



STATE of RHODE ISLAND
Executive Department
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court
Cranston, RI 02920-3049
[voice] (401) 462-0110 [tty] via RI Relay 711 [fax] 462-0106
[e-mail] elisabeth.hubbard@gcd.ri.gov
[website] www.disabilities.ri.gov

Legislative Impact Statement

To: Chairperson Representative Shanley
From: Elisabeth Hubbard, Executive Secretary
Re: **26 House 7050 AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- PARKING FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGES**

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Legislation Committee has developed a Legislative Impact Statement on the bill listed below. The Commission would be pleased to present testimony to the committee. Please contact me (462-0110 or elisabeth.hubbard@gcd.ri.gov) for additional information.

Introduced by Representative Shanley

The Commission finds this bill beneficial.

The Commission is highly supportive the first section of the bill, relating to changing the term from "handicapped parking to "accessible parking". The Commission has been working for many years to change language and perception of people with disabilities to reflect the "social model" in which we look at how we change our environment and society to be more accommodating.

We are also supportive of the second section of the bill, which allows municipalities to collect information about those who illegally park in accessible parking places from volunteers via a reporting phone-based app.

The unavailability of accessible parking due to lack of enforcement is a frustration that the Commission hears about frequently. Finding the accessible spot you need taken by someone who does not have a placard is more than an inconvenience. The person with a mobility impairment who needs the space is cut off from whatever store, doctors office or recreational activity they are trying to access. In turn, the owners of those establishments are cut off from paying customers.

We understand that enforcement is difficult when law enforcement has many areas and issues to oversee. As a result, those who violate the law are not fined and therefore discouraged from parking in reserved accessible spaces. People with disabilities and those who care about the

rights of people with disabilities are interested in a solution to help with the problem of enforcement. The parking enforcement app would provide a productive way for those who care to help solve the problem. We hope that with more fines issues, fewer people will park illegally in reserved accessible spaces.