By: Perez of Harris H.B. No. 1196

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the issuance of specialty license plates for motor vehicles used by or for the transportation of a person with a communication disorder; authorizing a fee.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 504, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 504.206 to read as follows:

Sec. 504.206. PERSONS WITH COMMUNICATION DISORDER. (a) In this section, "person with a communication disorder" means a person with:

(1) autism; or

(2) another neurodevelopmental disorder that may impede:

(A) the person's sensory processing during an interaction with a law enforcement officer or other first responder; or

(B) effective communication with a peace officer or other first responder.

(b) The department shall design and issue specialty license plates for a motor vehicle that:

(1) has a gross vehicle weight of 18,000 pounds or less; and

(2) is regularly operated by or for the transportation of a person with a communication disorder.

(c) An owner of a motor vehicle regularly operated by or for the transportation of a person with a communication disorder may apply for specialty license plates under this section. A license plate issued under this section must include an emblem indicating that the motor vehicle is transporting a person with a communication disorder.

(d) The initial application for specialty license plates under this section must be accompanied by a written statement from a physician, psychologist, or other qualified medical professional licensed in this state or in a hospital or other health facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The statement must verify that the person making the application or on whose behalf the application is made is a person with a communication disorder.

(e) The department shall coordinate with the Department of Public Safety to promote awareness of the meaning and purpose of the license plates issued under this section.

(f) The department shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this section.

(g) The fee for a set of license plates issued under this section is $8.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2027.