



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Amber Greene, Chief Equity Officer Director, Office of Equity & Civil Rights
ANALYST	Zachary Wellman, Equity Policy Analyst
CC	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
DATE	October 22, 2025
SUBJECT	OECR Report on Baltimore City Council Bill 25-0096 Parking for Disabled Individuals and Helpers

POSITION: Favorable

BILL SYNOPSIS

The Office of Equity and Civil Rights has reviewed and is herein reporting on City Council Bill 25-0096 – *Parking for Disabled Individuals and Helpers*.

This is an ordinance that seeks to accomplish the following:

- Make certain language changes to Article 31, Subtitle 9 of the Baltimore City Code.
- Remove a requirement for an individual with disabilities or their helpers to acquire signed statements from six neighbors approving the reserved parking request.
- Remove the process of administrative regulations being submitted to the City Council to complete the reserved parking request.
- Alter the renewal timeline for a reserved disability parking space from 6 months after issuance, and annually after that, to every 5 years.
- Alter the reserved disability parking renewal process
- Allow individuals other than the permit holder to request the Department of Transportation review the permit and require resubmission of documentation by the permit holder, if the other individual believes the permit holder died, moved, or otherwise no longer requires a reserved parking space.
- Provide for a bi-annual notice to permit holders that they hold a permit for a reserved parking space.
- Require that any fees levied by the Director of the Department of Finance associated with obtaining a reserved parking permit be approved by the Board of Estimates.

The bill would streamline the process for requesting and renewing reserved parking for individuals with disabilities and their helpers by repealing and re-ordinating, with amendments,

various sections of Article 31 – Transit and Traffic, Subtitle 9 of the Baltimore City Code.

SUMMARY OF POSITION

City Council Bill 25-0096 seeks to mitigate any potential undue burden faced by individuals with disabilities and their helpers in obtaining reserved parking permits. Currently, within the Baltimore City Code, there are provisions misaligned with the accessibility focused nature of a reserved disability parking permit system, for which this bill attempts to rectify. They are the following:

1. The requirement for an individual or their helper to get consent from neighbors to obtain a reserved parking permit.

Reserved parking permits on the basis of disability are wholly need-based to allow individuals living with disabilities to navigate the city and retain access to their homes. The criteria set forth by the Baltimore City Code to approve such permits in itself determines that they are necessary accessibility measures, not elective. Therefore, any vestigial requirement for neighborhood approval of these permits is redundant at best, and a compromise of equitable accommodation to the accessibility needs of residents at worst.

2. The requirement for an administrative regulation to be submitted to and approved by the City Council to acquire a reserved disability parking permit.

The existing requirement for the reserved disabled parking permit request to be submitted and approved by the City Council as an administrative regulation is a procedural hurdle that only slows down the process for distributing necessary accommodations for residents with disabilities and creates an unnecessary burden for the City Council itself.

3. Excessively frequent permit renewal requirements.

Annual renewal requirements under current law can be burdensome for individuals living with disabilities, especially those with permanent disabilities. For example, those with mobility disabilities may have a difficult time visiting a doctor annually to renew their permits. Those with mental disabilities, in addition to mobility disabilities, may require assistance with renewing permits. For those with permanent disabilities, renewal at all may be burdensome when considering their disability, which requires reserved parking, is almost certain to exist in perpetuity. While some interval of renewal for reserved parking permits may be appropriate to parse out permit holders who move, pass away, or otherwise no longer need accommodation, the OECR sees it equitable to require renewal of these permits as infrequently as possible. As an additional layer of oversight to lengthening the permit renewal period, the bill establishes a mechanism by which third parties may request the Department of Transportation review the permit if it is believed the reserved parking permit may no longer be necessary.

The existing barriers above pose an equity concern for how the City handles vital accommodation for some of its most marginalized and forgotten residents, those with disability-based mobility

limitations. The current provisions regarding reserved parking permits for individuals with disabilities and their helpers in the Baltimore City Code are burdensome on individuals with disabilities who require accommodation on the basis of mobility need, not convenience. Requirements such as approval from neighbors opens opportunity for discrimination, bias, and retaliation to be considered in the process for distributing valid accessibility accommodations. Frequent renewal requirements and the complicated application process are deterrents that disincentivize people who deserve parking accommodations from interfacing with the city's reserved parking permit system altogether. This leads to worse accessibility outcomes, difficulty leaving the house, and isolation for individuals with mobility disabilities. Council Bill 25-0096 should effectively remedy these concerns through the changes enacted by the bill and improve equity for residents living with disabilities.

FISCAL IMPACT

City Council Bill 25-0096 is not expected to have any direct operational, investigatory, or enforcement outcomes that involve the OECR, as the Department of Finance is responsible for reviewing reserved parking permits. As such, the OECR does not identify any foreseeable fiscal impacts to the office associated with the legislation.

CONCLUSION

City Council Bill 25-0096 should make the process by which individuals with disabilities obtain reserved street parking permits more simplified, common-sense, and aligned with the accessibility-focused nature of said permits. The OECR discerns no inequity in the bill's purpose, intent, or impact in accomplishing this goal and believes that the legislation's modifications to the City's reserved disability parking structure will improve accessibility for Baltimore residents living with disabilities. The legislation should remove excessive hurdles to obtaining reserved disability parking currently created by the Baltimore City Code. As such, the Office of Equity and Civil Rights respectfully requests a **favorable** committee report on City Council Bill 25-0096.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amber Greene
Director, Office of Equity & Civil Rights