

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2020 SESSION

CHAPTER 786

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 46.2-600.1, relating to people with disabilities that can impair communication; vehicle registration.

[H 1666]

Approved April 7, 2020

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 46.2-600.1 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 has a disability that can impair communication. Any application on which the applicant indicates that he 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 shall be eligible for the registration indicator. Vehicle owners 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 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 has a disability that can impair communication, but it shall not provide information about the type of health condition or disability that the registrant has.