

1973 Assembly Bill 924

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CHAPTER 98 , Laws of 1973

AN ACT to amend 66.616; and to create 66.616 (3) to (5) of the statutes, relating to curb ramping for handicapped persons.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Statement of legislative intent. The legislature finds that the original statute was provided to allow people with physical handicaps to maximize their mobility potential by requiring curb ramps at intersection crosswalks and thereby enable people with physical handicaps to negotiate crosswalks at intersections of public streets unaided and thus be independent citizens within our environment. The legislature further finds that revising the statute will provide a means to meet the needs of people with sight impairment and also set forth sufficient design requirements to establish standardization of curb ramp construction throughout this state.

SECTION 2. 66.616 of the statutes is amended to read:

66.616 Curb ramping. (1) The standard for construction of curbs and sidewalks on each side of any city or village street, or any connecting street or town road for which curbs and sidewalks have been prescribed by the governing body of the town, city or village having jurisdiction thereover, shall be not less than 2 ramps per lineal block giving on the crosswalks at intersections, or a single ramp so located at street corner radius to provide legal access to both crosswalks at intersections. ~~Such ramps shall be at least 40 inches wide and so constructed as to allow reasonable access to the crosswalk for physically handicapped persons.~~

(2) Standards set for curb and sidewalk ramping under sub. (1) shall not apply to any curb or sidewalk existing ~~upon enactment on the effective date of this section act (1973)~~ but shall apply to all new curb and sidewalk construction and to all replacement curbs and sidewalks constructed at ~~any point in a block which gives locations considered to be legal crosswalks and thereby give~~ reasonable access to a the crosswalk for handicapped persons, including persons in wheelchairs.

SECTION 3. 66.616 (3) to (5) of the statutes are created to read:

66.616 (3) Curb ramps shall conform to the following requirements:

(a) The ramp shall be no less than 40 inches wide. Ramp slope shall not exceed 1 inch in 12 inches from the flow line elevation of gutter construction. Sides of ramp shall be sloped from sidewalk to ramp elevations with the widest portion of side slope not more than 18 inches nor less than 12 inches in width at the curb. The ramp shall be either bordered on both sides and curb line with a 4 inch wide yellow stripe, or the surface treatment on ramp shall have integral coloration.

(b) The ramp shall be located at crosswalk intersections in one of the following locations:

1. At the center of the street corner radius to accommodate crossing for either direction at the intersection. The entire curb radius shall not be made into a ramp, but shall provide for standard sidewalk apron and curb on both sides of ramp. Where markings are required by municipal law, safety zone marking shall be provided in the street or town road 40 inches out and tangent with the curb, joining with the standard safety pedestrian crossing markings in the street or town road;

2. Only if subd. 1 is not feasible, centered on line with the sidewalk and pedestrian traffic and the ramp surfaces shall contain surface projections which will clearly indicate to the sense of touch that the surface differs from that of the sidewalk and paved street; or

3. Only if both subds. 1 and 2 are not feasible, at such other suitable location as near to the crosswalk as circumstances permit. Where markings are required by

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municipal law, safety zone markings shall be provided in the street or town road 40 inches out and tangent with the curve, joining with the standard safety pedestrian crossing markings in the street or town road.

(4) When new curbing and ramps are constructed on only one side of the street or town road, means for access to the opposite crossing shall be provided by permanent construction on all property owned by a governmental unit or zoned commercial in conformance with sub. (3).

(5) The district attorney, on his own motion or upon the complaint of any person, may bring an action in circuit court to require a municipality to comply with this section.
