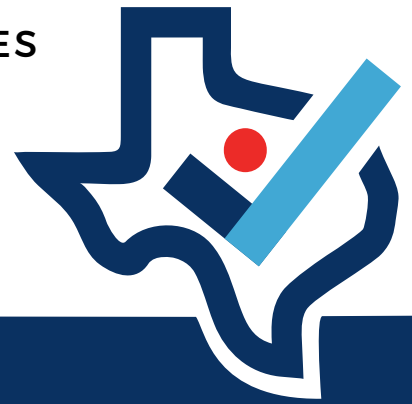


Senate Bill (SB) 904

Sen. Drew Springer



Unauthorized Use of Accessible Parking Spaces

SB 904 relates to the offense of unauthorized parking in a space designated for persons with disabilities. The bill establishes that, for parking in a space that is not designated to be in compliance with the standards and specifications adopted by the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation (TCLR), the lack of compliance is not a defense to prosecution if the parking space is generally in compliance with those standards and specifications and is clearly distinguishable as being designated for persons with disabilities. It also states that a peace officer may issue a warning for an accessible parking violation, but may not issue a citation, if the space does not have a sign identifying it in accordance with TCLR requirements.



In 2019, Texas lawmakers approved HB 3163, which updated the standards and specifications of accessible parking spaces. However, TCLR only inspects newly constructed spaces for compliance, leaving many spaces to exist under outdated standards.



Many peace officers and judges have stopped enforcing accessible parking violations in spaces that do not meet the updated standards. This has worsened the shortage of accessible spaces and created additional barriers for people with disabilities.



Both TCDD and the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD) have adopted policy recommendations for the Legislature to strengthen the enforcement of accessible parking laws in the state. The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities testified in support of SB 904.



"SB 904 is a bill that holds accountable people who illegally park in parking spaces intended for persons with disabilities."

Rep. Brooks Landgraf
House Sponsor of SB 904

