



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Transportation

Director's Office

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DATE: May 6, 2019

TO: Joint Committee on Transportation

FROM: Amy Joyce, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: SB 1033, vehicle registration indicator: deaf or hard of hearing

INTRODUCTION

Senate Bill 1033 requires DMV to provide the opportunity for a vehicle owner to indicate someone in the vehicle may be deaf or hard of hearing, and DMV must show that on the vehicle record and vehicle registration card.

DISCUSSION

The Department expects the goal of the legislation is to inform law enforcement of the potential the person driving is deaf or hard of hearing so as to avoid any perception that the driver is uncooperative, impaired, etc.

Registration of a vehicle is specific to that vehicle and not to any particular individual. While the registration reflects the individual(s) who have an ownership interest, the driver of that vehicle could be anyone whom the owner gives permission. This presents two different problems. First, the person driving may not be the person who is deaf or hard of hearing. Second, the person who is deaf or hard of hearing may be driving a different car – that of a relative or friend, for example – and the registration on that vehicle will not reflect the desired information.

In some states, people who are deaf or hard of hearing have access to information cards so the driver and law enforcement officer can exchange a lot of useful information. The card indicates the person has hearing loss with basic “do’s and don’ts.” With words and pictures the driver can explain the best way to communicate, and whether they are experiencing a particular problem like needing directions or a tow truck. If the officer stopped the vehicle, the card also allows the officer to communicate the reason, what information the officer needs, and what may happen next. The cards can stay in one car or go with the individual. They do not involve a government intermediary, systems changes, or altering the core purpose of vehicle registration.

To implement this bill DMV would have some programming and other expenses. This likely is not Highway Fund eligible, so some other funding source would need to be identified. DMV has fielded similar suggestions over the years, so anticipates that other ideas for changes to the vehicle registration will arise.

SUMMARY

The bill requires DMV to provide customers the option to indicate they, or someone who may be driving the vehicle, is deaf or hard of hearing. Vehicle registration is tied to one vehicle. There are non-governmental, inexpensive options that would go with the individual and provide more information than a registration indicator.

Attachments: Law Enforcement communication examples

I AM DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

This card is for law enforcement officers and others to help with communication.

Quick Communication Tips:

- Get my attention first.
- Maintain eye contact with me while speaking.
- Speak clearly and a little more slowly.
- A hearing aid or cochlear implant does not allow me to understand everything.
- Shining a flashlight in my face will make it hard for me to understand you.

BEST WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH ME



INFORMATION NEEDED



HELP NEEDED



COMMUNICATION SIGNS

Please point to the picture that explains why I was stopped.

VIOLATIONS/ WHAT IS WRONG?



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



If I am arrested or need to come in for questions, I may need:

- A qualified sign language interpreter
- CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation)
- In order for me to make a phone call, I may need some type of assistive technology. Please ask me what I need.

Created with input from Minnesotans who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.





New communication card helps Minnesotans who are deaf and hard of hearing and police officers

The Minnesota Department of Human Services Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Division (DHHS), has a new communication card to help law enforcement (police, state patrol and sheriff) and people with hearing loss communicate better during traffic stops.

DHHS worked with the Department of Public Safety to develop the communication card. DHHS thanks all the Minnesotans who are deaf and hard of hearing who helped decide what pictures to use on the communication card.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING:

If you are pulled over by the law enforcement, remember:

STAY in your vehicle and **KEEP YOUR HANDS ON THE STEERING WHEEL.**

When law enforcement approaches your window, tell them that you are deaf or hard of hearing (voice or gesture this). **TIP!** If you have the small wallet sized “I am Deaf” or “I am hard of hearing” identification card, place it behind your driver’s license in your wallet or billfold.

DON’T reach for the communication card. Tell the law enforcement personnel that you are getting this communication card, and then hand over both the driver’s license and the I am Deaf/Hard of Hearing card when asked. **WHY?** Law enforcement may think you are reaching for a gun or other weapon! We want you and law enforcement to stay safe.

Suggested ways to use this communication card:

1. Keep this communication card in your glove compartment or center console of your car. (You may want to keep it with your Proof of Insurance card.)
2. Point to the glove compartment or center console to show that you need to get the card. (Or voice this.)
3. Make sure the law enforcement understands you before reaching for the card.
4. **WAIT** for law enforcement to give you permission to get the communication card.
5. You (and law enforcement) can use the card to point to pictures that help with communication.
 - Pictures to show the best way to communicate with you.
 - Pictures to explain what problem you have (such as a flat tire, you are lost, have run out of gas, or need a tow).
 - Pictures explain what information law enforcement needs, what you did wrong (were speeding, ran a red light, etc.), and what will happen as a next step, such as a warning, ticket or possible arrest.

People who want a paper or electronic copy of the communication card should send an email to dhhs.metro@state.mn.us or call 651/431-5940 Voice or 651/964-1514 Video Phone. DHHS staff will need 1) your name, 2) mailing address and 3) the name of the county where you live.

What do these pictures mean?



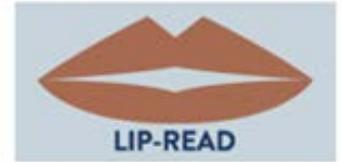
Write



Text



Voice to Text



Lip-read



Driver's License



Car Insurance



Permit to carry card



Hospital



Flat Tire



Tow Truck



Empty gas tank



Slippery/Icy Roads



School Zone



Speeding



Seatbelt



Red light



Crosswalk



Texting & Driving



Reckless Driving



Broken Head/taillight



Expired tabs



Drugs/Alcohol



Handcuffs/Arrest



Arrest/Jail

I AM DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING



When pulled over, I communicate using these methods:

- American Sign Language
- Pen and Paper
- Lip-read and use what hearing I have
- Verbal Communication
- Other _____

Please Help Me Understand You:

- Don't shine your flashlight in my eyes
- Try to eliminate background noise
- Don't cover your mouth when speaking
- Don't shout
- Speak clearly and in a normal tone
- Face me when you speak
- Be sure there is light for me to see you



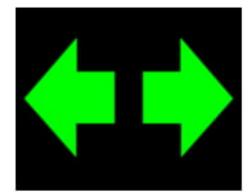
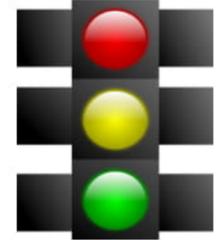
Laura Curran
Nassau County Executive

Patrick J. Ryder
Police Commissioner

WHEN PULLED OVER

REASONS FOR STOP:

EXPIRED



**Blinker/
Directional**



DOCUMENTS



**Driver's License/
Photo ID**



**Registration/ Insurance
or Inspection**

**YOU ARE
BEING:**

WARNED

TICKETED

ARRESTED

HELP



Car Trouble