



# *State of Tennessee*

## **PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 735**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2023**

**By Haile, Harris**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2065

By Lamberth, Whitson, Rogers, Kumar, Weaver, Terry, Gravitt, Powell, Curcio, Boyd, Rudd, Crawford, Hazlewood, Ragan, Fitzhugh, Mark White, Hardaway, Tillis, Clemmons, Parkinson, Lynn, Towns, Sherrell, Butt, Johnson, Stewart, Shaw, Dawn White, Sanderson, Windle, Eldridge, Williams, Forgety, Daniel, Jernigan, Kevin Brooks, Ramsey, Harry Brooks, Coley, DeBerry, Powers, Littleton, Van Huss, Gant, Matlock, Sparks, Reedy, Hawk, Faison, Hicks, Halford, Byrd, Turner

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, relative to drivers who are deaf or hard of hearing.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) At the time of initial application for the registration of a motor vehicle under this part, or upon renewal, an owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who is deaf or hard of hearing may request that the department include such designation in the Tennessee Vehicle Title and Registration System (VTRS) database. The registrant's request must be accompanied by a physician's statement supporting the registrant's request for a deaf or hard of hearing designation. Upon receipt of such a request accompanied by a valid physician's statement, the department shall cause the registrant's deaf or hard of hearing status to be entered into the VTRS database, and ensure such designation is associated with the applicant's motor vehicle and registration.

(b) Information submitted to the department under this section shall be supplied to law enforcement to assist in identifying the operator of the vehicle as possibly being deaf or hard of hearing. Information collected pursuant to this section shall only be available to law enforcement for the purpose of ensuring safe and efficient interactions between law enforcement and persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, and shall not be used for any other purpose.

(c) All law enforcement officers charged with the enforcement of this title and emergency call takers and public safety dispatchers, as described in § 7-86-205, shall receive instruction in the identification of deaf or hard of hearing designation included in the VTRS database as provided for in this section.

(d) The commissioner is authorized to adopt policies and procedures as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 2023

PASSED: April 4, 2018

  
RANDY McNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2018

  
BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR