

By: Senator(s) Boyd, McLendon, Sparks,
Whaley, Chism

To: Highways and
Transportation; Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2764
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW SECTION IN TITLE 63, CHAPTER 21,
2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR ISSUANCE BY THE
3 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, THROUGH THE COUNTY TAX COLLECTORS, OF
4 SPECIAL DECALS TO BE PLACED ON THE LICENSE PLATES AND FRONT LEFT
5 WINDSHIELD CORNERS OF VEHICLES OF APPLICANTS WITH HEALTH
6 CONDITIONS OR DISABILITIES LIMITING OR IMPAIRING EFFECTIVE
7 COMMUNICATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT; TO REQUIRE THAT THE INITIAL
8 APPLICATION AND THE APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE
9 CERTIFICATION OF A MISSISSIPPI LICENSED PHYSICIAN OR PSYCHOLOGIST
10 INDICATING THAT THE APPLICANT, OR THE APPLICANT'S CHILD, PARENT OR
11 SPOUSE, HAS A PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION IMPAIRING THE
12 ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND THAT
13 THE PHYSICIAN OR PSYCHOLOGIST HAS DETERMINED THAT THE
14 COMMUNICATION IMPAIRMENT WILL LAST FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS; TO
15 PROVIDE FOR THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE
16 APPLICANT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE OR TO THE COUNTY TAX
17 COLLECTOR; TO CREATE A NEW SECTION IN TITLE 45, CHAPTER 6,
18 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DIRECT THE BOARD ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
19 OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS REQUIRING
20 EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMPONENTS ON MENTAL HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL
21 ISSUES TO ASSIST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN RECOGNIZING HEALTH
22 CONDITIONS OR DISABILITIES THAT MAY IMPEDE EFFECTIVE
23 COMMUNICATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

25 **SECTION 1.** (1) Upon application by any legal resident of
26 the State of Mississippi with a health condition or disability
27 which limits or impairs the ability to effectively communicate
28 with law enforcement, the department shall prepare and issue



29 through the county tax collectors a special decal that is to be
30 placed on license plates and on front left windshield corners
31 bearing that indication for any vehicles that are registered in
32 the applicant's name or otherwise authorized to be applied for by
33 the applicant.

34 (2) The initial application shall be accompanied by the
35 certification of a Mississippi licensed physician or Mississippi
36 licensed psychologist who will prescribe that (a) the applicant or
37 the applicant's child, parent or spouse has a physical or mental
38 health condition that will impair the ability to effectively
39 communicate with law enforcement; and (b) the physician or
40 psychologist has determined that the applicant or the applicant's
41 child, parent or spouse will have the communication impairment for
42 at least five (5) years. The department shall prepare and issue
43 to the tax collectors of the various counties, decals for
44 placement on license plates.

45 (3) A person to whom the special decal is issued may retain
46 the special decal and may renew it on the issuance of a new
47 license plate by submitting to the county tax collector, on or
48 before its expiration, the certification of a Mississippi licensed
49 physician or Mississippi licensed psychologist who will prescribe
50 that (a) the applicant or the applicant's child, parent or spouse
51 has a physical or mental health condition that will impair the
52 ability to effectively communicate with law enforcement; and (b)
53 the physician or psychologist has determined that the applicant or



54 the applicant's child, parent or spouse will have the
55 communication impairment for at least five (5) years.

56 (4) Information supplied to the department or to the county
57 tax collector is for confidential use and may not be disclosed to
58 any person.

59 **SECTION 2.** The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards
60 and Training shall promulgate regulations to require education and
61 training components on mental health and behavioral issues to
62 consist of not less than six (6) hours in the initial law
63 enforcement officer certification program and not less than one
64 (1) hour in any required continuing education program for law
65 enforcement officers. The behavioral component will train
66 officers to recognize behavioral characteristics that distinguish
67 conditions such as autism, Asperger's syndrome, or any other
68 mental or medical condition that may present with atypical
69 developmental symptoms which could be perceived by an untrained
70 person as suspicious and which could impede effective
71 communication with a law enforcement officer.

72 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act shall be codified in Title
73 63, Chapter 21, Mississippi Code of 1972. Section 2 of this act
74 shall be codified in Title 45, Chapter 6, Mississippi Code of
75 1972.

76 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
77 and after January 1, 2021.

