

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 84
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/21/17

Short Title: DL/Deaf or Hard of Hearing Designation.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 13, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO DEVELOP A
3 DESIGNATION FOR DRIVERS LICENSES THAT MAY BE GRANTED UPON
4 REQUEST TO A PERSON WHO IS DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-7 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7 "(q2) Deaf or Hard of Hearing Designation. – The Division shall develop, in consultation
8 with the Department of Public Safety and the State Highway Patrol, and pursuant to this
9 subsection, a drivers license designation that may, upon request, be granted to a person who is
10 deaf or hard of hearing. The Division shall comply with the following requirements applicable
11 to the designation:

12 (1) At the request of a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, the Division shall
13 place a unique numerical identifier on the front of the person's license. The
14 unique numerical identifier placed on the license shall not include any
15 further descriptor. The Division shall record the designation in the electronic
16 record associated with the person's drivers license.

17 (2) At the request of a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, the Division shall
18 enter the drivers license numerical identifier and a descriptor into the
19 electronic record of any motor vehicle registered in the same name of the
20 deaf or hard of hearing person.

21 (3) Medical certification or examination is not required to make a request
22 pursuant to this subsection.

23 (4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as authorizing the issuance of a
24 drivers license to a person ineligible under G.S. 20-9."

25 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 17C-6(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

26 "(17) Establish minimum educational and training standards for employment and
27 continuing education for criminal justice officers concerning drivers license
28 and vehicle registration identifiers of persons who are deaf or hard of
29 hearing, as authorized by G.S. 20-7(q2)."

30 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 17E-4(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

31 "(13) Establish minimum educational and training standards for employment and
32 continuing education for officers concerning drivers license and vehicle
33 registration identifiers of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, as
34 authorized by G.S. 20-7(q2)."

35 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2018.

