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BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Mission Statement

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the **Public Health and Environment Committee** is dedicated to safeguarding the well-being of Baltimore's residents by advancing policies that promote health equity, environmental justice, and sustainability. Recognizing the deep connection between public health and the environment, the committee works to reduce health disparities, improve access to essential services, and address climate-related challenges that impact communities.

**The Honorable Phylicia Porter
Chair**

PUBLIC HEARING

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025
10:00 AM**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Bill: 25-0096

Parking for Disabled Individuals and Helpers - Modifications

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OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

NANCY MEAD – DIRECTOR

100 N. HOLIDAY STREET

BALTIMORE MD, 21202

BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Public Health and Environment

Bill: 25-0096

Parking for Disabled Individuals and Helpers – Modifications

Sponsor: *Councilmember Gray, et al*

Introduced: *September 15, 2025*

Purpose:

FOR the purpose of removing certain permit renewal requirements for an individual with a disability; allowing a certain individual to submit notice to the Department of Transportation that a reserved parking permit is no longer needed; removing certain obsolete language; and generally relating to parking for disabled persons and helpers.

Effective: Takes effect on the 30th day after the date it is enacted.

Agency Reports

Law Department	Favorable/Amend
Finance Department	None as of this writing
Parking Authority of Baltimore City	None as of this writing
Department of Transportation	None as of this writing
Office of Equity and Civil Rights	None of this writing

Analysis

Current Law

*Article 31 of the Baltimore City Code (Transit and Transit)- outlines the rules, regulations and mandates pertaining to parking issues and/or guidelines.

Subtitle 9 – Parking for Disabled Persons and Helpers

Background

Per the primary sponsor of the legislation, the Honorable Paris Gray, “Certain permit renewal requirements seem to punish the people who need it most! The purpose of this bill is to remove barriers from ‘people with barriers;’ to remove unnecessary hurdles and to shift accountability to the system; and will address equity too!”

If enacted, Bill 25-0096 will amend Article 31, Subtitle 9 of the Baltimore City Code. **Some** highlighted changes and/or amendments are:

- Wording: disabled person changed to disabled individual
- Wording: applicant changed to individual in some areas of the bill but not all areas.
- Change in law:
 - The abutting property owners will no longer have to provide signed statements for the designation of reserved parking for the individual
 - Only one statement will be needed – from a physician
- Change in law:
 - The Department of Transportation (upon approval) shall issue a permit to the applicant; (permits shall be renewed each year)
 - The issuance of a temporary permit **will be deleted**
 - The regulation describing the location of the reserved space that was previously submitted to the City Council **will be deleted**
- Change in law:
 - Validation and renewal of the reserved parking space no longer expire 6 months from date of issuance (permits shall be renewed each year)
 - The Department of Transportation will follow up with the permit holder:
 - With a bi-annual notification, and
 - Every 5 years send the permit holder a document to affirm the holder still requires the use of the permit
 - However, any person who reasonably believes that a permit is no longer needed by an individual can contact the Department of Transportation to initiate an investigation into the status of same.
- Change in law:

- All application and annual permit **fees** will now be subject to the approval of the Board of Estimates

On Wednesday, December 17, 2025, the committee will hold a hearing on this legislation.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: None as of this writing

Information Source(s): Baltimore City Code, Council Bill 25-0096, Remarks from the Honorable Paris Gray, all agency reports and correspondence received as of this writing.

Marguerite Currin

Analysis by: Marguerite Currin
Analysis Date: December 15, 2025

Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

25-0096

AGENCY REPORT(S)

SEE ATTACHED

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT

Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

EBONY M. THOMPSON, CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

December 5, 2025

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council

Attn: Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 25-0096 – Parking for Disabled Individuals and Helpers – Modifications

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 25-0096 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill removes certain required statements for reserved parking permit applications for disabled individuals and their helpers. The bill also removes the procedural requirement to submit an administrative regulation to City Council when a permit is approved. CCB 25-0096 also creates a five-year permit renewal process and allows third parties to submit notice to the Department of Transportation if they believe that a reserved parking permit is no longer needed. The bill also changes the term disabled “person” to “individual” throughout Subtitle 9 of Article 31 of the Baltimore City Code. However, it does miss one reference in line 7 on page 2, which should be corrected.

State law authorizes the City of Baltimore to establish personal residential reserved parking spaces subject to the approval of the Baltimore City Department of Transportation. Md. Code, Transp. § 21-1005(k). The changes to the reserved permit parking application requirements, the permit renewal process, and third-party notice comport with state regulations on reserved permit parking for disabled individuals. *See* Code of Maryland Regulations, 11.16.03.02 (application), 11.16.03.03 (medical certification), and 11.16.03.09 (revocation of parking permit and reserved parking space).

There are no legal issues with City Council Bill 25-0096; therefore, the Law Department approves the bill for form and legal sufficiency but recommends correction of the typographical error.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Luckey".

Desireé Luckey

Assistant Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson, City Solicitor
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Jeff Hochstetler, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor
Michelle Toth, Assistant Solicitor

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0096
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Gray

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Paker, Dorsey, Conway, Torrence, Bullock, Porter, Blanchard, and Ramos

Introduced and read first time: September 15, 2025

Assigned to: Public Health and Environment Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Parking Authority of Baltimore City, Department of Transportation, Office of Equity and Civil Rights

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

Parking for Disabled Individuals and Helpers – Modifications

3 FOR the purpose of removing certain permit renewal requirements for an individual with a
4 disability; allowing a certain individual to submit notice to the Department of Transportation
5 that a reserved parking permit is no longer needed; removing certain obsolete language; and
6 generally relating to parking for disabled persons and helpers.

7 BY repealing and re-ordinating, with amendments,

8 Article 31 - Transit and Traffic
9 Sections 9-1 to 9-3, 9-11, and 9-12
10 Baltimore City Code
11 (Edition 2000)

12 BY repealing and re-ordinating, without amendments,

13 Article 31 - Transit and Traffic
14 Sections 9-4, and 9-13 to 9-15
15 Baltimore City Code
16 (Edition 2000)

17 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
18 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Baltimore City Code

Article 31. Transit and Traffic

Subtitle 9. Parking for Disabled [Persons] INDIVIDUALS and Helpers

Part I. Reserved Parking for Disabled [Persons] INDIVIDUALS

§ 9-1. Criteria for obtaining.

(a) *In general.*

A disabled [person] INDIVIDUAL may be eligible for a reserved parking space if the person meets the following criteria:

- (1) the disability of the [applicant must be] INDIVIDUAL IS permanent or of a nature expected to adversely affect the [applicant] INDIVIDUAL for at least 1 year;
- (2) the [applicant must be] INDIVIDUAL IS unable to use public transportation, leaving a personal vehicle as the only means of transportation;
- (3) the [applicant must be] INDIVIDUAL IS the sole operator of the vehicle or, if the [applicant] INDIVIDUAL is dependent upon a non-handicapped driver for transportation, the driver must reside in the same [household;] DWELLING;
- (4) A parking space [must be] IS available that is not restricted by other parking regulations;
- (5) off-street parking is not available, such as a driveway, garage, or parking pad, on the [applicant's] INDIVIDUAL'S property; and
- (6) the [applicant] INDIVIDUAL submits an application in the form that the Director of Transportation requires.

(b) *Required [statements.] STATEMENT.*

[(1)] The application shall be accompanied [by:]

[(i)] BY a physician's statement, dated within the previous 6 months, describing the nature and anticipated duration of the disability and the disability's effect on the mobility of the [applicant; and] INDIVIDUAL.

[(ii)] signed statements approving the designation of reserved parking for the applicant from the 2 abutting property owners and from 4 additional property owners in the block.]

[(2)] The Director may waive the requirements of paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection if:]

[(i)] the Director determines that there are not enough properties in the block to supply the necessary signatures; or]

[ii) the Director, in consultation with the Director of the Community Relations Commission, determines that the applicant meets all other criteria for obtaining a reserved parking space.]

§ 9-2. Procedure.

(a) *Application to Department.*

(1) Any [person] INDIVIDUAL desiring a reserved parking space and meeting the criteria of § 9-1 of this subtitle may submit an application for a reserved parking permit to the Department of Transportation.

(2) The Department shall review each application.

(b) *Approvals.*

[(1) If a determination is made] IF THE DEPARTMENT REVIEWS AN APPLICATION AND DETERMINES that the applicant meets the criteria for a RESERVED PARKING space, [then:] THEN THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE A PERMIT TO THE APPLICANT.

[(1) a temporary permit shall be issued; and]

[2) an administrative regulation describing the location of the reserved space shall be submitted to the City Council and shall be processed as described in § 2-6 of this article.]

(c) *Denials.*

(1) If the Department determines that the applicant does not meet the criteria for a reserved parking space, the Department shall so notify the applicant in writing stating the reason for the denial of space.

(2) If the Department denies the permit, the applicant may appeal the decision to the [Director. The Director] DIRECTOR, WHO shall review the case and may, in the Director's discretion, reverse the denial and grant a temporary permit.

§ 9-3. Use, renewal, and termination.

(a) *Permit to be displayed.*

The permit [must] SHALL be clearly displayed whenever the vehicle is parked in the reserved parking space.

(b) Validation and renewal.

[Reserved parking permits must be:]

[(1) validated upon the expiration of 6 months from their date of issue; and]

[(2) renewed each year in the manner and form determined by the Department.]

1 (1) EVERY 5 YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SEND A PERMIT HOLDER A DOCUMENT THAT
2 AFFIRMS THE PERMIT HOLDER STILL REQUIRES THE USE OF THE PERMIT.

3 (2) UPON RECEIPT OF THE DOCUMENT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE PERMIT HOLDER
4 SHALL SIGN AND RETURN THE DOCUMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT IF THE PERMIT
5 HOLDER STILL REQUIRES USE OF THE PERMIT.

6 (c) *Notice when no longer needed.*

7 (1) *NOTICE FROM PERMIT HOLDER OR HEIRS.*

8 The holder of a reserved parking permit or the holder's heirs shall notify the
9 Department when a reserved parking space is [not] NO longer needed.

10 (2) *NOTICE FROM OTHER PARTY.*

11 ANY PERSON WHO REASONABLY BELIEVES THAT A PERMIT HOLDER HAS DIED, MOVED,
12 OR OTHERWISE NO LONGER REQUIRES A RESERVED PARKING PERMIT MAY SUBMIT A
13 REQUEST TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE DEPARTMENT:

14 (I) REVIEW THE PERMIT; AND

15 (II) IF NECESSARY, REQUIRE THE PERMIT HOLDER TO RESUBMIT THE
16 DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED BY § 9-1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

17 (d) *Revocation.*

18 [A reserved parking permit shall be revoked if:] THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVOKE A
19 RESERVED PARKING PERMIT IF:

20 (1) false statements are made in the application;

21 (2) the parking permit is misused;

22 (3) new parking regulations are imposed which prohibit parking at any time; OR

23 [(4) the City Council rescinds an administrative regulation pursuant to § 2-6 of this
24 article; or]

25 (4) [(5)] the disabled [person] INDIVIDUAL dies, moves from the premises, or no
26 longer needs the space.

27 (E) *BIANNUAL NOTICE.*

28 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BIANNUALLY SEND A PERMIT HOLDER NOTICE THAT:

29 (1) CONFIRMS THE INDIVIDUAL HAS AN ACTIVE PERMIT;

30 (2) LISTS THE PERMIT HOLDER'S CONTACT INFORMATION AS IT APPEARS IN THE
31 DEPARTMENT'S RECORDS; AND

1 (3) INCLUDES INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOW A PERMIT HOLDER MAY UPDATE THEIR
2 CONTACT INFORMATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

3 **§ 9-4. Forms, rules, and regulations; fees.**

4 (a) *Forms, rules, and regulations.*

5 Subject to Title 4 {"Administrative Procedure Act – Regulations"} of the City General
6 Provisions Article, the Director shall develop forms and adopt rules and regulations to
7 carry out this Part 1.

8 (b) *Fees.*

9 (1) [The] SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF ESTIMATES, THE Director may set
10 and impose reasonable application and annual permit fees to help defray the cost of
11 manufacturing, installing, and removing signs and otherwise administering this Part 1.

12 (2) The fees set under this subsection do not apply to and may not be imposed if the
13 [applicant-permittee's] DISABLED INDIVIDUAL'S disability is, as shown on the
14 physician's statement, permanent.

15 **§§ 9-5 to 9-10. {Reserved}**

16 ***Part II. Reserved Parking for Helpers***

17 **§ 9-11. "Disabled [person]" INDIVIDUAL defined.**

18 In this Part, "disabled [person]" INDIVIDUAL means a person who meets the physical criteria
19 for obtaining a reserved parking space for a disabled [person.] INDIVIDUAL UNDER § 9-1 OF
20 THIS SUBTITLE.

21 **§ 9-12. Criteria and procedure for obtaining.**

22 (a) *In general.*

23 [A person] AN INDIVIDUAL who regularly renders assistance to a disabled [person]
24 INDIVIDUAL may apply to the Department of Transportation for a permit for 1 reserved
25 parking space at the disabled [person's] INDIVIDUAL'S home.

26 (b) *Application.*

27 (1) The application shall be made jointly by the disabled [person] INDIVIDUAL and the
28 disabled [person's] INDIVIDUAL'S designated helper.

(2) The application shall be in the form that the Director requires and shall be accompanied [by:] BY

[(i)] a physician's statement, dated within the previous 6 months, describing the nature and anticipated duration of the disabled [person's] INDIVIDUAL'S disability and the disability's effect on the disabled [person's mobility; and] INDIVIDUAL'S MOBILITY.

[(ii) signed statements approving the designation of reserved parking for the applicant from the 2 abutting property owners and from 4 additional property owners in the block.]

(c) *Review.*

The Department shall review each application to determine that:

- (1) suitable off-street parking, such as a driveway, garage, or parking pad, is not available;
- (2) suitable parking space not restricted by other parking regulations is available; and
- (3) the disabled [person] INDIVIDUAL meets the criteria for a reserved parking space.

§ 9-13. Assignment of space; restrictions.

(a) *Assignment.*

On acceptance of the application, the Director shall designate and mark 1 space at a location to be determined by the Director.

(b) *Restrictions.*

- (1) The Director may specify the days, times, location, and other restrictions the Director considers necessary in order to provide adequate parking in the neighborhood.
- (2) Any reserved parking space may be designated by the Director for use by more than 1 helper.

§ 9-14. Annual permit.

(a) *Issuance.*

The Director shall issue to the designated helper a permit which shall be displayed in the manner prescribed by the Director.

(b) *Renewal.*

Permits shall be renewed each year in the manner and form determined by the Director.

§ 9-15. Forms, rules, and regulations; fees.

(a) *Forms, rules, and regulations.*

Subject to Title 4 {“Administrative Procedure Act – Regulations”} of the City General Provisions Article, the Director may develop forms and adopt rules and regulations to carry out this Part 2.

(b) *Fees.*

(1) The Director may set and impose reasonable application and annual permit fees to help defray the cost of manufacturing, installing, and removing signs and otherwise administering this Part 2.

(2) The fees set under this subsection do not apply to and may not be imposed if the disability of the [person] INDIVIDUAL being assisted is, as shown on the physician's statement, permanent.

§§ 9-16 to 9-20. *{Reserved}*

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day after the date it is enacted.