

House Bill No. 561

An act relating to disabled parking permits; amending s. 320.0848, F.S.; providing that certain advanced registered nurse practitioners and physician assistants may provide certification for disability required for the issuance of a disabled parking permit; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 320.0848, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.0848 Persons who have disabilities; issuance of disabled parking permits; temporary permits; permits for certain providers of transportation services to persons who have disabilities.—

(1)

(b)1. The person must be currently certified as being legally blind or as having any of the following disabilities that render him or her unable to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest:

a. Inability to walk without the use of or assistance from a brace, cane, crutch, prosthetic device, or other assistive device, or without the assistance of another person. If the assistive device significantly restores the person's ability to walk to the extent that the person can walk without severe limitation, the person is not eligible for the exemption parking permit.

b. The need to permanently use a wheelchair.

c. Restriction by lung disease to the extent that the person's forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for 1 second, when measured by spirometry, is less than 1 liter, or the person's arterial oxygen is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at rest.

d. Use of portable oxygen.

e. Restriction by cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards set by the American Heart Association.

f. Severe limitation in the person's ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition.

2. The certification of disability which is required under subparagraph 1. must be provided by a physician licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, or chapter 460, by a podiatric physician licensed under chapter 461, by an optometrist licensed under chapter 463, by an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 464 in a facility operated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs under the protocol of a licensed

physician as stated in this subparagraph, by a physician assistant licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 in a facility operated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, by the Adjudication Office of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor, or by a similarly licensed physician from another state if the application is accompanied by documentation of the physician's licensure in the other state and a form signed by the out-of-state physician verifying his or her knowledge of this state's eligibility guidelines.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

Approved by the Governor March 12, 2002.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 12, 2002.