STATE OF NEW YORK

5146

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 19, 2025

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing a deaf and hard of hearing outreach program to facilitate communication between law enforcement and deaf and hard of hearing individuals

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 837-y to read as follows:

§ 837-y. Deaf and hard of hearing outreach program. 1. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Deaf and hard of hearing" shall mean a person who has partial or complete loss of hearing, including individuals who are deaf-blind.

(b) "Visor communication card" shall mean such identification as issued by the division which identifies the driver as deaf and hard of hearing, as defined in this section, and which details the appropriate procedures for assisting a deaf and hard of hearing driver during a traffic stop as promulgated by the division pursuant to this section.

2. The division shall develop and maintain visor communication cards for the purpose of improving communication between law enforcement and deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Any person residing in this state shall, upon request, be issued a visor communication of a design approved by the commissioner. Application for such visor communication card shall be filed with the division in such form and detail as the commissioner shall prescribe.

3. The division shall make available an electronic version of the visor communication card on their website. The division shall disseminate for the purpose of posting such electronic version to law enforcement agencies and other state agencies where the public may obtain information regarding motor vehicle registration and licenses.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD05986-01-5