

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 484

BY REPRESENTATIVE SIMON

MTR VEHICLE/DRIVER LIC: Provides for a deaf or hard of hearing designation to be placed on the registration of a motor vehicle

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:403.3, relative to the deaf and hard of hearing; to provide for
3 a deaf or hard of hearing designation on the registration of a motor vehicle; to
4 authorize the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to
5 promulgate rules and regulations to implement the deaf or hard of hearing
6 designation; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 32:403.3 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §403.3. Identification stickers for the deaf and hard of hearing; license label

10 A. The office of motor vehicles of the Department of Public Safety and
11 Corrections is hereby authorized to issue an identification sticker or decal which
12 shall be the international symbol of deafness at no cost for use by deaf and hard of
13 hearing persons who are granted a driver's license. Every deaf or hard of hearing
14 person applying for a driver's license with an identification decal or sticker shall
15 attach to the application a statement indicating a hearing loss attested by one of the
16 following: a medical physician, audiologist, or speech pathologist. The sticker or
17 decal is to be offered at the time the driver's license is issued and shall be prepared
18 so that it may at the option of the user be applied to the windshield and viewed from
19 the outside of the vehicle or on the license plate, or both. The same sticker or decal

1 identifying the licensee as deaf or hard of hearing shall be offered and imprinted on
2 the back of the driver's license under the lamination.

3 B. In addition to the identification sticker or decal provided for in Subsection
4 A of this Section, the office of motor vehicles of the Department of Public Safety and
5 Corrections shall create a flag code to be placed on the registration of a motor
6 vehicle which shall indicate that the driver of the vehicle is deaf or hard of hearing.
7 Upon the initial application for or renewal of the registration of a motor vehicle, the
8 flag will be placed on the registration at the driver's request at no additional cost,
9 provided he produces a statement indicating a hearing loss attested by one of the
10 following: a medical physician, audiologist, or speech pathologist. The secretary
11 shall adopt rules and regulations as are necessary to implement the provisions of this
12 Subsection.

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)]

Simon

HB No. 484

Abstract: Requires the office of motor vehicles to create a flag code to be placed on the registration of a motor vehicle which indicates that the driver is deaf or hard of hearing.

Present law authorizes the office of motor vehicles to issue an identification sticker or decal to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing at no cost. The sticker or decal can be placed on the vehicle's windshield or license plate, and the same sticker or decal can be imprinted on the back of the driver's license under the lamination.

Present law provides that the person applying for the sticker or decal must produce a statement attested by a medical physician, audiologist, or speech pathologist indicating a hearing loss.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the office of motor vehicles to create a flag code to be placed on the registration of a motor vehicle which indicates that the driver is deaf or hard of hearing. Authorizes placement of the flag code on the registration of a motor vehicle when an applicant initially applies for or renews their registration. Specifies that the flag will be no additional cost to the driver if the driver produces a statement attested by a medical physician, audiologist, or speech pathologist indicating a hearing loss. Authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to promulgate rules to implement proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 32:403.3)