

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 718

H.P. 563

House of Representatives, February 13, 2001

An Act Concerning Disability Registration Plates and Placards.

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative FULLER of Manchester.
Cosponsored by Senator RAND of Cumberland and
Representatives: ANDREWS of York, COWGER of Hallowell, DUDLEY of Portland, KANE
of Saco, Senators: GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock, TREAT of Kennebec.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §521, sub-§1**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. A, §4, is amended to read:

6 **1. Definition.** "Person with a disability" means a person
8 whose disability limits or impairs the ability to walk, as
determined and certified by a licensed physician, physician
assistant or nurse practitioner, to the extent that the person:

10 A. Can not walk 200 feet without stopping to rest;

12 B. Can not walk without assistance from another person or
14 the use of a brace, cane, crutch, prosthetic device,
wheelchair or other assistive device;

16 C. Is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that the
18 person's forced expiratory volume for one second when
measured by spirometry is less than 1 liter or when the
20 arterial oxygen tension is less than 60mm/hg on room air at
rest;

22 D. Uses portable oxygen;

24 E. Has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's
26 functional limitations are classified in severity as Class 3
or Class 4 according to standards set by the American Heart
28 Association; or

30 F. Is severely limited in the ability to walk due to an
32 arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition.

34 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §521, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 544,
§1, is further amended to read:

36 **5. Application; issuance.** An application for a disability
plate or placard must be accompanied by the certificate of a
38 physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner attesting to
that person's physical disability as defined in subsection 1.
40 The Secretary of State shall issue to an eligible applicant
disability plates and windshield placards upon request. Proof of
42 a disability must be submitted every 4 years on a form prescribed
by the Secretary of State, except, when the Secretary of State
44 determines the disability to be permanent, the time may be
extended. When the applicant's need for the disability placard
46 terminates or the applicant dies, the plate or placard must be
immediately returned to the Secretary of State.

48 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §521, sub-§6, ¶A**, as repealed and replaced
50 by PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. A, §4, is amended to read:

2 A. An application for a temporary placard must be
3 accompanied by the certificate of a physician, physician
4 assistant or nurse practitioner attesting to the applicant's
5 physical disability as defined in subsection 1 and the
6 period of time that the physician, physician assistant or
7 nurse practitioner determines the applicant will have the
8 disability. A temporary placard is not valid for a period
9 of more than 6 months. The Secretary of State must give
10 priority consideration to requests for temporary placards.

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SUMMARY

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15 This bill allows physician assistants and nurse
16 practitioners to make the necessary certifications for issuance
17 of special registration plates or placards to persons with
18 disabilities.