

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 84  
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/21/17  
Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 4/5/17

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, the State Highway Patrol, the Division of Services for  
9 the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and pursuant to this subsection, a drivers license designation that  
10 may, upon request, be granted to a person who is deaf or hard of hearing. The Division shall  
11 comply with the following requirements applicable 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 (5) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as prohibiting the issuance of a  
26 drivers license to a person otherwise eligible under the law.

27 (6) Any individual who chooses to register or not to register shall not be deemed  
28 to have waived any protections under the law."

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

30 "(17) Establish minimum educational and training standards for employment and  
31 continuing education for criminal justice officers concerning:

32 a. Recognizing and appropriately interacting with persons who are deaf  
33 or hard of hearing.



1                    b. Drivers license and vehicle registration identifiers of persons who are  
2                    deaf or hard of hearing, as authorized by G.S. 20-7(q2), including  
3                    that those identifiers are optional."

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

5                    "(13) Establish minimum educational and training standards for employment and  
6                    continuing education for officers concerning:

7                    a. Recognizing and appropriately interacting with persons who are deaf  
8                    or hard of hearing.

9                    b. Drivers license and vehicle registration identifiers of persons who are  
10                    deaf or hard of hearing, as authorized by G.S. 20-7(q2), including  
11                    that those identifiers are optional."

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