

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1244 (Substitute for House Bill No. 679 by Representative Ventrella)

BY REPRESENTATIVE VENTRELLA

MTR VEHICLE/EMERGENCY: Establishes a driver's license designation for persons with brain injuries

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:412(Section heading) and (R) and to enact R.S. 32:412(S),

3 relative to driver's license designations; to provide for the establishment of a brain

4 injury designation on driver's licenses; to provide for the criteria for obtaining the

5 designation for new applicants and renewals; to provide for penalties for persons

6 making false statements to obtain a brain injury special designation; to require the

7 implementation of law enforcement officer training; to provide for rulemaking; and

8 to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 32:412(Section heading) and (R) are hereby amended and reenacted  
11 and R.S. 32:412(S) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §412. Amount of fees; credit or refund; duration of license; veteran designation;

13 special needs or accommodation designations; brain injury designation;

14 disbursement of funds; renewal by mail or electronic commerce of Class "D"

15 or "E" drivers' licenses; disposition of certain fees; exception

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17 R.(1) Upon request of an applicant for a driver's license, a designation that

18 the applicant has a brain injury shall be exhibited on the driver's license upon

19 presentation of a statement from a qualified medical or mental health professional

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 licensed in Louisiana or any other state or territory of the United States verifying the  
2 applicant's disability as established by administrative rule. The qualified medical or  
3 mental health professional shall be authorized to diagnose brain injuries. No  
4 additional fee shall be charged to include this designation.

5 (2) Upon the renewal of a driver's license, a driver who has a brain injury  
6 shall provide a statement from a qualified medical or mental health professional  
7 licensed in Louisiana or any other state or territory of the United States verifying his  
8 disability as established by administrative rule.

9 (3) Any person who has not been diagnosed with a brain injury who willfully  
10 and falsely represents himself as having the qualifications to obtain the special  
11 designation authorized by this Section shall be fined not less than one hundred  
12 dollars nor more than two hundred fifty dollars, or shall be imprisoned for not more  
13 than thirty days, or both. Any subsequent offense shall result in a fine of not less than  
14 two hundred fifty dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or imprisonment for  
15 not more than ninety days, or both.

16 (4) In addition to the training requirements contained in R.S. 40:2404.2(C),  
17 the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal  
18 Justice shall establish and implement law enforcement training relative to law  
19 enforcement officers' interactions with persons with a brain injury. The training shall  
20 instruct law enforcement officers on sensitivity and awareness to ensure equitable  
21 treatment and how to effectively communicate and interact with persons with a brain  
22 injury. At a minimum, the training shall include the following:

23 (a) Identification of indicators that a person has a brain injury.

24 (b) Identification of procedures that an officer should employ when  
25 encountering a person with a brain injury.

26 (c) Demonstrations of communication and interactive techniques required  
27 to effectively interact with a person with a brain injury.

1           (d) Explanations that provide law enforcement officers with an  
2           understanding of the brain injury and examples of unexpected actions that could  
3           potentially be taken by persons diagnosed with a brain injury.

4           (e) Explanations of the resources available to assist an officer encountering  
5           a person with a brain injury.

6           (f) Descriptions of the procedures an officer should use to ensure compliance  
7           with the Americans with Disabilities Act when encountering a person with a brain  
8           injury.

9           (5) The deputy secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections,  
10           public safety services, shall promulgate rules and regulations as necessary to  
11           implement the provisions of this Subsection, including a waiver of liability for the  
12           release of any medical information. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S.  
13           49:966(B)(12), the House and Senate committees on transportation, highways and  
14           public works shall have oversight of the adoption of rules and regulations required  
15           by this Subsection.

16           ~~R: S.~~ An applicant for any class of license may choose to donate one dollar  
17           in addition to any license fee required by this Section to the Louisiana Military  
18           Family Assistance Fund.

19           Section 2. This Act shall be known as "Riley's Law".

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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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HB 1244 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Ventrella

**Abstract:** Creates a designation on driver's licenses for persons with brain injuries.

Proposed law establishes the application process for obtaining a driver's license with a brain injury designation for new applicants and renewals.

Proposed law requires a brain injury designation be displayed on the driver's license 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 a brain injury.

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

Proposed law specifies that any person who has not been diagnosed with a 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 La. Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice to establish and implement law enforcement training relative to law enforcement officers' interactions with persons who have a brain injury, in addition to the requirements of present law.

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

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

Proposed law designates proposed law to be known as "Riley's Law".

(Amends R.S. 32:412(Section heading) and (R); Adds R.S. 32:412(S))