STATE OF NEW YORK

7937

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 14, 2025

Introduced by Sen. C. RYAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to allowing individuals to apply to display a symbol on their driver's licenses or state-issued ID cards indicating that the individual has a non-apparent disability

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

Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 504-a to read as follows:

§ 504-a. Voluntary disclosure of non-apparent disability. 1. For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Non-apparent disability" means a medically documented physical, mental, intellectual, or neurological condition that is not readily visible but may affect a person's ability to communicate, respond to law enforcement commands, or otherwise interact in stressful environments.

(b) "Voluntary disability indicator" means a discrete symbol approved by the commissioner to indicate that an individual has a non-apparent disability.

2. (a) The commissioner shall establish a process by which a person, or the parent or legal guardian of a minor or dependent adult, may voluntarily request, through an application process, that a disability indicator be placed on the individual's driver's license or non-driver identification card.

(b) The application shall include:

(i) certification from a licensed physician, psychologist, or other qualified healthcare provider affirming the presence of a non-apparent disability; and

(ii) a signed authorization by the applicant, or legal guardian where applicable, to place the indicator on their license or non-driver identification card.

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

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3. (a) The disability indicator shall be a small, discreet symbol such as a butterfly, or other symbol designated by the commissioner, that does not disclose the specific nature of the disability.

(b) The presence of the disability indicator on a license or identification card shall not be used for any purpose other than to assist law enforcement and emergency personnel in providing appropriate support during interactions.

(c) Information related to the disability shall be subject to privacy protections under state and federal law, and shall not be disclosed except as authorized by the applicant.

4. The commissioner, in consultation with the office for people with developmental disabilities and the department of health, shall develop and disseminate educational materials for law enforcement, emergency responders, and the public regarding the purpose and use of the disability indicator.

5. No additional fee shall be charged for the inclusion of the voluntary disability indicator.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.