

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 388

(Senator Cassilly)

Judicial Proceedings

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**Vehicle Registration – Disability Plates – Parking Meter Fees**

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This bill repeals a requirement that a parking meter be noncompliant with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) before a person issued special disability registration plates is exempted from parking meter fees.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Local government revenues may decline minimally in any jurisdictions that own and operate parking meters, as discussed below. Any changes to enforcement can be handled with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The holder of special disability registration plates is afforded specified parking privileges, including the authorization to generally park for unlimited periods in parking zones restricted as to the length of parking time permitted. In addition, such a person is not required to pay any parking meter fees of the State – or any political subdivision of the State – where parking meters do not meet ADA requirements.

Generally, the person may park in a parking space equipped with a parking meter only for twice the maximum time permitted on the meter (but may not park there for longer than four hours). However, if the parking meter permits parking for more than four hours, the person may park in the space for the period permitted on the parking meter.

Additionally, the person may park in a designated zone for the handicapped established (1) at any State-owned airport or (2) by Baltimore County on any county highway, subject to the posted time restriction that is specified for either parking zone.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** By repealing the requirement that a parking meter be noncompliant with ADA before a person issued special disability registration plates is exempted from parking meter fees, the bill effectively exempts those registrants from paying *any* fee to park in such areas. As a result, any local governments that operate parking meters may need to modify enforcement procedures so that such vehicles are not improperly cited.

Although local revenues may decline (as fewer persons are subject to parking meter fees under the bill), the exact change in local revenues cannot be determined without additional information (*e.g.*, number of jurisdictions in the State that operate their own parking meters, the amount of fees collected annually, *etc.*). Any impact is not expected to be significant, given that holders of special disability registration plates are still subject to time-limit restrictions.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Garrett counties; City of Laurel; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 8, 2021  
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