

# **MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE**

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# 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

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Legislative Document

No. 739

H.P. 545

House of Representatives, February 14, 2003

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**An Act To Clarify Handicapped Parking Status for Disabled  
Veterans**

(EMERGENCY)

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Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILlicent M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative McKEE of Wayne.  
Cosponsored by Senator TREAT of Kennebec and  
Representatives: COWGER of Hallowell, LAVERRIERE-BOUCHER of Biddeford, LORING  
of the Penobscot Nation, McLAUGHLIN of Cape Elizabeth, SAVIELLO of Wilton,  
THOMPSON of China, WHEELER of Kittery.

2           **Emergency preamble.** **Whereas**, Acts of the Legislature do not  
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted  
as emergencies; and

4           **Whereas**, it is a hardship for out-of-state disabled veterans  
6           to contact the Secretary of State to obtain a placard in order to  
be able to park in a handicapped parking space; and

8           **Whereas**, the tourist season will have started before the 90  
10          days have passed for this legislation to take effect; and

12          **Whereas**, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
14          create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
16          necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore,

18          **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

20          **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §521, sub-§11**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 77,  
§1, is further amended to read:

24          **11. Violation.** A person other than a person with a  
disability or an organization transporting a person with a  
26          disability using a set of disability registration plates or a  
windshield placard or a person other than a disabled veteran from  
another state that has special designating plates that bear the  
words "Disabled Veteran" commits a traffic infraction and is  
subject to a penalty of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500.  
30          The disability registration plates or removable windshield  
placard may be suspended for improper use.

32          **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §521, sub-§12**, as enacted by PL 2001, c.  
34          151, §1, is amended to read:

36          **12. Parking at meters.** Pursuant to Title 30-A, section  
38          3009, subsection 1, paragraph C, subparagraph (4), a vehicle that  
exhibits a permanent placard, a temporary placard ~~or~~, a  
40          disability registration plate or an out-of-state registration  
plate that bears the words "Disabled Veteran" may park at a  
parking area with a meter without a charge and may park a length  
42          of time that does not exceed twice the limit otherwise allowed.

44          **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §3009, sub-§1, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2001, c.  
46          151, §2, is further amended to read:

48          C. The municipal officers may regulate the parking of motor  
vehicles on any public way or public parking area,  
including, but not limited to, providing for the  
50          installation of parking meters, providing the fact that any

2           vehicle is illegally parked or is in a metered space when  
4           the time signal on the parking meter for that space  
6           indicates no parking permitted without the deposit of a coin  
8           or coins is prima facie evidence that the vehicle has been  
10          parked illegally by the person in whose name the vehicle is  
12          registered, and establishing reasonable charges for metered  
14          parking.

16           (1) Illegal parking of a vehicle in violation of any  
18          ordinance authorized by this paragraph is a civil  
20          violation.

22           (2) The municipal officers may establish a method by  
24          which persons charged with the violation of parking  
26          regulations may waive all court action by payment of  
28          specified fees within stated periods of time.

30           (3) The revenue collected from parking meters must be  
32          used:

- 34           (a) To purchase, maintain and police the meters;  
36           (b) To construct and maintain public ways;  
38           (c) To acquire, construct, maintain and operate  
40          public parking areas; and  
42           (d) For no other purpose.

44           (4) A vehicle that exhibits a permanent placard, a  
46          temporary placard or a disability registration plate  
48          issued under Title 29-A, section 521 or an out-of-state  
50          registration plate that bears the words "Disabled  
52          Veteran" may park at a parking area with a meter  
54          without a charge and may park a length of time that  
56          does not exceed twice the time limit otherwise allowed.

58           **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
60          preamble, this Act takes effect July 1, 2003.

## 42           SUMMARY

44           This bill clarifies that a disabled veteran who resides out  
46          of state and has a motor vehicle that has a license plate that  
48          bears the words "Disabled Veteran" may park in a handicapped  
50          parking area without having to obtain a special placard from the  
52          Secretary of State.