

By: Martinez

H.B. No. 2644

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the notification of a peace officer through an
3 indication associated with vehicle registration that a person has a
4 health condition that may impede communication.

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 502.061 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 502.061. REGISTRATION BY OWNER WITH CONDITION THAT
9 IMPEDES COMMUNICATION. (a) An application for registration must
10 provide space for the applicant to voluntarily list any health
11 condition that may impede communication with a peace officer as
12 evidenced by:

13 (1) for a physical health condition, a written
14 statement from a licensed physician; or

15 (2) for a mental health condition, a written statement
16 from a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, or a
17 non-physician mental health professional, as defined by Section
18 571.003, Health and Safety Code.

19 (b) The department shall provide to the Department of Public
20 Safety the vehicle registration information of a person who
21 voluntarily lists a health condition on an application under
22 Subsection (a).

23 (c) The Department of Public Safety shall establish a system
24 to include information received under Subsection (b) in the Texas

1 Law Enforcement Telecommunications System for the purpose of
2 alerting a peace officer who makes a traffic stop that the operator
3 of the stopped vehicle may have a health condition that may impede
4 communication.

5 (d) The department may not issue a license plate with a
6 visible marking that indicates to the general public that a person
7 voluntarily listed a health condition on an application under
8 Subsection (a).

9 (e) Information supplied to the department relating to an
10 applicant's health condition is for the confidential use of the
11 department and the Department of Public Safety and may not be
12 disclosed to any person.

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.