

**SENATE, No. 1740**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator STEVEN V. OROHO**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators T.Kean, Pou and O'Scanlon**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires MVC to place notation on vehicle's registration certificate indicating registrant is deaf.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/21/2021)**



1 Incidents of this nature highlight the extent to which officer training  
2 fails to prepare graduates for interactions with the deaf community.

3 Many members of law enforcement receive limited training and  
4 resources to help them communicate with the deaf community.  
5 Some departments dedicate more time instructing trainees on urgent  
6 matters such as use of force, firearms, driving, and first aid. Other  
7 departments find they lack the financial resources to ensure officers  
8 can access interpreters and translation equipment.

9 Here in New Jersey, local law enforcement is attempting to break  
10 down communication barriers by participating in panel discussions  
11 with members of the deaf community. These discussions allow  
12 individuals who are deaf to ask questions in a non-adversarial  
13 setting and provide suggestions for what officers can do during  
14 traffic stops to ensure a deaf driver can better understand an  
15 officer's instructions. Under New Jersey law, those who are deaf or  
16 hard of hearing may apply to receive a deaf or hard of hearing  
17 designation on their driver's license. The sponsor believes that  
18 placing a notation on a vehicle's registration certificate is one step  
19 towards improving how members of law enforcement communicate  
20 with motorists during routine traffic stops and prevent future  
21 tragedies that may occur as the result of a misunderstanding.