

SENATE No. 1903

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act relative to parking for handicapped individuals and disabled veterans..

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

1 SECTION 1. clause (23) of section 21 of chapter 40 of the General Laws, as appearing in
2 the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out paragraph (b) and inserting in place
3 thereof the following paragraph:-

4 (b) Parking spaces designated as reserved under paragraph (a) shall be identified
5 by the use of above-grade signs with white lettering against a blue background and shall bear the
6 words “Handicapped Parking: Special Plate Required. Unauthorized Vehicles May be Removed
7 at Owner’s Expense”. The spaces shall be as near as possible to a building entrance or walkway,
8 shall be adjacent to curb ramps or other unobstructed methods permitting sidewalk access to a
9 handicapped person and shall be at least 8 feet wide, not including the cross hatch access aisle as
10 defined by the architectural access board established in section 13A of chapter 22. The cross
11 hatch access aisle abutting a handicapped parking space shall be considered part of the
12 handicapped parking space to which it abuts to provide individuals who use wheelchairs and
13 other mobility aids with sufficient space to enter and exit their vehicles. No person shall park in
14 the cross hatched access aisle.

15 SECTION 2. Said section 21 of said chapter 40, as so appearing, is hereby further
16 amended by inserting after the word “the”, in line 177, the following words:- standing or.

17 SECTION 3. The second paragraph of section 22A of said chapter 40, as so
18 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof
19 the following 3 sentences:- Parking spaces designated as reserved under this paragraph shall be
20 identified by the use of above-grade signs with white lettering against a blue background and
21 shall bear the words “Handicapped Parking: Special Plate Required. Unauthorized Vehicles May
22 be Removed at Owner’s Expense”. The spaces shall be as near as possible to a building entrance
23 or walkway, shall be adjacent to curb ramps or other unobstructed methods permitting sidewalk
24 access to a handicapped person and shall be at least 8 feet wide, not including the cross hatch
25 access aisle as defined by the architectural access board established in section 13A of chapter
26 22. If parking spaces designated as reserved under this paragraph are made temporarily
27 unavailable due to a construction project or other planned event, the city or town shall ensure
28 that the nearest available nonreserved parking space, if any, shall be temporarily designated as
29 reserved under this paragraph.