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## DIGEST

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HB 516 Reengrossed

2023 Regular Session

Kerner

**Abstract:** Authorizes the use of special identification stickers, decals, and a flag on the vehicle registration of persons with autism spectrum disorder and their caregivers to inform law enforcement that there may be a person with the disorder in the vehicle.

Present law (R.S. 32:403.3) authorizes the office of motor vehicles within the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections (the office) to issue identification stickers or decals to the deaf and hard of hearing and to place a flag code on the person's vehicle registration upon presentation of a statement indicating a hearing loss attested by a physician, audiologist, or speech pathologist. Further provides that the sticker or decal shall be offered and imprinted on the back of the driver's license under lamination.

Proposed law retains present law, except to remove the requirement that the sticker or decal shall be offered and imprinted on the back of the driver's license under lamination.

Proposed law further requires that if the user applies the sticker or decal to the windshield or license plate, it shall be placed in a space that does not interfere with the visibility of the vehicle operator.

Present law (R.S. 32:412(P)) provides that upon request of an applicant for a driver's license, a designation that the applicant has autism spectrum disorder shall be exhibited on the driver's license upon presentation of a statement from a qualified medical or mental health professional.

Proposed law retains present law and further authorizes the office to issue identification stickers or decals for a person who has obtained the autism spectrum disorder designation in accordance with present law or his parent, legal guardian, or other caregiver and to place a flag code on such person's vehicle registration upon presentation of a statement indicating the disability of the person with autism spectrum disorder attested by a physician, mental health professional, or occupational therapist.

Proposed law provides that the documentation submitted as proof that an individual is deaf, hard of hearing, or diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder is not subject to disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Law and any person seeking such documentation shall obtain a court order after a contradictory hearing against the applicant.

(Amends R.S. 32:403.3 and R.S. 44:4.1(B)(19))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Change "a person with autism spectrum disorder" to "persons with autism spectrum disorder who have obtained the autism spectrum disorder designation" in accordance with present law.
3. Add a provision requiring proof, at the time of application, of the disorder for which the sticker or decal is requested.
4. Add an exception for documentation provided to the office of motor vehicles from public records law.
5. Add a provision that provides medical requirements for obtaining a driver's license identification decal or sticker.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed bill:

1. Change "court-appointed guardian" to "parent, legal guardian, or other caregiver".
2. Make technical changes.