**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 56‑3‑1965, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO FREE PARKING IN METERED OR TIMED PARKING PLACES FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH FREE PARKING MUST BE OFFERED BY AN AIRPORT TO VEHICLES THAT TRANSPORT HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 56‑3‑1965 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 56‑3‑1965. (A) Those municipalities having marked parking spaces shall provide appropriately designated space or spaces reserved for the parking of handicapped persons. A person who is handicapped as defined in this article must be allowed to park in metered or timed parking places without being subject to parking fees or fines. This section does not apply to areas or during times in which the stopping, parking, or standing of all vehicles is prohibited or to areas which are reserved for special types of vehicles. A vehicle must display a distinguishing license plate which must be issued by the department, or a distinguishing placard which must be issued by the department, pursuant to Section 56‑3‑1960 when parked in metered or timed parking places.

(B) Notwithstanding the provision contained in subsection (A), an airport that owns, operates, or leases parking facilities, or any other parking facility that is used for the purpose of air travel, may charge for parking vehicles that display a placard or license plate issued by the department pursuant to Section 56‑3‑1960. However, the governing body of each publicly owned or publicly operated airport must grant free parking to a vehicle:

(1) that displays a license plate issued to a disabled veteran pursuant to Section 56‑3‑13110; or

(2) with specialized equipment that includes a ramp, lift, or foot or hand controls, for use by a disabled person.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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