



1           WHEREAS, vehicles operated by persons with medical conditions, intellectual  
2 disabilities, or developmental disabilities which could impede communications and affect  
3 their encounters with law enforcement or first responders could benefit from a distinctive  
4 combination of letters and numbers on their license plate as a status identifier; and

5           WHEREAS, a potential letter and number combination could identify the individual's  
6 condition to law enforcement and first responders so they could be made aware of the  
7 individual's capacity during a welfare check or traffic stop; and

8           WHEREAS, the letter and number combination could solely be disclosed by the  
9 Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, to law enforcement  
10 and first responders to make them aware of the individual's unique needs and allow them to  
11 proceed accordingly; and

12           WHEREAS, the goal of any potential legislation would be to ensure drivers with  
13 certain conditions are safe on the roads and during other potential interactions with law  
14 enforcement and first responders; and

15           WHEREAS, some detractors of license plate identifiers have indicated that there is  
16 a potential for abuse, such as allowing the criminal element to learn what the identifiers  
17 mean, which may ultimately compromise individuals with such plates by making them easy  
18 targets; and

19           WHEREAS, any potential disabled license plate should contemplate these issues and  
20 seek to limit the potential for abuse; and

21           WHEREAS, an alternative method of implementing license plate identifiers is  
22 through the electronic system immediately available to a police officer when conducting a  
23 traffic stop or welfare check; and

24           WHEREAS, the electronic system could alert the officer through an identifier on  
25 screen that an individual in the vehicle may have a developmental disability, which would  
26 obviate the need for public identifiers on the license plate itself; and

27           WHEREAS, the implementation of a license plate flag system will alert that officer  
28 prior to approaching the vehicle that a person driving the vehicle may have difficulty  
29 understanding or communicating; and

1           WHEREAS, the availability of this information affords the officer advance  
2 knowledge and awareness in order to enable respectful interactions with individuals with all  
3 levels of communication abilities.

4           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
5 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Public Safety and  
6 Corrections to study the feasibility of establishing a license plate designation and  
7 implementing a system for flagging license plates of individuals with developmental  
8 disabilities to prevent miscommunication with law enforcement officers.

9           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall consider, at a minimum, the  
10 following:

11           (1)     The methods of implementation and the requirements for updating the system  
12 to enable an officer to utilize the motor vehicle's license plate number to access and verify  
13 the driver's license information of any registered driver of the motor vehicle to determine  
14 whether any driver has a developmental disability that may impede effective communication.

15           (2)     The potential costs associated with implementing a system that allows an  
16 officer to verify if a driver has a developmental disability after running the license plate.

17           (3)     The documentation that a driver with a developmental disability would be  
18 required to produce to qualify for the license plate designation, including but not limited to  
19 proof of a physical health condition provided by a licensed physician or proof of a mental  
20 health condition, provided by a licensed physician, psychologist, or other mental health  
21 professional.

22           (4)     The documentation a driver would have to provide to the department to  
23 receive the license plate designation.

24           (5)     The methods of maintaining discretion to eliminate potential abuse.

25           (6)     The methods by which the department would maintain the information  
26 supplied by the driver relating to his health or medical condition to ensure it remains  
27 confidential.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report of their findings shall be submitted to  
2 the House and Senate Committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the  
3 member of the House of Representatives that represents House District Number sixty-three  
4 no later than February 1, 2021.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
6 secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 32 Original

2020 First Extraordinary Session

Carpenter

Urges and requests the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to study the feasibility of establishing a license plate designation and implementing a system for flagging license plates of individuals with developmental disabilities to prevent miscommunication with law enforcement officers.

Requires the department to submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the member of the House of Representatives that represents House District No. 63 no later than Feb. 1, 2021.