

By Mr. Tully, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 951) of B. Joseph Tully for legislation to authorize the issuance of distinctive number plates for pleasure passenger vehicles owned and used by a person who is severely disabled by chronic lung disease. Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-seven.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF DISTINCTIVE NUMBER PLATES FOR PLEASURE PASSENGER VEHICLES OWNED AND USED BY A PERSON WHO IS SEVERELY DISABLED BY CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 The seventh paragraph of section 2 of chapter 90 of the
2 General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the third
3 sentence, as most recently amended by chapter 442 of the acts
4 of 1961, and inserting in place thereof the following sen-
5 tence:— The registrar may also furnish plates of a distinc-
6 tive type or types for a pleasure passenger vehicle owned and
7 used by a blind person, a person who has a severe case of
8 chronic lung disease, or a person who has suffered the loss or
9 permanent loss of use of one or both feet, or of one or both
10 hands, and he may determine such standards of disability and
11 of qualification for the issuance of said plates as he deems
12 proper.

HANDICAPPED LICENSE PLATES

A PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL:

A. To petition the legislature to amend the current rules of eligibility for (HP) Handicapped Persons Plates to allow the Registrar of Motor Vehicles TO FURNISH HP PLATES TO PERSONS SEVERELY DISABLED BY CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE.

B. To recommend that this disability be determined by:

1. The decision of the Registrar
2. The private physician's affidavit

3. Test: FEV₁ less than 1 liter
4. Test: Patient unable to walk more than 200 feet
5. Other

RATIONALE:

Chronic lung patients often encounter problems moving about because they overexert themselves. As a result, these individuals often times limit their occupational, recreational, social, and personal activities. This leads to increasing dependency on others, and increasing isolation from the outside world.

Parking at a distance from a store entrance or making frequent trips from the office to feed a parking meter seriously cuts into a lung patient's breathing reserves.

Passage of the proposed legislation would be an excellent service to those persons handicapped by invisible lung problems; HP plates would permit many to continue functioning and working at a more self-sufficient level.

HP BENEFITS:

(Extended only when handicapped person is actually in the process of using the vehicle.)

... Use of choice parking spaces set aside for handicapped persons.

... Exemption from paying parking meter fees.

... No additional costs to the regular registration fee.

POTENTIAL SPONSORS:

Senator Robert E. McCarthy (D)

East Bridgewater (Bristol, Plymouth, and Norfolk District)

Senator B. Joseph Tully (D)

Dracut (First Middlesex District)

SUPPORT: Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

FILING DEADLINE: December 1, 1976

CHAPTER 90, SECTION 2, OF MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS

"The registrar may (also) furnish plates of a distinctive type or types for a pleasure passenger vehicle owned and used by any blind person or any person who has suffered the loss or permanent

loss or use of one or both feet, or one or both hands and he may determine such standards of disability and or qualification for the issuance of such plates as he deems proper.”

PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING

The individual requests the proper forms from the Medical Affairs Branch, Registry of Motor Vehicles, 100 Nashua Street, Boston, MA. 02114. These forms are completed by the applicant, and he/she returns them for review with a letter from the private physician, certifying the particular disability.

