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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5410**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Braun, Boehnke, Chapman, Conway, Dozier, King, Lias, Lovick, Salomon, Warnick, Wellman, and J. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to parking privileges for veterans; amending RCW  
2 46.19.010, 46.19.040, and 41.04.007; adding a new section to chapter  
3 46.19 RCW; and providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.19.010 and 2020 c 80 s 32 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) A natural person who has a disability that meets one of the  
8 following criteria may apply for special parking privileges:

9 (a) Cannot walk (~~two hundred~~) 200 feet without stopping to  
10 rest;

11 (b) Is severely limited in ability to walk due to arthritic,  
12 neurological, or orthopedic condition;

13 (c) Has such a severe disability that the person cannot walk  
14 without the use of or assistance from a brace, cane, another person,  
15 prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistive device;

16 (d) Uses portable oxygen;

17 (e) Is restricted by lung disease to an extent that forced  
18 expiratory respiratory volume, when measured by spirometry, is less  
19 than one liter per second or the arterial oxygen tension is less than  
20 (~~sixty~~) 60 mm/hg on room air at rest;

1 (f) Impairment by cardiovascular disease or cardiac condition to  
2 the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified as  
3 class III or IV under standards accepted by the American heart  
4 association;

5 (g) Has a disability resulting from an acute sensitivity to  
6 automobile emissions that limits or impairs the ability to walk. The  
7 personal physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or  
8 physician assistant of the applicant shall document that the  
9 disability is comparable in severity to the others listed in this  
10 subsection;

11 (h) Has limited mobility and has no vision or whose vision with  
12 corrective lenses is so limited that the person requires alternative  
13 methods or skills to do efficiently those things that are ordinarily  
14 done with sight by persons with normal vision;

15 (i) Has an eye condition of a progressive nature that may lead to  
16 blindness; (~~or~~)

17 (j) Is restricted by a form of porphyria to the extent that the  
18 applicant would significantly benefit from a decrease in exposure to  
19 light; or

20 (k) Is a veteran, as defined in RCW 41.04.007, who has a 70  
21 percent or higher disability rating from the United States armed  
22 forces or United States department of veterans affairs and uses a  
23 service animal as defined in 28 C.F.R. 35.104.

24 (2) The disability in subsection (1)(a) through (j) of this  
25 section must be determined by either:

26 (a) A licensed physician;

27 (b) An advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under  
28 chapter 18.79 RCW; or

29 (c) A physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW.

30 (3) A health care practitioner listed under subsection (2) of  
31 this section who is authorizing a parking permit for purposes of this  
32 chapter must provide a signed written authorization: On a  
33 prescription pad or paper, as defined in RCW 18.64.500; on office  
34 letterhead; or by electronic means, as described by the director in  
35 rule.

36 ~~((4) The application for special parking privileges for persons~~  
37 ~~with disabilities must contain:~~

38 ~~(a) The following statement immediately below the physician's,~~  
39 ~~advanced registered nurse practitioner's, or physician assistant's~~  
40 ~~signature: "A parking permit for a person with disabilities may be~~

1 ~~issued only for a medical necessity that severely affects mobility or~~  
2 ~~involves acute sensitivity to light (RCW 46.19.010). An applicant or~~  
3 ~~health care practitioner who knowingly provides false information on~~  
4 ~~this application is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. The penalty is up~~  
5 ~~to three hundred sixty-four days in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000~~  
6 ~~or both. In addition, the health care practitioner may be subject to~~  
7 ~~sanctions under chapter 18.130 RCW, the Uniform Disciplinary Act";~~  
8 ~~and~~

9 ~~(b) Other information as required by the department.~~

10 ~~(5) A natural person who has a disability described in subsection~~  
11 ~~(1) of this section and is expected to improve within twelve months~~  
12 ~~may be issued a temporary placard for a period not to exceed twelve~~  
13 ~~months. If the disability exists after twelve months, a new temporary~~  
14 ~~placard must be issued upon receipt of a new application with~~  
15 ~~certification from the person's physician as prescribed in~~  
16 ~~subsections (3) and (4) of this section. Special license plates for~~  
17 ~~persons with disabilities may not be issued to a person with a~~  
18 ~~temporary disability.~~

19 ~~(6) A natural person who qualifies for special parking privileges~~  
20 ~~under this section must receive an identification card showing the~~  
21 ~~name and date of birth of the person to whom the parking privilege~~  
22 ~~has been issued and the serial number of the placard.~~

23 ~~(7) A natural person who qualifies for permanent special parking~~  
24 ~~privileges under this section may receive one of the following:~~

25 ~~(a) Up to two parking placards;~~

26 ~~(b) One set of special license plates for persons with~~  
27 ~~disabilities if the person with the disability is the registered~~  
28 ~~owner of the vehicle on which the license plates will be displayed;~~

29 ~~(c) One parking placard and one set of special license plates for~~  
30 ~~persons with disabilities if the person with the disability is the~~  
31 ~~registered owner of the vehicle on which the license plates will be~~  
32 ~~displayed; or~~

33 ~~(d) One special parking year tab for persons with disabilities~~  
34 ~~and one parking placard.~~

35 ~~(8) Parking placards and identification cards described in this~~  
36 ~~section must be issued free of charge.~~

37 ~~(9) The parking placard and identification card must be~~  
38 ~~immediately returned to the department upon the placard holder's~~  
39 ~~death.) )~~

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 46.19

2    RCW to read as follows:

3        (1) The application for special parking privileges for persons  
4    with disabilities must contain:

5        (a) The following statement immediately below the physician's,  
6    advanced registered nurse practitioner's, or physician assistant's  
7    signature: "A parking permit for a person with disabilities may be  
8    issued only for a medical necessity that severely affects mobility or  
9    involves acute sensitivity to light (RCW 46.19.010). An applicant or  
10   health care practitioner who knowingly provides false information on  
11   this application is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. The penalty is up  
12   to 364 days in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000 or both. In addition,  
13   the health care practitioner may be subject to sanctions under  
14   chapter 18.130 RCW, the Uniform Disciplinary Act"; and

15        (b) Other information as required by the department.

16        (2) A natural person who has a disability described in RCW  
17   46.19.010(1) and is expected to improve within 12 months may be  
18   issued a temporary placard for a period not to exceed 12 months. If  
19   the disability exists after 12 months, a new temporary placard must  
20   be issued upon receipt of a new application with certification from  
21   the person's physician as prescribed in RCW 46.19.010(3) and  
22   subsection (1) of this section. Special license plates for persons  
23   with disabilities may not be issued to a person with a temporary  
24   disability.

25        (3) A natural person or veteran who qualifies for special parking  
26   privileges under this section must receive an identification card  
27   showing the name and date of birth of the person to whom the parking  
28   privilege has been issued and the serial number of the placard.

29        (4) A natural person or veteran who qualifies for permanent  
30   special parking privileges under RCW 46.19.010 may receive one of the  
31   following:

32        (a) Up to two parking placards;

33        (b) One set of special license plates for persons with  
34   disabilities if the person with the disability is the registered  
35   owner of the vehicle on which the license plates will be displayed;

36        (c) One parking placard and one set of special license plates for  
37   persons with disabilities if the person with the disability is the  
38   registered owner of the vehicle on which the license plates will be  
39   displayed; or

1 (d) One special parking year tab for persons with disabilities  
2 and one parking placard.

3 (5) Parking placards and identification cards described in this  
4 section must be issued free of charge.

5 (6) The parking placard and identification card must be  
6 immediately returned to the department upon the placard holder's  
7 death.

8 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.19.040 and 2014 c 124 s 5 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 (1) Parking privileges for persons with disabilities must be  
11 renewed at least every five years, as required by the director, by  
12 satisfactory proof of the right to continued use of the privileges.  
13 Satisfactory proof must include a signed written authorization from a  
14 health care practitioner as required in RCW 46.19.010(3) or proof  
15 that the applicant satisfies the criteria of RCW 46.19.010(1)(k).

16 (2) The department shall match and purge its database of parking  
17 permits issued to persons with disabilities with available death  
18 record information at least every (~~twelve~~) 12 months.

19 (3) The department shall adopt rules to administer the parking  
20 privileges for persons with disabilities program.

21 **Sec. 4.** RCW 41.04.007 and 2024 c 146 s 3 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 "Veteran" includes every person who, at the time he or she seeks  
24 the benefits of RCW 46.18.212, 46.18.235, 46.19.010, 72.36.030,  
25 41.04.010, 73.04.090, or 43.180.250, has received a qualifying  
26 discharge as defined in RCW 73.04.005, and who has served in at least  
27 one of the following capacities:

28 (1) As a member in any branch of the armed forces of the United  
29 States, including the national guard and armed forces reserves, and  
30 has fulfilled his or her initial military service obligation;

31 (2) As a member of the women's air forces service pilots;

32 (3) As a member of the armed forces reserves, national guard, or  
33 coast guard, and has been called into federal service by a  
34 presidential select reserve call up for at least one hundred eighty  
35 cumulative days;

36 (4) As a civil service crewmember with service aboard a U.S. army  
37 transport service or U.S. naval transportation service vessel in  
38 oceangoing service from December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946;

1 (5) As a member of the Philippine armed forces/scouts during the  
2 period of armed conflict from December 7, 1941, through August 15,  
3 1945; or

4 (6) A United States documented merchant mariner with service  
5 aboard an oceangoing vessel operated by the department of defense, or  
6 its agents, from both June 25, 1950, through July 27, 1953, in Korean  
7 territorial waters and from August 5, 1964, through May 7, 1975, in  
8 Vietnam territorial waters, and who received a military commendation.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act takes effect October 1, 2025.

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