

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Community Affairs Committee

BILL: SB 870

SPONSOR: Senator Crist

SUBJECT: Disabled Parking Permits

DATE: April 16, 2005

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Evans</u>	<u>Meyer</u>	<u>TR</u>	Favorable
2.	<u>Herrin</u>	<u>Yeatman</u>	<u>CA</u>	Favorable
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill expands the class of medical personnel who are authorized to certify a person as disabled for the purposes of proving eligibility for a disabled parking permit. The bill provides all advanced registered nurse practitioners licensed under ch. 464, F.S., under the protocol of a licensed physician, and all physician assistants licensed under chs. 458 or 459, F.S., are eligible to make the disability determination.

This bill substantially amends section 320.0848 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Under section 320.0848, F.S., certain persons with disabilities are eligible for a disabled parking permit. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) may issue a disabled parking permit for a period of up to 4 years to any person who has long-term mobility impairment, or a temporary disabled parking permit not to exceed 6 months to any person who has a temporary mobility impairment. The permit may be issued only to a person who is certified as being legally blind or who has certain listed disabilities that render him or her unable to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest. These disabilities include the inability to walk without an assistance device, the need to permanently use a wheelchair, respiratory disease, the use of portable oxygen, cardiac condition, or arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition.

For a person with such a disability to be eligible for the permit, his or her disability must first be certified to the DHSMV by a licensed physician (including osteopathic, chiropractic and podiatric physicians), or by an optometrist licensed in Florida. In addition, the certification may be made by a licensed advanced registered nurse practitioner in a facility operated by the U.S.

Department of Veterans Affairs under the protocol of a licensed physician, or by a licensed physician's assistant in a facility operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or operated by the Adjudication Office of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Out-of-state physicians may certify patients as disabled if the application for a disabled parking permit is accompanied by documentation of the physician's licensure in the other state and a form signed by the physician verifying knowledge of Florida's disabled parking permit eligibility guidelines.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. Expands the class of medical personnel who are authorized to certify a person as disabled for the purposes of proving eligibility for a disabled parking permit. The bill provides that all advanced registered nurse practitioners licensed under ch. 464, F.S., under the protocol of a licensed physician, and all physician assistants licensed under chs. 458 or 459, F.S., are eligible to make disability determinations for parking permits.

Section 2. Provides that this bill takes effect upon becoming law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

By expanding the class of medical personnel who can certify disabilities, the bill may make it less costly for some persons with disabilities to obtain a disabled parking permit. The amount of cost savings for such individuals is unknown.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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