

CHAPTER 99

(HB 279)

AN ACT relating to motor vehicles.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 186.032 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) *As used in this section, "communication disorder" means a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication with a peace officer.*
- (2) ~~At the time of initial application for registration or application for renewal,~~ The owner or lessee of a motor vehicle may inform the county clerk that he or she, or someone who may be operating the vehicle, is deaf or hard of hearing and request that information be included in the Kentucky vehicle registration system database to assist law enforcement in identifying the operator of the vehicle as possibly being deaf or hard of hearing.
- (3) *The owner or lessee of a motor vehicle may inform the county clerk that he or she, or someone who may be operating the vehicle, has a communication disorder and request that information be included in the Kentucky vehicle registration system database to assist law enforcement in identifying the operator of the vehicle as possibly having a communication disorder.*
- (4)~~(2)~~
 - (a) The deaf or hard of hearing protection trust fund is created as a separate trust fund in the State Treasury. The trust fund shall consist of any proceeds from gifts, grants, contributions, appropriations, or other moneys made available for the purposes of the trust fund.
 - (b) The fund shall be administered by the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf or Hard of Hearing.
 - (c) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, trust fund amounts not expended at the close of a fiscal year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward to the next fiscal year.
 - (d) Any interest earnings of the trust fund shall become part of the trust fund and shall not lapse.
 - (e) Trust fund moneys deposited in this fund shall only be used to:
 1. Reimburse the Transportation Cabinet for the cost of including information that someone is deaf or hard of hearing *or has a communication disorder* in the Kentucky vehicle registration system database;
 2. Support other actions to protect the safety and welfare of persons who are deaf or hard of hearing *or have a communication disorder*; and
 3. Educate the public, ~~and~~ the deaf and hard of hearing community, *and the communication disorder community* on issues confronting the deaf and hard of hearing *and those with communication disorders*.
- (5)
 - (a) *Every county clerk shall post a permanent notice containing information about the availability of a deaf or hard of hearing or a communication disorder designation in the Kentucky vehicle registration database. The notice shall be printed in bold face type of sufficient point size to be read from a distance of at least three (3) feet. The notice shall be posted in a conspicuous place to ensure that every person who enters the county clerk's office will readily see the notice.*
 - (b) *The Transportation Cabinet shall put information on its Web site about the availability of a deaf or hard of hearing or a communication disorder designation in the Kentucky vehicle registration database.*

➔Section 2. This Act takes effect January 1, 2024.

Signed by Governor April 8, 2022.