

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 424

H.P. 332

House of Representatives, February 4, 2003

**An Act To Increase the Availability of Handicapped Parking Spaces
for People with Disabilities**

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative MARLEY of Portland.

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

2
4 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §521, sub-§3, ¶B,** as amended by PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. A, §4, is further amended to read:

6 B. The placard must be blue with white print and contain
8 the International Symbol of Access, at least 3 inches high,
10 centered on the placard. The placard must contain the
12 permit number, the expiration date and the seal of the
14 Secretary of State. In the case of an organization or
16 agency, the placard must be green with white print and
18 contain the same information, except that the name of the
 organization must appear along with the expiration date
 that, which must be determined by the Secretary of State.
 The expiration date may not be handwritten. A placard
 issued to a person with a disability under this section
 expires in the applicant's month of birth in the 4th year
 following the date of issuance.

20 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §521, sub-§6, ¶B,** as amended by PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. A, §5, is further amended to read:

22 B. The placard must be red with white print and contain the
24 International Symbol of Access, at least 3 inches high,
26 centered on the placard. The placard must contain the
28 permit number, the expiration date specified by the
 physician and the seal of the Secretary of State. The
 expiration date may not be handwritten.

30 **Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §521, sub-§13** is enacted to read:

32 13. Identification cards. In order to provide
34 certification for eligibility to be issued disability
36 registration plates or a placard under this section, a person
38 must be issued an identification card from the Secretary of
40 State. This card must be wallet-sized and display, at a minimum,
 the name of the eligible person and the name and phone number of
 the certifying physician, physician assistant or nurse
 practitioner.

42 **Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §3009, sub-§1, ¶D,** as amended by PL 1999, c. 127, Pt. A, §45, is further amended to read:

44 D. The following provisions apply to the establishment and
46 policing of parking spaces for handicapped persons.

48 (1) Municipal public parking areas are subject to any
50 applicable requirements of the Maine Human Rights Act,
 Title 5, chapter 337, subchapter ¶ 5. The municipality
 shall post a sign adjacent to and visible from each

2 handicapped parking space established by the
municipality. The sign must display the international
symbol for accessibility.

4
6 (2-A) Enforcement of handicapped parking restrictions
must be in accordance with Title 29-A, section 521,
subsection 9-A.

8
10 (3) Any vehicle or motorcycle parked in a parking
space clearly marked as a handicapped parking space and
that does not bear a special registration plate or
12 placard issued under Title 29-A, section 521 or 523, or
a similar plate issued by another state, must be cited
14 for a forfeiture of not less than \$100. "Clearly
marked" includes painted signs on pavement and vertical
16 standing signs that are visible in existing weather
conditions.

18
20 (4) The municipal officers may establish and enforce
the time limit for use of a parking space reserved as a
handicapped parking space on a public way or public
22 parking area.

24
26 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill requires that the expiration date on a disability
placard may not be handwritten. It creates an identification
30 card to certify eligibility for disability registration plates or
a placard. The bill also allows municipalities to apply time
32 limits to on-street parking spaces reserved for handicapped
persons.