



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

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	May 4, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. Insko, Ball, Butler	Prepared by:	Wendy Ray
Analysis of:	Third Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 84 would direct the Division of Motor Vehicles to develop a voluntary drivers license designation for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, and would require training for law enforcement on the designation and on recognizing and appropriately interacting with persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. The bill would become effective on January 1, 2018.*

CURRENT LAW: Under current law, a drivers license issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles must contain certain information, including the license holder's full name, address, color photograph, physical description, date of birth, and signature, an identifying number assigned by the Division, the class of motor vehicle the license holder is authorized to drive and any endorsements or restrictions that apply, and issuance and expiration dates. In addition, the Division is authorized, upon request of the applicant, to include the license holder's race, including a designation of "AI" for American Indians, and a designation for active duty military and military veterans. *G.S. 20-7.*

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 of House Bill 84 would:

- Direct the Division 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 be granted to a person who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- Direct the Division, at the request of a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, to place a unique numerical identifier, without a further descriptor, on the front of the person's license.
- Direct the Division to record the requested designation in the electronic record associated with the person's driver's license.
- Direct the Division, 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 that person's name.
- Provide that medical certification or examination for the designation is not required.
- Clarify that this provision would not make anyone eligible to obtain a license who is otherwise ineligible under the law or prohibit anyone from obtaining a license who is otherwise eligible.
- 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 the bill would direct the NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission to establish minimum educational and training standards for employment and continuing

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Legislative Analysis
Division
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House Bill 84

Page 2

education for criminal justice officers concerning the designation, including that it is optional, and appropriate interaction with persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Section 3 of the bill 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 the designation, including that it is optional, and appropriate interaction with persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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

Giles Perry, counsel to the House Transportation Committee, substantially contributed to this bill summary.