

By: Representative Zuber

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 257

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF A
2 CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FOR A VEHICLE TO PROVIDE A SPACE FOR THE
3 APPLICANT TO VOLUNTARILY INDICATE THE EXISTENCE OF A CONDITION
4 THAT IMPEDES HIS OR HER ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE WITH A
5 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO
6 REQUEST VERIFICATION OF THE CONDITION THAT CREATES THE IMPEDIMENT
7 IF SUCH IS INDICATED ON THE APPLICATION; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT
8 OF REVENUE TO PROVIDE THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION OF SUCH INDIVIDUALS
9 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF
10 PUBLIC SAFETY TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM TO INCLUDE THE REGISTRATION
11 INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE
12 MISSISSIPPI CRIMINAL INFORMATION CENTER; TO PROHIBIT THE
13 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FROM MAKING SUCH INFORMATION ABOUT
14 APPLICANTS WITH COMMUNICATION IMPEDIMENTS ACCESSIBLE TO
15 INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ACCESSED THE MISSISSIPPI CRIMINAL INFORMATION
16 CENTER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

18 **SECTION 1.** (1) The application for registration of a
19 certificate of title for a vehicle shall provide space for the
20 applicant to voluntarily indicate that the applicant has a health
21 condition or disability that may impede effective communication
22 with a law enforcement officer. The Department of Revenue may
23 request verification of the condition that impedes effective
24 communication from any person who makes an indication of such
25 impediment under this subsection, in the form of a written



statement from, as appropriate for the person's condition or disability, a:

(a) Licensed physician; or

(b) Licensed psychologist, nonphysician mental health professional, speech-language pathologist, occupational therapist, audiologist, school psychologist or other health care provider. For purposes of this paragraph (b), "nonphysician mental health professional" means:

(i) A psychologist licensed to practice in this state and designated as a health-service provider;

(ii) A registered nurse with a master's or doctoral degree in psychiatric nursing;

(iii) A licensed clinical social worker;

(iv) A licensed professional counselor licensed to practice in this state;

(v) A licensed marriage and family therapist licensed to practice in this state; or

(vi) A physician assistant licensed to practice in this state who has expertise in psychiatry or is currently working in a mental health facility.

(2) (a) For each person who voluntarily indicated on an application under subsection (1) that the person has a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication, the Department of Revenue shall:



(i) Provide to the Department of Public Safety,
the vehicle registration information of the person;

(ii) Inform the Department of Public Safety
whether the person's health condition or disability is categorized
as:

1. A speech or language impairment;
2. A hearing impairment; or
3. Autism spectrum disorder.

(b) Except as provided by paragraph (a) of this
subsection (2), the department may not provide to the Department
of Public Safety information that shows the type of health
condition or disability a person has.

(3) The Department of Public Safety shall establish a system
to include information received under subsection (2) in the
Mississippi Criminal Information Center for the purpose of
alerting a law enforcement officer who makes a traffic stop that
the operator of the stopped vehicle may have a health condition or
disability that may impede effective communication.

(4) The Department of Public Safety may not make information
received under subsection (2) available in the Mississippi
Criminal Information Center to a person who has access to the
system under a contract unless the contract prohibits the person
from disclosing that information to a person who is not subject to
the contract.



(5) The department may not issue to a person without the person's consent a license plate with a visible marking that indicates to the general public that the person voluntarily indicated on an application under subsection (1) that the person has a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication.

(6) Except as provided by subsection (4), information supplied to the department relating to an applicant's health condition or disability is for the confidential use of the department and the Department of Public Safety and may not be disclosed to any person.

SECTION 2. A Department of Public Safety contract that allows a person to access the Mississippi Criminal Information Center and that is in effect before the effective date of this act is governed by the law in effect on the date on which the contract was entered into, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose, except that the contract:

(a) Continues only for the term of the contract; and

(b) May not be renewed unless the renewed contract includes the prohibition required under paragraph (d) of Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025.

