

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 1987

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the issuance of specialty license plates for persons
3 who are deaf or hard of hearing and to deaf or hard of hearing driver
4 training for peace officers; authorizing a fee.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 504, Transportation Code,
7 is amended by adding Section 504.204 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 504.204. PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING.

9 (a) In this section, "deaf" and "hard of hearing" have the
10 meanings assigned by Section 81.001, Human Resources Code.

11 (b) The department shall design and issue specialty license
12 plates for a motor vehicle that is regularly operated by a person
13 who is deaf or hard of hearing. A license plate issued under this
14 section must include an emblem indicating that the person operating
15 the vehicle is deaf or hard of hearing.

16 (c) The initial application for specialty license plates
17 under this section must be accompanied by a written statement from a
18 physician who is licensed to practice medicine in this state or in a
19 state adjacent to this state or who is authorized by applicable law
20 to practice medicine in a hospital or other health facility of the
21 Department of Veterans Affairs. The statement must certify that
22 the person making the application is deaf or hard of hearing.

23 (d) The fee for a set of license plates issued under this
24 section is \$8.

1 SECTION 2. Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, is amended
2 by adding Subsection (1) to read as follows:

3 (1) As part of the minimum curriculum requirements, the
4 commission shall establish a statewide comprehensive education and
5 training program on procedures for interacting with drivers who are
6 deaf or hard of hearing, as defined by Section 81.001, Human
7 Resources Code, including identifying specialty license plates
8 issued to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing under Section
9 504.204, Transportation Code. An officer shall complete a program
10 established under this subsection not later than the second
11 anniversary of the date the officer is licensed under this chapter
12 or the date the officer applies for an intermediate proficiency
13 certificate, whichever date is earlier.

14 SECTION 3. Not later than March 1, 2016, the Texas
15 Commission on Law Enforcement shall establish the deaf or hard of
16 hearing driver training program as required by Section 1701.253(1),
17 Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.