

By: Guerra, Anderson, Plesa, et al.

H.B. No. 3132

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to an optional designation on a driver's license or
3 personal identification certificate indicating that a person is
4 deaf or hard of hearing.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Sections 521.060(a) and (c), Transportation
7 Code, are amended to read as follows:

8 (a) The department shall maintain in its files a record of
9 the name, address, and telephone number of each individual
10 identified by the holder of a driver's license or personal
11 identification certificate as an individual the holder authorizes
12 to be contacted in the event that the holder is injured or dies in or
13 as a result of a vehicular accident or another emergency situation.
14 In addition, the department shall maintain in its files a record of
15 any medical information described by Section 521.125(a) that is
16 provided to the department under Subsection (c) or any health
17 condition information that is voluntarily provided to the
18 department under Sections 521.1251 and [Section] 521.142(h).

19 (c) An application for an original, renewal, or duplicate
20 driver's license or personal identification certificate must:

21 (1) be designed to allow, but not require, the
22 applicant to provide:

23 (A) the name, address, and telephone number of
24 not more than two individuals to be contacted if the applicant is

1 injured or dies in a circumstance described by Subsection (a); and
2 (B) in addition to health condition information
3 voluntarily provided under Sections 521.1251 and [Section]
4 521.142(h), medical information described by Section 521.125(a);
5 and

6 (2) include a statement that:

7 (A) describes the confidential nature of the
8 information; and

9 (B) states that by providing the department with
10 the information, the applicant consents to the limited disclosure
11 and use of the information.

12 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 521, Transportation Code,
13 is amended by adding Section 521.1251 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 521.1251. OPTIONAL DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING
15 DESIGNATION. (a) The department shall provide to each applicant
16 for the issuance of an original, renewal, corrected, or duplicate
17 driver's license or personal identification certificate who
18 applies in person the opportunity to voluntarily indicate on a
19 driver's license or personal identification certificate that the
20 person is deaf or hard of hearing as evidenced by a written
21 statement from a licensed physician.

22 (b) The department shall include a designation that
23 indicates the person is deaf or hard of hearing on each driver's
24 license or personal identification certificate issued to a person
25 who:

26 (1) makes an election under this section; and

27 (2) provides sufficient evidence under Subsection (a)

1 to qualify for the designation.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.