

FISCAL NOTE

November 28, 2017

Bill No:	SB 888	Printer's No:	1242	Sponsor:	Rafferty (R)
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2017-18	2018-19
Motor License Fund	\$50,000	\$0

SUMMARY: This bill would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) providing clarity and increasing penalties when obstructing vehicles on property reserved for persons with disabilities.

ANALYSIS: Title 75 (Vehicles) prohibits individuals without disabilities from parking a vehicle on public or private property reserved for persons with disabilities. SB 888 would further prohibit individuals from obstructing vehicles or hindering passage to curb ramps or access aisle adjacent to parking spaces reserved for persons with disabilities. Permits, including occupancy or driveway permits, may be issued authorizing the obstruction of a handicap parking space if reasonable accommodations are made. All maintenance and necessary improvements to the property would be the responsibility of the owner or lessee, including all costs associated.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) may not be deemed an owner of any public or private property designated to persons with disabilities pursuant to this act, but would be permitted to authorize individuals and local authorities concerning the maintenance of these properties. Additionally, DOT may promulgate regulations pertaining to the signing, marking and proper use of a parking space reserved for persons with disabilities. Vehicles parked without the required plate or placard in a space reserved for persons with disabilities may be towed from the area at the direction of a police officer or other authorized official. Furthermore, only a person with a disability or a person operating a vehicle for the transportation of a person with a disability would be permitted to use handicap parking privileges. Police officers or other authorized officials may confirm the issuance of a plate or placard from the operator of the vehicle bearing a plate or placard if a violation of this act is suspected. Plates or placards found to have been fraudulently obtained must be seized and immediately returned to DOT.

Fines would be increased from \$200 to \$500 for individuals found in violation of this act. If the individual is convicted under this act in the absence of a sign indicating the penalty amount, the fine imposed may not exceed \$50.

This act would be effective in 180 days upon passage.

FISCAL IMPACT: DOT would incur a one-time cost of \$50,000 to develop and revise appropriate signage and pavement marking standards pursuant to this act. These costs are budgeted. DOT does not manufacture or install parking signs. Therefore, DOT would not be responsible for any new or additional signs required under this act.