

# BBS MEMO

Ohio Board of Building Standards

2323 West Fifth Ave., Box 825, Columbus, Ohio 43216

**ORC §3781.111 REVISED**  
**Reserved Parking Signs**  
**Effective Date: 9/25/1991**

HB 73, signed recently into law, revises ORC §3781.111 (regulations for building and parking accessibility) by specifying that elevated signs, permanently mounted or moveable, shall be installed and maintained to reserve parking spaces for people with disabilities.

It also revised ORC §4511.69 (the section pertaining to required accessible spaces for publicly owned property) by mandating that public parking lots and parking serving public facilities have accessible parking marked by an elevated sign. Penalties were established in a new section, ORC §3781.99: \$25.00 penalty for 2nd non-compliance offenses.

This revised version includes language that appears to require a post to be used for mounting and a fixed height to the top of the sign. The current OBBC has provisions requiring that reserved spaces must be marked in a way meeting this Law's intent. The ANSI standard (§4.6.2) requires that these spaces be identified so that the signs are not obstructed (by a vehicle, etc.). In its appendix, further guidance is given on page 78 §A4.6.2:

"Signs designating parking spaces for physically handicapped people can be seen from a driver's seat if the signs are mounted high enough above the ground and located at the front of the parking space."

The bill's sponsor, Mr. Vukovich, assured us that this was, in fact, the law's intent.

This is important to note since the text in the law indicates the dimension between grade and top of sign edge to be 5 feet. The 5 foot dimension was intended to be a guideline, so that it was clear that **low-to-ground (easily obstructed) and high signs (difficult to notice) are not acceptable.** Also, this text specifies that the sign be **post mounted which should not be considered to be an absolute.** There are conditions where parking spaces are adjacent to a building or other fixed vertical surfaces (fencing, etc.) and mounting the sign on such a surface would satisfy the requirement.

If the legislative intent is applied, there does not appear to be a conflict with the existing OBBC and, as such, revisions should not be necessary in OBBC §512.0. Enforcement that has been consistent with the sign requirements in ANSI A117.1-1986 should be continued.

The requirements for reserved parking in existing public lots, maintenance of the signs and penalties for non-compliance should be communicated to the local agencies responsible these areas of enforcement.

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