

**Amended Texas Traffic Code 681.008: Texas Accessible Parking Regulation**  
**Start Date: 1 January 2022**  
**What a Texas Veteran Needs To Know**




**ISSUE:** Veterans with DV plates must be aware of the parking penalties associate with the amended Texas Transpiration Code 681.008 as of 1 January 2022.

1. Your qualification for a Texas Accessible Parking Placard, received as through your Veterans Administration Disability Rating prior to 1 Jan 22, is no longer valid criteria to qualify for accessible parking.
2. When your current DV placard (blue of red) expires, you must submit Texas Form VT-214 to apply for a new placard. You must use Form VTR-214 if you are a first time applicant after 1 Jan 22.

**BACKGROUND:** The amendment to this code was approved by the Texas Legislature in August 2021 through the Passage of Senate Bill 792. There have been Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) press releases, general Texas media reporting on this amended regulation prior to 2022, various other methods of public services announcement activity aimed at informing veterans and the general public. Still, awareness of this change could be lacking.

**CHANGES IN THE REGULATION:**

1. If you have the International Disability Symbol already on your license plate , check with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to determine your status of eligibility for accessible parking. Make it your business to inform and take care of yourself. Review this regulation change at:

[Disabled Veteran License Plates and Parking Privileges - Senate Bill 792 \(txdmv.gov\)](https://www.txdmv.gov/Disabled-Veteran-License-Plates-and-Parking-Privileges-Senate-Bill-792)

2. As a Disabled Veteran, if you want or must apply for accessible parking, you will be held to the following qualifying standards that are listed on the back side of Form VTR-214:

**Transportation Code, Section 681.001(2) defines a disability as a condition in which a person has:**

- (a) mobility problems that substantially impair the person's ability to ambulate;
- (b) visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses; or
- (c) visual acuity of more than 20/200 but with a limited field of vision in which the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle of 20 degrees or less.

**Transportation Code, Section 681.001(5) defines a mobility problem as one that substantially impairs a person's ability to ambulate, and the person:**

- (a) cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest;
- (b) cannot walk without the use of or assistance from an assistance device, including a brace, cane, crutch, another person or a prosthetic device;
- (c) cannot ambulate without a wheelchair or similar device;

- (d) is restricted by lung disease to the extent that the person's forced respiratory expiratory volume for one second, measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 millimeters of mercury on room air at rest;
- (e) uses portable oxygen;
- (f) has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards set by the American Heart Association;
- (g) is severely limited in the ability to walk because of an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition;
- (h) has a disorder of the foot that, in the opinion of a physician licensed to practice medicine in this state or in a state adjacent to this state, limits or impairs the person's ability to walk; or
- (i) has another debilitating condition that, in the opinion of a physician licensed to practice medicine in this state or a state adjacent to this state, or authorized by applicable law to practice medicine in a hospital or other health facility of the Veterans Administration, limits or impairs the person's ability to walk.

**WHAT YOU MUST DO:** Each disabled veteran seeking an accessible parking placard or ISA license plate must gather information pertinent to your specific situation and needs. You will seek this information through the Texas DMV, the Tax Assessors Office in your home county, Internet searches, etc. Once you have gathered the information, you may need to make medical appointments that will define your medical condition(s) eligibility. Be mindful that your VA Disability Rating for Compensation WILL NO LONGER qualify you for disabled accessible parking in Texas. This is what changed with the amended law. Now, you must be medically examined and screened in a new and separate process, that YOU tailor for yourself and this is different from what you originally understood prior to 1 Jan 2022. You should seek:

- Medical appointments that screen you for Form VTR-214 listed conditions.
- Perhaps follow-on specialty medical appointments per VTR-214 listed conditions.
- Obtaining a written prescription from your physician that specifically diagnosis' and prescribes that you require accessible parking.
- NOTE: avoid a the situation where you do not get a written prescription from your physician, and then fall into a category where you will have to get your Form VTR-214 notarized at your physician's office.

**PROCESS TIMEFRAME:** In all probability, what you should expect is a process that takes weeks, if not months. The process of researching your exact status per Texas DMV records, gathering and understanding the information that applies to your personal circumstances, requesting medical screening appointments to discern disability per Form VTR-214, perhaps being sent to see a follow-on specialist for a specific ailment(s) related to qualifying you for Texas Accessible Parking, and then going to your county's Tax Assessors Office (or office that administrates license plate programs on behalf of Texas DMV), etc. All of this will require careful planning and an unspecified amount of time.

**WHO CAN ASSIST:** (State Level – not the same as local county government)

Organization	Website	Telephone
Department of Motor Vehicles	<a href="http://www.txdmv.gov">www.txdmv.gov</a>	1-888-368-4689
Veterans Administration (Texas)	<a href="http://Texas - Locations (va.gov)">Texas - Locations (va.gov)</a>	1-800-698-2411
Tricare	<a href="#">Contact Us   TRICARE</a>	1-800-444-5445
Tricare – Humana East (Texas)	<a href="http://www.humanamilitary.com">www.humanamilitary.com</a>	1-800-444-5445