

HOUSE BILL REPORT

ESSB 5434

As Reported by House Committee On:
Transportation

Title: An act relating to special identification cards for persons issued disabled parking permits.

Brief Description: Removing the photo requirement for special identification cards for persons issued disabled parking permits.

Sponsors: By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Oke and Haugen; by request of Department of Licensing).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Transportation: 3/27/01, 3/29/01 [DP].

Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill

- Removes the requirement for the Department of Licensing to issue a photo identification card to its disabled parking permit holders by July 1, 2001.
- Makes a technical amendment removing outdated language regarding a study that was to be concluded by December 31, 2000.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 29 members: Representatives Fisher, Democratic Co-Chair; Mitchell, Republican Co-Chair; Cooper, Democratic Vice Chair; Ericksen, Republican Vice Chair; Hankins, Republican Vice Chair; Lovick, Democratic Vice Chair; Ahern, Anderson, Armstrong, G. Chandler, Edmonds, Haigh, Hatfield, Hurst, Jackley, Jarrett, Marine, Mielke, Morell, Murray, Ogden, Rockefeller, Romero, Schindler, Simpson, Skinner, Sump, Wood and Woods.

Staff: Reema Griffith (786-7301).

Background:

In 1998 the Legislature passed 2SSB 6190 which made significant changes to the state's

disabled parking law. One of those changes required the Department of Licensing (DOL) to issue a photo identification card to all of its disabled parking permit holders to aid law enforcement in determining if a parking placard in question was being used by the person it was issued to. The department implemented this requirement by having all permit holders come into the DOL licensing service offices around the state to obtain their new photo ID cards. In doing so, it was discovered that there were various access and accommodation issues along with a noticeable increase in wait times due to the large number of permit holders needing the new ID card.

In response to this outcome, SSB 6009 was passed which temporarily removed the photo identification card requirement to allow for an 18-month study to determine a more appropriate and effective way of implementing a photo identification card program, with a report due back to the Legislature by December 31, 2000. In the interim, the department was required to issue a special non-photo identification card to all permit holders, which continues to be in effect today.

The department's report back to the Legislature provided three viable photo identification card implementation options with costs ranging from \$1.7 - \$6.9 million per biennium. In contrast, to continue issuing the current non-photo identification card would cost the department \$159,000 for the 2001-03 biennium. The report also indicated that law enforcement was experiencing relative enforcement success even though they did not have a photo available to them. Therefore, it was recommended that the department continue its current practice of issuing non-photo identification cards to its permit holders.

Summary of Bill:

Removes the requirement for the DOL to issue a photo identification card to its disabled parking permit holders by July 1, 2001. By removing this language the current language is left in effect which requires the department to issue a non-photo identification card to its permit holders.

Outdated language is stricken which required the department to work in conjunction with the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment to assess options for issuing a photo identification card to permit holders and report the findings to the Legislature by December 31, 2000. This report was delivered to the House and Senate Transportation Committees in December 2000.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This is an effective program which is much less costly than producing a photo ID card.

Testimony Against: The intent in 1998 was to implement a photo ID card program and the DOL has been determined to avoid that. A photo is very important and would prefer it be issued.

Testified: (Supports) Deb McCurley, Department of Licensing.

(Opposed) Joseph K. Johnston, Northwest Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America.