
DIGEST

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HB 679 Original

2026 Regular Session

Ventrella

Abstract: Creates a special identification card indication for citizens with traumatic brain injury designation.

Proposed law establishes the application process for obtaining a traumatic brain injury designation on a special identification card for new applicants and renewals.

Proposed law requires a traumatic brain injury designation be displayed on a special identification card upon receipt of a statement from a qualified medical or mental health professional licensed in La. or any other state or territory of the U.S. verifying the applicant's disability as established by administrative rule. Further requires the qualified medical or mental health professional be authorized to diagnose traumatic brain injury.

Proposed law specifies that no additional fee can be charged to include the traumatic brain injury designation.

Proposed law specifies that any person who has not been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury who makes a false statement of having the qualification to obtain the special designation will be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$250, or be imprisoned for not more than 30 days, or both. Further, requires any subsequent offense carry a fine of not less than \$250 nor more than \$500, or imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C), public safety services, to establish and implement a law enforcement training course relative to law enforcement officers' interactions with persons who have traumatic brain injury, in addition to the requirements of present law.

Proposed law requires the course instruct law enforcement officers on sensitivity and awareness to ensure equitable treatment and how to effectively communicate and interact with persons who have traumatic brain injury.

Proposed law requires the course include identification of indicators that a person has traumatic brain injury; identification of procedures that an officer should employ when encountering a person who has traumatic brain injury; demonstrations of communication and interactive techniques required to effectively interact with a person who has traumatic brain injury; explanations that provide law enforcement officers with an understanding of traumatic brain injury and examples of unexpected actions that could potentially be taken by persons diagnosed with traumatic brain injury; explanations

of the resources available to assist an officer encountering a person with traumatic brain injury; and descriptions of the procedures an officer should use to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act when encountering a person with traumatic brain injury.

Proposed law authorizes the deputy secretary of the DPS&C to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of proposed law. Provides rule oversight authority to the House and Senate committees on transportation, highways and public works.

(Amends R.S. 40:1321(T) and (U); Adds R.S. 40:1321(V))