

HB 646 -- ACCESSIBLE PARKING SIGNS

SPONSOR: Young

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Transportation by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill requires all new signs erected after August 28, 2007, relating to disabled parking to contain the words "Accessible Parking" instead of "Handicap Parking."

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the words we use shape our attitudes. The word "handicapped" evokes the picture of dependency instead of achievement, independence, and responsibility. It's more dignified to describe the parking space, not its user.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Young; Cathy Enfield; Barry Grisom, Becky Dickey, Roger Dickey, and Garry Stevens, People First of Sikeston; and Whole Person, Incorporated.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.