STATE OF NEW YORK

4770

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 8, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. STERN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to directing the superintendent of the New York state police to prepare informational material to aid police during interactions with persons who are deaf or hard of hearing

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 214-g to read as follows:

§ 214-g. Visor card for police interactions with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. 1. The superintendent shall develop, maintain and disseminate informational printed material in the form of a card designed for the attachment to a vehicle's sun visor (a "visor card") which will enable a police officer to communicate with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing in any interaction that such individual may have with law enforcement.

2. Visor cards required by this section shall include but are not limited to the following information:

(a) boldface and highlighted text at the top of the card indicating that the individual is deaf or hard of hearing;

(b) symbols and pictures that can be used to communicate between the police officer and the individual;

(c) a list of the best ways to communicate with that individual, including the need for an American Sign Language interpreter, text messaging, writing, lip reading, hand gestures, or an assistive listening device;

(d) descriptions of motor vehicle and traffic offenses that the superintendent determines are the most common including but not limited to an expired license, not wearing a seatbelt, reckless driving, failure to stop at a stop sign, and speeding;

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(e) clearly marked boxes and descriptions indicating whether the individual is being warned, ticketed, or arrested;

(f) symbols for the individual to indicate to the police officer that assistance is required, including but not limited to, driving directions, medical emergency, police assistance, nearest gas station, flat tire, location of the nearest hospital, and tow truck assistance;

(g) symbols for the police officer to communicate police directives to the individual including but not limited to requests to produce license, registration, proof of insurance, or a weapons permit;

(h) suggestions for police officers on how to effectively communicate with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing; and

(i) contact information regarding resources for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

3. Visor cards shall be created in both English and Spanish.

4. Visor cards shall be supplied to all police departments and sheriff's offices in the state for distribution to police officers; and to every department of motor vehicles location to be distributed to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

5. Visor cards shall be designed, developed and ready for distribution no later than six months after the effective date of this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.