISPLAY DEVICE] PARKING PLACARDS. --

The division shall issue distinctive registration Α. plates to any [disabled] person with severe mobility impairment who so requests and who proves satisfactorily to the division that he has suffered the loss, or the complete and total loss of use of, one or both legs at or above the ankle or of one or both arms at or above the wrist for use on motor vehicles owned by the person. fee in addition to the regular registration fee, if any, applicable to the motor vehicle shall be collected for issuance of special registration plates pursuant to this section.

- B. No person shall falsely represent himself to be disabled have a severe mobility impairment so as to be eligible to be issued special registration plates or [display devices] a parking placard pursuant to this section when he is in fact not [disabled] severely mobility impaired.
- C. Upon notice and opportunity to be heard, scheduled within forty-five days of a complaint filed by the governor's committee on concerns of the handicapped or another concerned person, the division may revoke and demand return of any placard when it is found that:
 - it was issued in error or with false (1)

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- (2) the person receiving the placard is no longer eligible; or
 - (3) the placard is being used by ineligible persons.
- [C.] D. Upon written application to the division accompanied by a medical statement by a licensed physician attesting to the [disability] severe mobility impairment, a resident of the state who has a [disability] severe mobility <u>impairment</u> that limits or impairs the ability to walk, as provided in Subsection [G] \underline{H} of this section, may apply for and be granted the issuance of [a placard] not more than two parking placards for display upon a motor vehicle registered to him or motor vehicle owned by another person who is transporting him. The director may charge a reasonable fee to cover the cost of the placard and of its i ssuance. The fee shall be retained by the division and shall be appropriated to the division for expenditures incurred in the implementation of the placard replacement program. The application shall provide for a certification of permanence of the mobility impairment that, if indicated by the signing physician, shall preclude the necessity of subsequent medical certifications on renewals. The application for a parking placard shall be deemed to be a waiver of the doctor-patient privilege of confidentiality to the minimum extent necessary to verify the information contained in the application, and the application shall advise the applicant of this waiver.

[D.] <u>E.</u> A <u>parking</u> placard issued pursuant to this section
shall expire [in no more than two years] on the same date that the
holder's driver's license or identification card expires
[F-] F The division shall issue two-sided hanger-style

- [E.] F. The division shall issue two-sided hanger-style parking placards with the following characteristics:
- (1) the international symbol of access shall be displayed on both sides of the <u>parking placard</u> and shall be at least three inches in height, centered on the <u>parking placard</u> and white on a blue [<u>shield</u>] <u>field</u>;
- (2) [an identification number enabling the division to identify] an indelible imprinting of the driver's license or identification card number of the holder of each parking placard. The division shall maintain this information, including permanence of the mobility impairment, in a readily retrievable format in the same data base as used for recording driver's license information and make it available on demand to any law enforcement agency or the governor's committee on concerns of the handicapped
 - (3) the date of expiration; and
- (4) the division seal or other identification of the issuing authority.
- [F.] G. Upon written application to the division accompanied by a medical statement from a licensed physician attesting to a temporary [disability] severe mobility impairment, a person, whether resident or nonresident, who has a temporary [disability] severe mobility impairment that limits or impairs the

ability to walk may be issued a temporary <u>parking</u> placard, which shall be distinguishable <u>in color and</u> in appearance from <u>parking</u> placards valid for [two] <u>four</u> years. The medical statement shall include the period of time that the physician determines the applicant will have the [disability] <u>severe mobility impairment</u>. A temporary <u>parking</u> placard issued pursuant to this section shall be valid no more than six months.

- [G.] <u>H.</u> For the purpose of obtaining a <u>parking</u> placard, a person with a ["disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk"] "severe mobility impairment" means the person:
- $\hspace{1cm} \textbf{(1)} \hspace{0.2cm} \textbf{cannot wal} \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{k} \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{one} \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{hundred feet without stopping to} \\ \textbf{rest;} \\$
- (2) cannot walk without the use of a brace, a cane, a crutch, another person, a prosthetic device, a wheelchair or another assistive device;
- (3) is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that the person's forced respiratory volume, when exhaling for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty millimeters on room air at rest:
 - (4) uses portable oxygen;
 - (5) has a severe cardiac condition; or
- (6) is so severely limited in his ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurologic or orthopedic condition that the person cannot ascend or descend more than ten stair steps.

1	[II.] <u>I.</u> Special registration plates or <u>parking</u> placards
2	issued to the [disabled] person with severe mobility impairment by
3	another state or foreign jurisdiction shall be granted reciprocity
4	while the vehicle [and disabled operator are] or parking placard
5	holder is in this state. [for a period not to exceed thirty days
6	H.] J. All parking placards shall be issued in accordance
7	with this section beginning on July 1, [1995] 1997. All placards

issued prior to July 1, 1995 [shall expire on July 1, 1996] are
void. Two-year placards issued between July 1, 1995 and July 1,
1997 shall be renewed for a period to expire on the same date as
the holder's driver's license expires."

Section 11. Section 66-3-16.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1995, Chapter 129, Section 2) is amended to read:

"66-3-16.1. PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION--<u>FALSE USE OF</u>

<u>PLACARD</u>--PENALTY--<u>PLACARD CONFISCATED</u>.--

A. Any person who provides false information in order to acquire, or who assists an unqualified person in acquiring, a special registration plate or [special] parking placard as provided in Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section [31-19-1] 66-8-7 NMSA 1978.

B. Except as provided in Section 5 of this act, a person who uses a parking placard to park in a designated disabled parking space and is neither the holder of the parking placard nor assisting in the transportation of the holder is guilty of a

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misdemeanor and shall be sentenced pursuant to the provisions of Section 66-8-7 NMSA 1978. When a law enforcement officer finds that a person is using a parking placard that does not belong to him or his passenger, the officer may confiscate the placard. The law enforcement agency shall return the parking placard to the division. The division shall hold the parking placard until it receives a written request for its return from the parking placard holder. The division shall retain a record of the identification numbers of confiscated parking placards. Failure to surrender the parking placard on demand of a law enforcement officer is a petty misdemeanor and punishable by a fine not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300)."

Section 12. Section 66-5-408 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Chapter 35, Section 335, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-5-408. FEES. --

- A. Upon application for an identification card, there shall be paid to the division a fee of five dollars (\$5.00), but no fee shall be charged to an applicant for an identification card if the applicant is at least seventy-five years of age or eligible for a registration plate or parking placard pursuant to Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978.
- B. The department with the approval of the governor may increase the amount of the identification card fee by an amount not to exceed three dollars (\$3.00) for the purpose of implementing an enhanced licensing system. The additional amounts collected

pursuant to this subsection are appropriated to the division to defray the expense of the new system of licensing."

Section 13. Section 66-7-352.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1983, Chapter 45, Section 4) is amended to read:

"66-7-352. 4. PARKING LOTS--STANDARDS. --

A. Every parking lot coming under the provisions of the Disabled Parking Standards and Enforcement Act shall have designated disabled parking spaces, including access aisles, as provided in Subsection B of this section [provided that an office of state or local government shall have a minimum of one such parking space]. No building permit shall be issued by the state or any local government for the construction or substantial renovation of a commercial building inviting public access unless the parking lot has designated disabled parking spaces as delineated in Subsection B of this section.

B. The minimum numbers of designated disabled parking spaces are as follows:

TOTAL SPACES IN PARKING LOT

MINIMUM DESIGNATED

DI SABLED

	PARKING SPACES
[0 to 14	θ
15] <u>1</u> to 25	1
26 to 35	2
36 to 50	3

1	51 to 100	4
2	101 to 300	8
3	301 to 500	12
4	501 to 800	16
5	801 to 1,000	20
6	more than 1,000	20, plus [3] <u>1</u>
7		for each
8		addi ti onal
9		[1, 000] <u>100</u> .

The designated disabled parking spaces shall be located so as to provide the most convenient access to entranceways or to the nearest curb cut. One of every eight designated disabled parking spaces, but not less than one, shall be designated as van accessible."

Section 14. Section 66-7-352.5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1983, Chapter 45, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-7-352.5. UNAUTHORIZED USE--PENALTY.--[A.-] It is unlawful for any person to park a motor vehicle not carrying special registration plates or a parking placard indicating [disability] severe mobility impairment in accordance with Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 in a designated disabled parking space [or blocking a curb cut]. It is unlawful for any person to park a vehicle with or without a special registration plate or parking placard in a position that blocks a curb cut or access aisle. Any person who violates this subsection is subject to a [fifty-dollar (\$50.00)]

minimum three hundred dollar (\$300) fine and the vehicle may be towed at the owner's expense.

[B. A person charged with a violation of Subsection A of this section shall not be determined to have committed an infraction if he produces in court special disabled registration plates or a placard indicating disability in accordance with Section 66-3-16 NMSA 1978 or demonstrates he was entitled to such at the time of the violation.]"

Section 15. APPROPRIATION. -- Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the governor's committee on concerns of the handicapped for expenditure in fiscal year 1998 to implement the provisions of the Placard Abuse Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 1998 shall revert to the general fund.

Section 16. EFFECTIVE DATE. -- The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 1997.

- 40 -

State of New Mexico House of Representatives

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1997

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March 12, 1997

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Mr. Speaker:

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Your JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

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HOUSE CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILLS 933, 31 & 557

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has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO PASS**, amended as follows:

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1. On page 3, line 20, strike "NURSING HOME" and insert "LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY".

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2. On page 3, line 23, strike "a nursing home".

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3. On page 3, line 24, before "administrator" insert "an" and after "administrator" strike the line through "1978" and insert "of a long-term care facility licensed by the department of health".

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4. On page 3, line 25, strike "nursing home" and insert in lieu thereof "facility".

НJС	/HB 9	933,	31 & 557 Pa	ge 42
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2			On page 4, line 9, strike "nursing home" and insert in	lieu
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4	and t	then	nce referred to the APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE	
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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1997

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State of New Mexico House of Representatives

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1997

March 14, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

Your **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**, to whom has been referred

HOUSE CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILLS 933, 31 & 557, as anended

has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that it **DO PASS**, amended as follows:

- 1. On page 1, line 16, strike "; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION".
- 2. On page 19, strike Section 15 in its entirety.
- $3. \quad \hbox{Renumber succeeding section accordingly}.$

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION, 1997

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9	Max Coll, Chairman		
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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION

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	mendment sponsored by Representative Gary K. King	
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15	1. On page 18, line 19, strike the ending quotation mark and	
16	etween lines 19 and 20, insert the following new subsection:	
17	"C. In parking lots with five or fewer parking spaces, one	a
18	ccessible parking space shall be provided but need not be designate	
	ign and pavement painting. Use of the undesignated accessible park	
	space by a vehicle without a parking placard or special registration	
	late shall not be a violation of Section 66-7-352.5 NMSA 1978."".	
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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE FIRST SESSION

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7	March 18, 1997			
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9	Mr. President:			
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11	Tour Tebelle AFFAIRS CONNETTED, to whom has been referred			
12	HOUSE CONSUMER AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE			
13	SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILLS 933, 31 & 557, as anended			
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15	has had it under consideration and reports same with recommendation that			
16	it DO PASS , and thence referred to the JUDICIARY COMMITTEE .			
17	Respectfully submitted,			
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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE HCPAC/HB 933, 31 & 557 FIRST SESSION

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