S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

7574--A

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

May 10, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. GANTT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation -- recommitted to the Committee on Transportation in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to certifications of disability for severely disabled persons to obtain certain motor vehicle registrations and plates

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The opening paragraph and paragraph (c) of subdivision 4 and paragraph (b) of subdivision 5 of section 404-a of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by chapter 228 of the laws of 2008, are amended and a new subdivision 4-b is added to read as follows:

The commissioner shall issue sets of plates to such person in accordance with subdivision two of this section with proof of such disability of such person or such members of his OR HER family certified by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner, to the extent authorized by law, including the education law, and consistent with any applicable written practice agreement, or podiatrist pursuant to subdivision four-a of this section OR OPTOMETRIST PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION FOUR-B OF THIS SECTION, to the satisfaction of the commissioner who is empowered to carry out the effects of this section by formulating rules and regulations.

(c) Has a physical or mental impairment or condition which is other than those specified above, but is of such nature as to impose unusual hardship in utilization of public transportation facilities and such condition is certified by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner, to the extent authorized by law, including the education law, and consistent with any applicable written practice agreement, duly licensed to practice medicine in this state, or, pursuant to subdivision

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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four-a of this section, a podiatrist duly licensed to practice podiatry in this state OR, PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION FOUR-B OF THIS SECTION, AN OPTOMETRIST DULY LICENSED TO PRACTICE OPTOMETRY IN THIS STATE, as constituting an equal degree of disability (specifying the particular condition) so as to prevent such person from getting around without great difficulty in accordance with subdivision two of this section; or

(b) The commissioner may require the applicant for registration to furnish such proof of his OR HER disability or such proof of disability of such members of his OR HER family from a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner, to the extent authorized by law, including the education law, and consistent with any applicable written practice agreement, or podiatrist pursuant to subdivision four-a of this section OR OPTOMETRIST PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION FOUR-B OF THIS SECTION, as the commissioner deems necessary either for initial registration or renewal thereof; provided, however, that a handicapped or disabled permit issued by a municipality to such applicant pursuant to section twelve hundred three-a of this chapter shall be deemed sufficient proof of disability for purposes of this paragraph.

4-B. CERTIFICATION OF DISABILITY BY AN OPTOMETRIST. AN OPTOMETRIST DULY LICENSED TO PRACTICE OPTOMETRY IN THIS STATE MAY CERTIFY ONLY THOSE CONDITIONS WHICH HE OR SHE TREATS IN THE COURSE OF THE PRACTICE OF OPTOMETRY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION SEVENTY-ONE HUNDRED ONE OF THE EDUCATION LAW.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law.