AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1321(S) and to enact R.S. 40:1321(T), relative to a special identification card designation for persons with autism spectrum disorder; to provide for the establishment of an autism spectrum disorder designation on a special identification card; to provide for the criteria for obtaining an autism spectrum disorder designation for new applicants or renewals; to provide penalties for persons making false statements to obtain special designation; to require the implementation of a law enforcement officer training course; to provide for the promulgation of rules and regulations; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1.  R.S. 40:1321(S) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 40:1321(T) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1321.  Special identification cards; issuance; veteran designation; disabled veteran designation; university logo; "I'm a Cajun" designation; needs accommodation designation; autism spectrum disorder designation; fees; expiration and renewal; exceptions; promulgation of rules; promotion of use; persons less than twenty-one years of age; the Protect and Save our Children Program; Selective Service Registration

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.
S.(1) Upon request of an applicant for a special identification card, a designation that the applicant has autism spectrum disorder shall be exhibited on the special identification card upon presentation of a statement from a qualified medical or mental health professional licensed in Louisiana or any other state or territory of the United States verifying the applicant's disability as established by administrative rule. The qualified medical or mental health professional shall be authorized to diagnose autism spectrum disorder. No additional fee shall be charged to include such designation.

(2) Upon the renewal of a special identification card, an applicant who has autism spectrum disorder shall provide a statement from a qualified medical or mental health professional licensed in Louisiana or any other state or territory of the United States verifying the applicant's disability as established by administrative rule.

(3) Any person who has not been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder who willfully and falsely represents himself as having the qualifications to obtain the special designation authorized by this Subsection shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than two hundred fifty dollars, or shall be imprisoned for not more than thirty days, or both. Any subsequent offense shall result in a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or imprisonment for not more than ninety days, or both.

(4) In addition to the training requirements contained in R.S. 40:2404.2(C), the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, shall establish and implement a law enforcement training course relative to law enforcement officers' interaction with persons who have autism spectrum disorder. The course shall instruct law enforcement officers on sensitivity and awareness to ensure equitable treatment and how to effectively communicate and interact with persons with autism spectrum disorder. At a minimum, the course shall include the following:

(a) Identification of indicators that a person has autism spectrum disorder.
(b) Identification of procedures that an officer should employ when encountering a person with autism spectrum disorder.

(c) Demonstrations of communication and interactive techniques required to effectively interact with a person with autism spectrum disorder.

(d) Explanations that provide law enforcement officers with an understanding of the developmental disability and examples of unexpected actions potentially taken by persons diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

(e) Explanations of the resources available to assist an officer encountering a person who has autism spectrum disorder.

(f) Descriptions of the procedures an officer should use to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act when encountering a person with autism spectrum disorder.

(5) The deputy secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, shall promulgate rules and regulations as necessary to implement the provisions of this Subsection, including a waiver of liability for the release of any medical information. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 49:968(B)(12), the House and Senate committees on transportation, highways and public works shall have oversight of the adoption of rules and regulations required by this Subsection.

T. No fee shall be charged for transactions to issue a duplicate special identification card to correct an address due to the renaming of a street or highway in accordance with a parish or municipal ordinance.