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HOUSE BILL NO. 1960

Offered January 13, 2021

Prefiled January 11, 2021

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-600.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to vehicle registration; special communication needs indicator.*

Patrons—Bell, Helmer and Levine

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 46.2-600.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 46.2-600.1. Indication of special communication needs.**

A. As used in this section, "disability that can impair communication" means a condition with symptoms that can impair the ability of a person with such condition to receive, send, process, or comprehend concepts or verbal, nonverbal, or graphic symbol systems, including autism spectrum disorders as defined in § 38.2-3418.17 and hearing loss.

B. The Department shall include on the application for registration of a motor vehicle an option for the vehicle owner to, if applicable, voluntarily indicate that he *or a person who will regularly occupy his vehicle* has a disability that can impair communication. Any application on which the applicant indicates that he *or a person who will regularly occupy his vehicle* has such a disability shall be accompanied by a certification signed by a licensed physician that such individual has a disability that can impair communication.

C. Any vehicle owner with a driver's license indicator authorized pursuant to subsection K of § 46.2-342 or special identification card indicator authorized pursuant to subsection L of § 46.2-345 *or whose vehicle is regularly occupied by an individual with such an indicator* shall be eligible for the registration indicator. Vehicle owners with a driver's license indicator or special identification card indicator *and vehicle owners whose vehicle is regularly occupied by an individual with a driver's license indicator or special identification card indicator* may apply to the Department for a registration indicator in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner.

D. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 46.2-208, the Department shall provide information regarding vehicle registrants who have indicated, pursuant to subsection B or C, that they *or individuals who will regularly occupy their vehicles* have a disability that can impair communication with employees and agents of criminal justice agencies as defined in § 9.1-101. The Department shall confirm the presence or absence of a registration indicator indicating that the registrant *or a person regularly occupying the vehicle of a registrant* has a disability that can impair communication, but it shall not provide information about the type of health condition or disability that the registrant *or a person regularly occupying the vehicle of a registrant* has.

E. Any vehicle owner who has a registration indicator indicating that the registrant *or a person regularly occupying the vehicle of a registrant* has a disability that can impair communication may have such indicator removed by requesting such removal, in writing, to the Department.

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