



HOUSE BILL 523: Drivers License Designation/American Indian

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	House Transportation	Date:	April 22, 2015
Introduced by:	Reps. C. Graham, Steinburg, Waddell, Pierce	Prepared by:	Wendy Graf Ray
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: *House Bill 523 would direct the Division of Motor Vehicles to use the specific designation "AI" for American Indian drivers license applicants who request to have race designated on their drivers licenses.*

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 would require the Division, upon request of an applicant who is an American Indian, to include the designation "AI" on the applicant's drivers license to indicate race.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would become effective January 1, 2016, and would apply 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.

Jennifer Bedford, counsel to House Judiciary I, substantially contributed to this summary.

O. Walker Reagan
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