

By: LaMantia

S.B. No. 661

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the notification of a peace officer through an
3 indication associated with vehicle registration that the vehicle
4 owner may be transporting a person with a disability.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 502, Transportation Code,
7 is amended by adding Section 502.062 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 502.062. REGISTRATION BY OWNER WHO TRANSPORTS
9 PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES. (a) In this section, "person with a
10 disability" means a person with:

11 (1) a physical, intellectual, behavioral, or
12 cognitive impairment;

13 (2) autism; or

14 (3) a health condition or disability that may impede
15 effective communication with a peace officer.

16 (b) An application for registration must provide space for
17 the applicant to voluntarily indicate that the applicant may
18 transport a person with a disability. The department may request
19 from a person who makes an indication under this subsection
20 verification in the form of a personal attestation.

21 (c) The department shall provide to the Department of Public
22 Safety the vehicle registration information of a person who
23 voluntarily indicated on an application under Subsection (b) that
24 the person may transport a person with a disability. The department

1 may not provide to the Department of Public Safety information that
2 shows the type of health condition or disability a person has.

3 (d) The Department of Public Safety shall establish a system
4 to include information received under Subsection (c) in the Texas
5 Law Enforcement Telecommunications System for the purpose of
6 alerting a peace officer who makes a traffic stop that the operator
7 of the stopped vehicle may be transporting a person with a
8 disability.

9 (e) The Department of Public Safety may not make information
10 received under Subsection (c) available in the Texas Law
11 Enforcement Telecommunications System to a person who has access to
12 the system under a contract unless the contract prohibits the
13 person from disclosing that information to a person who is not
14 subject to the contract.

15 (f) The department may not issue to a person without the
16 person's consent a license plate with a visible marking that
17 indicates to the general public that the person voluntarily
18 indicated on an application under Subsection (b) that the person
19 may transport a person with a disability.

20 (g) Except as provided by Subsection (e), information
21 supplied to the department relating to a person with a disability is
22 for the confidential use of the department and the Department of
23 Public Safety and may not be disclosed to any person.

24 SECTION 2. A Department of Public Safety contract that
25 allows a person to access the Texas Law Enforcement
26 Telecommunications System and that is in effect before the
27 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the

1 date on which the contract was entered into, and that law is
2 continued in effect for that purpose, except that the contract:

- 3 (1) continues only for the term of the contract; and
4 (2) may not be renewed unless the renewed contract
5 includes the prohibition required by Section 502.062(e),
6 Transportation Code, as added by this Act.

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