

1-1 By: Menéndez S.B. No. 1987
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2015; March 25, 2015, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Transportation;
 1-4 April 27, 2015, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 27, 2015,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16			X	
1-17	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1987 By: Huffines

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the issuance of specialty license plates for persons
 1-22 who are deaf or hard of hearing and to deaf or hard of hearing driver
 1-23 training for peace officers; authorizing a fee.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 504, Transportation Code,
 1-26 is amended by adding Section 504.204 to read as follows:

1-27 Sec. 504.204. PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING.

1-28 (a) In this section, "deaf" and "hard of hearing" have the
 1-29 meanings assigned by Section 81.001, Human Resources Code.

1-30 (b) The department shall design and issue specialty license
 1-31 plates for a motor vehicle that is regularly operated by a person
 1-32 who is deaf or hard of hearing. A license plate issued under this
 1-33 section must include an emblem indicating that the person operating
 1-34 the vehicle is deaf or hard of hearing.

1-35 (c) The initial application for specialty license plates
 1-36 under this section must be accompanied by a written statement from a
 1-37 physician who is licensed to practice medicine in this state or in a
 1-38 state adjacent to this state or who is authorized by applicable law
 1-39 to practice medicine in a hospital or other health facility of the
 1-40 Department of Veterans Affairs. The statement must certify that
 1-41 the person making the application is deaf or hard of hearing.

1-42 (d) The fee for a set of license plates issued under this
 1-43 section is \$8.

1-44 SECTION 2. Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, is amended
 1-45 by adding Subsection (l) to read as follows:

1-46 (l) As part of the minimum curriculum requirements, the
 1-47 commission shall establish a statewide comprehensive education and
 1-48 training program on procedures for interacting with drivers who are
 1-49 deaf or hard of hearing, as defined by Section 81.001, Human
 1-50 Resources Code, including identifying specialty license plates
 1-51 issued to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing under Section
 1-52 504.204, Transportation Code. An officer shall complete a program
 1-53 established under this subsection not later than the second
 1-54 anniversary of the date the officer is licensed under this chapter
 1-55 or the date the officer applies for an intermediate proficiency
 1-56 certificate, whichever date is earlier.

1-57 SECTION 3. Not later than March 1, 2016, the Texas
 1-58 Commission on Law Enforcement shall establish the deaf or hard of
 1-59 hearing driver training program as required by Section 1701.253(l),
 1-60 Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

2-1 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect January 1, 2016.

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