

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 937

H.P. 661

House of Representatives, March 7, 2013

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Disability Parking Spaces

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative AYOTTE of Caswell.
Cosponsored by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: CRAFTS of Lisbon, DAVIS of Sangerville, GIFFORD of Lincoln, LONG of
Sherman, TIMBERLAKE of Turner, Senators: HAMPER of Oxford, SHERMAN of
Aroostook, THOMAS of Somerset.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §521, sub-§9-A,** as amended by PL 2005, c. 528, §1, is
3 further amended to read:

4 **9-A. Enforcement of disability parking restrictions.** A law enforcement officer
5 may enforce disability parking restrictions. The State Police shall enforce disability
6 parking restrictions at service facilities established on the Maine Turnpike and on the
7 interstate highway system in the State. A person commits a traffic infraction if that
8 person parks in a parking space designated and clearly marked for persons with physical
9 disabilities and has not been issued or is not transporting a person who has been issued a
10 disability registration plate or a removable windshield placard pursuant to this section or
11 section 523 or a disability registration plate or placard issued by another state. A person
12 commits a traffic infraction if that person parks in an access aisle, regardless of whether
13 the person has been issued a disability registration plate or removable placard. A parking
14 space designated and clearly marked for persons with physical disabilities that is marked
15 as van-accessible with an access aisle may be used only by a van or a vehicle that
16 accommodates a side-loading wheelchair lift or ramp. A person commits a traffic
17 infraction if that person parks in a van-accessible parking space and that person's vehicle
18 is not adapted for use of a van-accessible parking space, regardless of whether the person
19 has been issued a disability registration plate or removable placard. Notwithstanding
20 section 2604, a person who violates this subsection is subject to a fine of not less than
21 ~~\$200~~ \$300 and not more than ~~\$500~~ \$600.

22 **Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §521, sub-§9-B, ¶E,** as enacted by PL 2005, c. 528, §2, is
23 amended to read:

24 E. Notwithstanding section 2604, a person who violates this subsection is subject to
25 a fine of not less than ~~\$200~~ \$300 and not more than ~~\$500~~ \$600.

26 **Sec. 3. Rules.** The Secretary of State shall by rule design a sign to indicate that a
27 parking space is designated for use of van-accessible vehicles for persons with physical
28 disabilities and to distinguish such a sign from other signs for disability parking. The
29 sign designating a space as van-accessible must be outlined in red. Rules adopted
30 pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine Revised
31 Statute, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

32 **SUMMARY**

33 This bill makes van-accessible handicapped parking spaces with an access aisle that
34 are labeled as van-accessible available only to vans or vehicles adapted for use of a van-
35 accessible parking space. It also increases the penalty range for violations of parking in
36 access aisles from \$200 to \$500 to \$300 to \$600.