STATE OF NEW YORK

8014

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 15, 2025

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- 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 including if a person has autism spectrum disorder on their driver's license; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto

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

Section 1. Section 490 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision 2-a to read as follows:

2-a. Autism spectrum disorder. In addition to the provisions of subdivision two of this section, the commissioner shall ensure that space is provided on the application so that the applicant shall indicate if they have autism spectrum disorder and that the following is typed in clear and conspicuous type:

"You must fill out the following section: Are you a person with autism spectrum disorder? Check box for 'yes' or 'skip this question'."

The commissioner shall make whatever provisions are feasible and desirable to maintain and issue all suitable documents regarding advanced directives at driver's license examining offices.

§ 2. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 3 of section 490 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by section 97 of part PP of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The identification card shall contain a distinguishing number or mark and adequate space upon which an anatomical gift, pursuant to article forty-three of the public health law, by the holder may be recorded and shall contain such other information and shall be issued in such form as the commissioner shall determine; **provided, however, every identification card or renewal thereof issued to a person with autism spectrum disorder shall contain a distinctive mark;** provided, however, every identification card or renewal thereof issued to a person under the age of twenty-one years shall have prominently imprinted thereon the state-

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

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ment "UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE" in notably distinctive print or format. Provided, further, however, that every identification card issued to an applicant who was a member of the armed forces of the United States and (i) received an honorable discharge or was released therefrom under honorable conditions, or (ii) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (iii) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, shall, upon [~~his or her~~] their request and submission of proof as set forth herein, contain a distinguishing mark, in such form as the commissioner shall determine, indicating that [~~he or she is~~] they are a veteran. Such proof shall consist of a certificate of release or discharge from active duty including but not limited to a DD Form 214 or other proof satisfactory to the commissioner. The commissioner shall not require fees for the issuance of such identification cards or renewals thereof to persons under twenty-one years of age which are different from the fees required for the issuance of identification cards or renewals thereof to persons twenty-one years of age or over, nor fees to persons requesting a veteran distinguishing mark which are different from fees that would otherwise be required. Provided, however, that notwithstanding the provisions of section four hundred ninety-one of this article, the commissioner shall not require any fees for the duplication or amendment of an identification card prior to its renewal if such duplication or amendment was solely for the purpose of adding a veteran distinguishing mark to such identification card.

§ 3. Subdivision 1 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law is REPEALED and a new subdivision 1 is added to read as follows:

1. Application for license. Application for a driver's license shall be made to the commissioner. The fee prescribed by law may be submitted with such application. The applicant shall furnish such proof of identity, age, and fitness as may be required by the commissioner. With respect to a non-commercial driver's license or learner's permit which does not meet federal standards for identification, in addition to the acceptable proofs of age and identity approved by the commissioner as of January first, two thousand twenty-five, acceptable proof of identity shall also include, but not be limited to, a valid, unexpired foreign passport issued by the applicant's country of citizenship (which shall also be eligible as proof of age), a valid, unexpired consular identification document issued by a consulate from the applicant's country of citizenship, or a valid foreign driver's license that includes a photo image of the applicant and which is unexpired or expired for less than twenty-four months of its date of expiration, as primary forms of such proof. Nothing contained in this subdivision shall be deemed to preclude the commissioner from approving additional proofs of identity and age. The commissioner may also provide that the application procedure shall include the taking of a photo image or images of the applicant in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the commissioner. In addition, the commissioner also shall require that the applicant provide their social security number or, in lieu thereof, with respect to an application for a non-commercial driver's license or learner's permit which does not meet federal standards for identification, an affidavit signed by such applicant that they have not been issued a social security number. The commissioner also shall provide space on the application so that the applicant may register in the New York state organ and tissue donor registry under section forty-three hundred ten of the

public health law with the following stated on the application in clear and conspicuous type:

"You must fill out the following section: Would you like to be added to the Donate Life Registry? Check box for 'yes' or 'skip this question'."

The commissioner of health shall not maintain records of any person who checks "skip this question". Except where the application is made in person or electronically, failure to check a box shall not impair the validity of an application, and failure to check "yes" or checking "skip this question" shall not be construed to imply a wish not to donate. In the case of an applicant under eighteen years of age, checking "yes" shall not constitute consent to make an anatomical gift or registration in the donate life registry, except as otherwise provided pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section forty-three hundred one of the public health law. Where an applicant has previously consented to make an anatomical gift or registered in the donate life registry, checking "skip this question" or failing to check a box shall not impair that consent or registration. In addition, an applicant for a commercial driver's license who will operate a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce shall certify that such applicant meets the requirements to operate a commercial motor vehicle, as set forth in public law 99-570, title XII, and title 49 of the code of federal regulations, and all regulations promulgated by the United States secretary of transportation under the hazardous materials transportation act. In addition, the commissioner shall ensure that space is provided on the application so that the applicant shall indicate a declaration relating to if the applicant is a person with autism spectrum disorder that the following is typed in clear and conspicuous type:

"You must fill out the following section: Are you a person with autism spectrum disorder? Check box for 'yes' or 'skip this question'."

The commissioner shall make whatever provisions are feasible and desirable to maintain and issue all suitable documents regarding advanced directives at driver's license examining offices. In addition, an applicant for a commercial driver's license shall submit a medical certificate at such intervals as required by the federal motor carrier safety improvement act of 1999 and Part 383.71(h) of title 49 of the code of federal regulations relating to medical certification and in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. For purposes of this section and sections five hundred three, five hundred ten-a, and five hundred ten-aa of this title, the terms "medical certificate" and "medical certification" shall mean a form substantially in compliance with the form set forth in Part 391.43(h) of title 49 of the code of federal regulations. Upon a determination that the holder of a commercial driver's license has made any false statement, with respect to the application for such license, the commissioner shall revoke such license.

§ 4. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 504 of the vehicle and traffic law, as separately amended by chapters 568 and 639 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Every license or renewal thereof shall contain a distinguishing mark and adequate space upon which an anatomical gift, pursuant to section forty-three hundred ten of the public health law, by the licensee shall be recorded and shall contain such other information and shall be issued in such form as the commissioner shall determine; provided, however, every license or renewal thereof issued to a person under the age of twenty-one years shall have prominently imprinted upon it the statement "UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE" in notably distinctive print or

format; provided further, however, every license or renewal thereof issued to a person making an anatomical gift shall have prominently printed upon the front of such license or renewal thereof the statement "ORGAN DONOR" in notably distinctive print or format**; provided that every license or renewal thereof issued to a person who has indicated on an application or renewal that they are a person with autism spectrum disorder shall have imprinted on the front of such license or renewal thereof a distinctive mark which indicates such**. The commissioner shall not require fees for the issuance of such licenses or renewals thereof to persons under twenty-one years of age [~~or~~], to persons making an anatomical gift **or to a person with autism spectrum disorder** which are different from the fees required for the issuance of licenses or renewals thereof to persons twenty-one years of age or over [~~or~~], to persons not making an anatomical gift **or to persons who did not indicate on an application or renewal that they are a person with autism spectrum disorder**.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that section three of this act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law.