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# Recent Developments: Senate Bill 505: Parking Access for Individuals with Disabilities

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## **SENATE BILL 505: PARKING ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

By Catherine Bowers

Senate Bill 505 (crossfiled with House Bill 132), entitled “Parking Access for Individuals with Disabilities,” repeals and reenacts, with amendments, the Transportation Article, Sections 13-616, 13-616.1, and 13-616.2, of the Maryland Annotated Code. Specifically, this Bill clarifies and adds specific physical conditions that qualify an individual for special registration plates, placards, and temporary placards.

Significantly, the Bill specifies that a licensed physician, chiropractor, optometrist, or podiatrist must certify that an individual suffers from one of the specified disabilities listed in the Bill, such as lung disease, cardiovascular disease, or inability to walk without an assistive device, in order for that individual to qualify for special registration plates, placards, or temporary placards. Medical professionals are also limited by the Bill which allows them to certify only what they are competent to judge. In addition, under repealed §13-616, a person issued special registration plates was not required to pay parking meters in the state. However, the new law changes this requirement and holders of special plates do not pay meters only where the meters do not meet the Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility the State’s Motor Vehicle Administration to verify the licensure of a certifying medical professional.

This Bill took effect October 1, 1999.

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