

HCS HB 1572 -- HARD OF HEARING DRIVER'S LICENSE

SPONSOR: Rowland (155)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill includes individuals with hearing loss that impairs the capacity to discriminate ordinary speech in the class of persons eligible for a deaf or hard of hearing notation on their driver's license. The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will make a video explaining the "DHH" notation and the right to receive it and the video will be posted in each driver's license office. The video is conducted in sign language and captioned in English.

The Department of Revenue is allowed, but not mandated, to replace the "DHH" notation with the phrase "deaf or hard of hearing" on licenses.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will help police officers be aware that they are dealing with a deaf or hard of hearing individual at traffic stops. Since the notation is only on the license it still protects privacy to a great extent.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rowland; Opeo Sotonawa, Missouri Commission For Deaf and Hard of Hearing; and Clark Comogemes, The Whole Person.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that it is not currently practical or cost effective to use the "deaf or hard of hearing phrase" on licenses, but that option could be viable in the future.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Department of Revenue.