
Transportation Committee

HB 2440

Brief Description: Concerning a medical alert designation on driver's licenses.

Sponsors: Representatives Kilduff, Lovick, Chapman, Orwall, Rude, Leavitt, Santos, Pollet and Wylie.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Provides a medical alert designation on a driver's license indicating that the licensee has provided information to the Department of Licensing identifying an eligible medical condition, if applicable.
- Allows any person to obtain a medical alert designation on a driver's license by voluntarily providing certain certification from health professionals; and a signature of a parent or guardian for applicants under the age of 18.

Hearing Date: 2/3/20

Staff: Christine Thomas (786-7142).

Background:

For a fee, the Department of Licensing (DOL) issues driver's licenses that are valid for up to six years to every qualifying applicant. The license must include a distinguishing number assigned to the licensee; the name of record; date of birth; photograph; a signature; and if applicable, a veteran's designation.

Summary of Bill:

The DOL must include a medical alert designation on a driver's license indicating that the licensee has provided information to the DOL identifying an eligible medical condition, if applicable. Any person may apply to obtain a medical alert designation on a driver's license by providing: (a) a certification, signed by a health professional, verifying a medical condition that could affect communication or account for a driver health emergency; (b) a statement from the

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person that they have voluntarily provided the certification and other information verifying the medical condition; and (c) a signature of a parent or guardian for applicants under the age of 18. The signed certification is subject to the privacy protections of the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act. The certification is not disclosable and is for the confidential use of the DOL Director, the Chief of the Washington State Patrol, law enforcement, and emergency medical service providers.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on July 1, 2020.