

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1685

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to specialty license plates or stickers for motor vehicles of persons with intellectual disabilities.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 502, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 502.061 to read as follows:

Sec. 502.061. REGISTRATION BY OWNER WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY. (a) If the department elects to design and issue a sticker under Section 504.205(c) indicating that a person operating a motor vehicle may be a person with an intellectual disability, the department shall adopt rules allowing an applicant for registration or renewal of registration to apply for the sticker.

(b) Rules adopted by the department under this section must provide for:

(1) the expiration of the sticker at the end of the registration period specified in the registration application;

(2) the location on the motor vehicle where the sticker must be placed; and

(3) a fee for issuance of the sticker in an amount to cover the department's costs for issuance.

(c) An application for registration or renewal of registration must provide space for the applicant to submit the written statement from a physician as required by Section 504.205.

SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 504, Transportation Code,

1 is amended by adding Section 504.205 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 504.205. PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY. (a) In
3 this section, "intellectual disability" has the meaning assigned by
4 Section 591.003, Health and Safety Code.

5 (b) Subject to Subsection (c), the department, in
6 consultation with the Department of Public Safety, shall design and
7 issue specialty license plates for a motor vehicle that is
8 regularly operated by a person with an intellectual disability. A
9 license plate issued under this section must include an emblem
10 indicating that the person operating the vehicle may be a person
11 with an intellectual disability.

12 (c) In lieu of designing and issuing specialty license
13 plates under Subsection (b), the department, in consultation with
14 the Department of Public Safety, may design a sticker for a motor
15 vehicle that is regularly operated by a person with an intellectual
16 disability and issue the sticker at the time the person registers or
17 renews the registration of the person's vehicle as provided by
18 Section 502.061.

19 (d) The initial application for specialty license plates
20 under this section must be accompanied by a written statement from a
21 physician who is licensed to practice medicine in this state or in a
22 state adjacent to this state. The statement must certify that the
23 person making the application has an intellectual disability.

24 (e) The fee for issuance of license plates under this
25 section may not exceed the administrative costs incurred by the
26 department in issuing the license plates.

27 SECTION 3. Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, is amended

1 by adding Subsection (n) to read as follows:

2 (n) As part of the minimum curriculum requirements, the
3 commission shall establish a statewide comprehensive education and
4 training program on procedures for interacting with drivers with an
5 intellectual disability, as defined by Section 591.003, Health and
6 Safety Code, including identifying specialty license plates or
7 stickers issued to individuals with an intellectual disability
8 under Section 504.205 or 502.061, Transportation Code. An officer
9 shall complete a program established under this subsection not
10 later than the second anniversary of the date the officer is
11 licensed under this chapter or the date the officer applies for an
12 intermediate proficiency certificate, whichever date is earlier.

13 SECTION 4. Not later than March 1, 2018, the Texas
14 Commission on Law Enforcement shall establish the training program
15 as required by Section 1701.253(n), Occupations Code, as added by
16 this Act.

17 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect January 1, 2018.