

SENATE BILL 107

By Powers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 21, Part 3, relative to the 2021 Precious Cargo Act.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-21-303, is amended by deleting subsection (a) and substituting instead the following:

(a)

(1) 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 needs assistance with expressive language or communicating needs to a first responder, including a law enforcement officer, or assistance with exiting a motor vehicle during a traffic stop or welfare check, or who is the parent, legal guardian, or conservator of a person who has such need for assistance and who may be operating the motor vehicle, may request that the department include a designation of such need for assistance in the Tennessee Vehicle Title and Registration System (VTRS) database.

(2) The applicant's request must be accompanied by a written statement from a licensed physician, psychiatrist, psychologist or senior psychological examiner, or neurologist, stating that an operator of the registrant's motor vehicle has an intellectual disability, a developmental disability, or a medical condition that may impede communications with, or impact the operator's encounter with, a first responder. If applicable, the parent, legal guardian, or conservator shall also verify under penalty of perjury upon a form prescribed by the department that the

parent, legal guardian, or conservator is the parent, legal guardian, or conservator of the person who has such need for assistance.

(3) Upon receipt of such a request accompanied by a written statement and the verification form required by a parent, legal guardian, or conservator, if applicable, the department shall cause the operator's status to be entered into the VTRS database, and ensure such designation is associated with the applicant's motor vehicle and registration.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect January 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.