such owner transfers or assigns his interest in such vehicle, the special decal shall be removed. Such person shall immediately surrender the decal to the director together with a notice of the transfer of interest in such vehicle. If another vehicle is acquired by, or for the primary use of, such person, a new decal shall be issued by the director. Application for renewal, except for the permanently disabled who shall be issued a permanent card, must be made by January 10th of each renewal year together with satisfactory proof of the right to continued use of such special card and decal. No additional fees shall be charged for the issuance of such special card and decal. The director shall promulgate such rules and regulations as he deems necessary to carry into effect this section.

Any unauthorized use of such distinguishing license plate, card (and) or decal shall constitute a gross misdemeanor. Any person parking a vehicle in a parking place reserved for physically disabled persons pursuant to chapter 70.92 RCW, or authority implemental thereof, without a special license plate, card or decal as in this section provided, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor: PROVIDED, That a person charged with a violation hereof shall not be convicted if he produces in court or prior to the court appearance the special license plate, special card or special decal required hereunder or demonstrates he was entitled to the same at the time of being ticketed.

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CHAPTER 27
[Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2040]
DISABLED PERSONS—SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES—PARKING PRIVILEGES

AN ACT Relating to disabled persons; amending section 1, chapter 128, Laws of 1961 as last amended by section 1, chapter 102, Laws of 1975–76 2nd ex. sess. and RCW 46.16.380; amending section 2, chapter 128, Laws of 1961 as last amended by section 2, chapter 102, Laws of 1975–76 2nd ex. sess. and RCW 46.61.580; and prescribing penalties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Section 1. Section 1, chapter 128, Laws of 1961 as last amended by section 1, chapter 102, Laws of 1975–76 2nd ex. sess. and RCW 46.16.380 are each amended to read as follows:

Any person who (shall) submits satisfactory proof to the director that he or she has lost both of his or her lower extremities, or (who) has lost the normal or full use thereof, or (who) is so severely disabled as to be unable to move without the aid of crutches or a wheelchair, or (who) has
lost both hands, shall be entitled to receive a special card to be left in a vehicle in a conspicuous place, bearing distinguishing marks, letters, or numerals indicating that the vehicle is being used to transport such a ((privileged)) disabled person. Such a ((privileged)) disabled person shall also be entitled to receive for one motor vehicle only, a special decal to be affixed to the vehicle in a conspicuous place designated by the director, bearing distinguishing marks, letters, or numerals indicating that the vehicle is owned by or primarily used for such a ((privileged)) disabled person. The disabled person is also entitled to receive, in lieu of the decal and regular motor vehicle license plates, special license plates bearing distinguishing marks, letters, or numerals indicating that the vehicle is owned by such a disabled person. Whenever ((such-owner)) the disabled person transfers or assigns his or her interest in ((such)) the vehicle, the special decals or license plates shall be removed from the motor vehicle. Such person shall immediately surrender the decal to the director together with a notice of the transfer of interest in such vehicle. If another vehicle is acquired by, or for the primary use of, ((such)) the disabled person, a new decal shall be issued by the director. Application for renewal, except for the permanently disabled who shall be issued a permanent card, must be made by January 10th of each renewal year together with satisfactory proof of the right to continued use of such special card and decal. If another vehicle is acquired by the disabled person and special plates are used, they shall be attached to the vehicle, and the director shall be immediately notified of the transfer of plates. If another vehicle is not acquired by the disabled person, the removed plates shall be immediately forwarded to the director to be reissued later upon payment of the regular registration fee.

The special license plates shall be renewed in the same manner and at the time required for the renewal of regular motor vehicle license plates under this chapter. No special license plate may be issued to a person who is temporarily disabled. A person who is permanently disabled under this section shall be issued a permanent card. A person who is temporarily disabled under this section shall be issued a temporary card which shall be renewed, at such times as the director may require, by satisfactory proof of the right to continued use of the card.

No additional fees shall be charged for the issuance of ((such)) the special card and decal, and, at the time the vehicle is originally licensed in this state, no additional fee may be charged for the issuance of the special license plates except the regular motor vehicle registration fee and any other fees and taxes required to be paid upon initial registration of a motor vehicle. On the effective date of this 1979 act, any disabled person who is entitled to receive a special license plate under this section and who has valid Washington state license plates for his or her motor vehicle shall be entitled to receive special license plates upon payment of the fee prescribed in RCW 46.16.270 and surrender of the existing plates.

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The director shall promulgate such rules and regulations as he or she deems necessary to carry into effect this section.

Any unauthorized use of the special card, the decal, or the special license plate shall constitute a gross misdemeanor.

Sec. 2. Section 2, chapter 128, Laws of 1961 as last amended by section 2, chapter 102, Laws of 1975-'76 2nd ex. sess. and RCW 46.61.580 are each amended to read as follows:

Any person who has lost both of his or her lower extremities, or who has lost the normal or full use thereof, or who is so severely disabled as to be unable to move without the aid of crutches or a wheelchair, or who has lost both hands, shall be allowed to park a vehicle being used to transport such person for unlimited periods of time in parking zones or areas which are otherwise restricted as to the length of time parking is permitted. This section shall have no application to those zones or areas in which the stopping, parking, or standing of all vehicles is prohibited or which are reserved for special types of vehicles. Such a person shall not be permitted the foregoing privilege unless he or she obtains and displays a special card, a decal, or a special license plate attached to the vehicle, as provided in RCW 46.16.380 as now or hereafter amended.

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