



Local Officials Guide

Presented by the Massachusetts Office On Disability



Process for Establishing a Municipal Commission On Disability and Accepting Handicapped Parking Fines

Establishing Your Commission On Disability...Easy As 1, 2, 3

Local acceptance of a General Law is subject to municipal charter provisions of your community. Generally speaking a member of the legislative body proposes a paper/warrant item. The Legislative Body would then vote on the measure.

Step 1 - Adopt MGL 40, 8J

This Creates the COD

- ✓ Identify a sponsor to propose the acceptance of MGL 40, 8J

Legislative body votes on...

- ✓ ***Ordered: That the City/Town of _____ accept the provisions of Massachusetts General laws Chapter 40, Section 8J relative to the establishment of the municipal Commission On Disability***

In Cities;

If the VOTE is approved, your measure goes to your Mayor for approval.

- ✓ **In Towns;**
If the VOTE is approved then your COD is created. Now, you can propose another measure to accept HP Parking fines

Step 2 - Adopt MGL 40, 22G

This Allows Collection of Fines

- ✓ Identify a sponsor to propose the acceptance of MGL 40, 22G

Legislative body votes on...

- ✓ ***Ordered: That the City/Town of _____ accept the provisions of Massachusetts General laws Chapter 40, Section 22G relative to collecting Handicap Parking Fines***

In Cities;

If the VOTE is approved, your measure goes to your Mayor for approval.

- ✓ **In Towns;**
If the VOTE is approved then your COD can accept HP Parking fines

Step 3 - Appoint Members

- ✓ Commissions On Disability may have from Five (5) to Nine (9) members. Members are usually appointed by the Mayor or Town Manager, but MGL 40, 8J outline the particulars for each City/Town charter. A majority of members should be persons with disabilities.



Benefits of Creating a Commission On Disability

Advise

- ✓ Advise and assist local officials with compliance to federal and state disability laws
- ✓ Assist local disability advocates with Technical Assistance, advocacy and Disability related matters

Research & Information

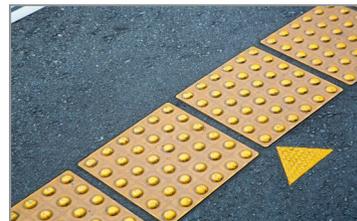
- ✓ Be a voice to let developers know that they have obligations to comply with Disability Laws and regulations
- ✓ Represent the interest of Persons with Disabilities, at certain times some PWD's may need assistance to express their views
- ✓ On behalf of Taxpayers who expect and deserve equal protection under the law

Review

- ✓ Projects that may come before Planning Board, Town Meeting, City Council, etc.
- ✓ Assist municipality with ensuring the Self-Evaluation meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- ✓ Assist municipality with implementation and upkeep of their Transition Plan

Coordinate

- ✓ With the MOD to keep abreast of applicable laws & regulations
- ✓ With advocates and elected officials



Contact the Massachusetts Office On Disability

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