



# HOUSE BILL 523: Drivers License Designation/American Indian.

2015-2016 General Assembly

---

<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	August 9, 2016
<b>Introduced by:</b>		<b>Prepared by:</b>	Giles Perry Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	S.L. 2016-75		

---

**OVERVIEW:** *S.L. 2016-75 directs the Division of Motor Vehicles to use the specific designation "AI" for American Indian driver's license applicants who request to have race designated on their drivers' licenses.*

*This act becomes effective October 1, 2016, and applies to drivers' licenses issued or renewed on or after that date.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Designation of race is not required on North Carolina drivers' licenses. The statutes do provide that, at the request of an applicant, the Division of Motor Vehicles must include the applicant's race in addition to other mandatory identifying information. Specific designations for race are not described.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 523 requires the Division, upon request of an applicant who is an American Indian, to include the designation "AI" on the applicant's driver's license to indicate race.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act became effective October 1, 2016, and applies to drivers' licenses issued or renewed on or after that date.

**BACKGROUND:** It is the policy of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs to use the term American Indian. The Commission has adopted this policy because anyone born in the United States is a Native American, but this does not make them an American Indian. The United States' Census Bureau defines "American Indian" as a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America) and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

*Wendy Graf Ray and Jennifer Bedford of the Legislative Analysis Division substantially contributed to this summary.*

Karen Cochran-Brown  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578