

By: Hughes

S.B. No. 976

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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 CONDITION THAT IMPEDES COMMUNICATION. (a) An application for registration must provide space for the applicant to voluntarily list any health condition that may impede communication with a peace officer as evidenced by:

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

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

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

(c) The Department of Public Safety shall establish a system 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.