

1-1 By: Hughes S.B. No. 976
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 21, 2019; March 1, 2019,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Transportation;
 1-4 April 1, 2019, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 1, 2019,
 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. 976 By: Schwertner

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

1-21 relating to the notification of a peace officer through an
 1-22 indication associated with vehicle registration that a person has a
 1-23 health condition or disability that may impede effective
 1-24 communication.

1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-26 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 502, Transportation Code,
 1-27 is amended by adding Section 502.061 to read as follows:

1-28 Sec. 502.061. REGISTRATION BY OWNER WITH CONDITION THAT
 1-29 IMPEDES EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION. (a) An application for
 1-30 registration must provide space for the applicant to voluntarily
 1-31 indicate that the applicant has a health condition or disability
 1-32 that may impede effective communication with a peace officer. The
 1-33 department may request from a person who makes an indication under
 1-34 this subsection verification of a condition in the form of:

1-35 (1) for a physical health condition, a written
 1-36 statement from a licensed physician; or

1-37 (2) for a mental health condition, a written statement
 1-38 from a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, or a
 1-39 non-physician mental health professional, as defined by Section
 1-40 571.003, Health and Safety Code.

1-41 (b) The department shall provide to the Department of Public
 1-42 Safety the vehicle registration information of a person who
 1-43 voluntarily indicated on an application under Subsection (a) that
 1-44 the person has a health condition or disability that may impede
 1-45 effective communication. The department may not provide to the
 1-46 Department of Public Safety information that shows the type of
 1-47 health condition or disability a person has.

1-48 (c) The Department of Public Safety shall establish a system
 1-49 to include information received under Subsection (b) in the Texas
 1-50 Law Enforcement Telecommunications System for the purpose of
 1-51 alerting a peace officer who makes a traffic stop that the operator
 1-52 of the stopped vehicle may have a health condition or disability
 1-53 that may impede effective communication.

1-54 (d) The Department of Public Safety may not make information
 1-55 received under Subsection (b) available in the Texas Law
 1-56 Enforcement Telecommunications System to a person who has access to
 1-57 the system under a contract unless the contract prohibits the
 1-58 person from disclosing that information to a person who is not
 1-59 subject to the contract.

1-60 (e) The department may not issue to a person without the

2-1 person's consent a license plate with a visible marking that
2-2 indicates to the general public that the person voluntarily
2-3 indicated on an application under Subsection (a) that the person
2-4 has a health condition or disability that may impede effective
2-5 communication.

2-6 (f) Except as provided by Subsection (d), information
2-7 supplied to the department relating to an applicant's health
2-8 condition or disability is for the confidential use of the
2-9 department and the Department of Public Safety and may not be
2-10 disclosed to any person.

2-11 SECTION 2. A Department of Public Safety contract that
2-12 allows a person to access the Texas Law Enforcement
2-13 Telecommunications System and that is in effect before the
2-14 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the
2-15 date on which the contract was entered into, and that law is
2-16 continued in effect for that purpose, except that the contract:

2-17 (1) continues only for the term of the contract; and

2-18 (2) may not be renewed unless the renewed contract
2-19 includes the prohibition required by Section 502.061(d),
2-20 Transportation Code, as added by this Act.

2-21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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