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BILL ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 502 (Substitute S-1 as reported)**Sponsor: Senator Jerome T. Hart****Committee: State Affairs, Tourism, and Transportation****Date Completed: 11-18-87*****RATIONALE***

Although the Michigan Vehicle Code contains several provisions under which handicappers may obtain special parking certificates, license plates, and license tabs, there is no provision that allows handicapper parking privileges to be granted to a facility or organization that regularly provides services to and transports handicappers. In Saginaw County, for example, the Melvin Millet Center, which is part of the Saginaw school district, has a physical education facility for physically and mentally handicapped children. While the center has several small vans that are used to transport the students to various activities, the vans cannot be parked in handicapper parking spaces. To address this type of situation, some believe that the Code's handicapper parking provisions should be broadened.

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to provide that a facility or nonprofit organization that provides specialized services to handicappers could apply for and receive a handicapper certificate of identification to be used in motor vehicles owned by the facility or organization and used to transport handicappers who receive services from the facility or organization. Currently, such a certificate may be issued only to an individual who is a handicapper.

MCL 257.675

BACKGROUND

The Michigan Vehicle Code provides that a handicapper is entitled to receive a transferrable certificate of identification. A certificate is for the personal use of the handicapper and may be used by a person other than the handicapper for the sole purpose of providing transportation to the handicapper. A six-month certificate may be issued to an individual who has a temporary handicap.

Special registration plates may be issued for vehicles used to transport handicappers. A vehicle must be owned by a handicapper or a person who resides at the same address as a handicapper. In addition, a handicapper tab may be issued to a totally disabled veteran who has a special disabled veteran registration plate.

Also, a handicapper having a similar certificate of identification from another state, or special license plates from another state, is entitled to use handicapper parking spaces.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

ARGUMENTS***Supporting Argument***

The bill would resolve the problem faced by the Millet Center in Saginaw County and similar facilities throughout the State. People who drive vehicles that are used to transport handicappers on a daily basis should be able to use handicapper parking places. While a certificate of identification can, in fact, be carried from vehicle to vehicle, doing so requires the handicapper to have the certificate and remember to bring it — something that may be particularly difficult to achieve in the case of handicapped children. As a result, current law not only inconveniences the facility or organization that transports the handicapped persons, but also forces the handicappers to walk or move their wheelchairs across more ground to reach their destination, which also may be less accessible from the nonhandicapper parking area. Under the bill, however, the facility or organization itself could obtain a special certificate and take advantage of handicapper parking spaces.

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