



HOUSE BILL 84: DL/Deaf or Hard of Hearing Designation.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Judiciary III	Date:	April 4, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. Insko, Ball, Butler	Prepared by:	Billy R. Godwin Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	PCS to Second Edition H84-CSBD-16		

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 84 (proposed committee substitute – PCS) would direct DMV to develop a voluntary driver's license designation for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. The bill would become effective on January 1, 2018.*

The PCS would:

- *Add the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to those with whom DMV must consult on the licenses.*
- *Add a requirement that the N.C. Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission and the N.C. Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission establish minimal training standards to recognize and appropriately interact with persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.*
- *Provide that nothing in the act would prohibit individuals from obtaining a license who are otherwise eligible under the law.*
- *Provide that Individuals choosing to register or not to register for a driver's license designation have not waived any rights.*

CURRENT LAW: Under current law, DMV is authorized to place various medical restrictions on a driver's license, such as vision, time of driving, and distance restrictions. DMV is also authorized to place designations on drivers' licenses for active duty military, and for American Indians. No specific designation for a deaf or hard of hearing person is currently authorized. G.S. 20-7.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 of House Bill 84 would:

- Direct DMV to develop, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, the State Highway Patrol, and Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, a driver's license designation that may, upon request, be granted to a person who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- Direct DMV, at the request of a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, to place a unique numerical identifier on the front of the person's license.
- Direct DMV to record the requested designation in the electronic record associated with the person's driver's license.

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- Direct DMV, at the request of a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, to enter the drivers license numerical identifier and a descriptor into the electronic record of any motor vehicle registered in the same name of the deaf or hard of hearing person.
- Would not require medical certification or examination for the designation.
- Provide that nothing would prohibit individuals from obtaining a license who are otherwise eligible under the law.
- Provide that individuals choosing to register or not to register for a driver's license designation have not waived any rights under the law.

Section 2 of House Bill 84 would direct the NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission to establish minimum educational and training standards for employment and continuing education for criminal justice officers concerning driver's license and vehicle registration identifiers of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and to recognize and appropriately interact with persons who are deaf or hard of hearing

Section 3 of House Bill 84 would direct the NC Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission to establish minimum educational and training standards for employment and continuing education for officers concerning driver's license and vehicle registration identifiers of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and to recognize and appropriately interact with persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective January 1, 2018.

Staff Attorney Giles Perry substantially contributed to this bill summary.