



# *State of Tennessee*

## **PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 55**

### **SENATE BILL NO. 110**

**By Powers, Gilmore, Stevens, Yager, Yarbrow**

Substituted for: House Bill No. 40

By Ogles, Howell, Hurt

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 21 and Title 55, Chapter 4, relative to the Tennessee Vehicle Title and Registration System (VTRS) database.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 21, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) This section is known and may be cited as the "2021 Precious Cargo Act."

(b) The purpose of this section is to empower citizens to communicate specific needs to law enforcement and first responders.

(c) At the time of initial application for the registration of a motor vehicle under this part, or upon renewal, an owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who needs assistance with expressive language or communicating needs to a first responder, including a law enforcement officer, or assistance with exiting a motor vehicle during a traffic stop or welfare check, may request that the department include a designation of such need for assistance in the Tennessee Vehicle Title and Registration System (VTRS) database. The registrant's request must be accompanied by a written statement from a licensed physician, psychiatrist, psychologist or senior psychological examiner, or neurologist, stating that an operator of the person's motor vehicle has an intellectual disability, a developmental disability, or a medical condition that may impede communications with, or impact the operator's encounter with, a first responder. Upon receipt of such a request accompanied by a written statement, the department shall cause the registrant's status to be entered into the VTRS database, and ensure such designation is associated with the applicant's motor vehicle and registration.

(d) Information submitted to the department under this section must be supplied to law enforcement to assist in identifying the operator of the vehicle as possibly needing such assistance. Information collected pursuant to this section must only be available to law enforcement for the purpose of ensuring safe and efficient interactions between law enforcement and persons who have such need for assistance, and must not be used for any other purpose.

(e) All law enforcement officers charged with the enforcement of this title and emergency call takers and public safety dispatchers, as described in § 7-86-205, shall receive instruction in the identification of such designation included in the VTRS database as provided for in this section.


(f) The commissioner is authorized to adopt policies and procedures as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section.

(g) The commissioner of revenue is authorized to promulgate rules in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5, necessary to carry out this section.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect January 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: March 15, 2021

  
RANDY McNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 29<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021

  
BILL LEE, GOVERNOR