

SENATE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1840  
AN ACT

To repeal section 161.412, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to communications involving persons with disabilities, with a contingent effective date.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 161.412, RSMo, is repealed and four  
2 new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections  
3 161.412, 209.247, 301.287, and 650.535, to read as follows:

161.412. 1. Subject to appropriations, the Missouri  
2 commission for the deaf and hard of hearing shall provide  
3 grants to:

4 (1) Organizations that provide services for deaf-blind  
5 children and their families. Such services may include  
6 providing family support advocates to assist deaf-blind  
7 children in participating in their communities and family  
8 education specialists to teach parents and siblings skills  
9 to support the deaf-blind children in their family;

10 (2) Organizations that provide services for deaf-blind  
11 adults. Such grants shall be used to provide assistance to  
12 deaf-blind adults who are working towards establishing and  
13 maintaining independence; and

14 (3) Organizations that train support service  
15 providers. Such grants shall be used to provide training

16 that will lead to certification of support service providers  
17 in Missouri.

18 2. The commission shall use a request-for-proposal  
19 process to award the grants in this section. Organizations  
20 that receive grants under this section may expend the grant  
21 for any purpose authorized in this section. [The total  
22 amount of grants provided under this section shall not  
23 exceed three hundred thousand dollars annually.]

209.247. 1. As used in this section, the following  
2 terms mean:

3 (1) "Commission", the Missouri commission for the deaf  
4 and hard of hearing;

5 (2) "Communication access services", shall include,  
6 but not be limited to, the following:

7 (a) Qualified interpreters, as described in section  
8 209.285;

9 (b) Communication access realtime translation services;

10 (c) Notetakers, visual or Braille boards, and visual  
11 video services;

12 (d) Open and closed captioning services;

13 (e) Environmental access support for the deaf-blind  
14 and those with low vision; and

15 (f) Any other effective method of making aurally  
16 delivered and printed information available to individuals  
17 who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing;

18 (3) "Communication access service provider", an  
19 individual who is trained to offer a communication access  
20 service to communicate aurally delivered and printed  
21 information to individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard  
22 of hearing.

23 2. The commission shall establish a statewide  
24 communication access services program to improve compliance  
25 with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act for

26 agencies and businesses by coordinating resources, filling  
27 service gaps, and assisting with costs related to  
28 accommodations. The commission shall:

29 (1) Develop and maintain a statewide registry of  
30 communication access service providers, organized by region,  
31 including rural and urban areas;

32 (2) Create a process for communication access service  
33 providers to apply for placement on the registry;

34 (3) Establish minimum standards for training,  
35 equipment, and technology;

36 (4) Maintain an informational website accessible by  
37 businesses, agencies, and individuals who are deaf, deaf-  
38 blind, or hard of hearing regarding resources and available  
39 programming;

40 (5) Provide consultation, training, and technical  
41 assistance to aid state and local agencies to be in  
42 compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act;

43 (6) Provide information regarding available resources  
44 to assist with compliance costs and to support potential  
45 communication access service providers in underserved areas;

46 (7) Conduct outreach activities for urban or rural  
47 residents and communication access service providers to  
48 expand awareness and capacity in underserved areas;

49 (8) Subject to appropriation, administer scholarships  
50 for professional development, internships, and certification  
51 testing;

52 (9) Subject to appropriation and pursuant to rules  
53 promulgated under this section, administer and finance  
54 requests for communication access services between agencies  
55 and businesses and individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, or  
56 hard of hearing;

57 (10) Hire a program manager to serve at the pleasure  
58 of the director of the commission. The program manager

59 shall have a background and experience in communication  
60 access services. The salary for the program manager shall  
61 be paid out of the fund established in subsection 3 of this  
62 section; and

63 (11) Submit an annual report to the governor and the  
64 general assembly that includes information on communication  
65 access service utilization, registry effectiveness, funding  
66 outcomes, and recommendations for improvement.

67 3. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury  
68 the "Communication Access Services Fund", which shall  
69 consist of moneys appropriated to the fund and any gifts,  
70 donations, grants, and bequests from individuals, private  
71 organizations, foundations, or other sources for the purpose  
72 of administering the program established in this section.  
73 The state treasurer shall be the custodian of the fund. In  
74 accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state  
75 treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a  
76 dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in the fund  
77 shall be used by the commission for the salary of the  
78 program manager, distribution of financial assistance for  
79 communication access services, and distribution of  
80 scholarships under this section.

81 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080  
82 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end  
83 of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the  
84 general revenue fund.

85 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the  
86 fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any  
87 interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be  
88 credited to the fund.

89 4. The commission shall promulgate rules to implement  
90 the provisions of this section, including the process for  
91 distributing scholarships under subdivision (8) of

92 subsection 2 of this section and determining eligibility for  
93 financial assistance under subdivision (9) of subsection 2  
94 of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that  
95 term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under  
96 the authority delegated in this section shall become  
97 effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of  
98 the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section  
99 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and  
100 if any of the powers vested with the general assembly  
101 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective  
102 date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently  
103 held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking  
104 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28,  
105 2026, shall be invalid and void.

301.287. 1. This section shall be known and referred  
2 to as "Mason's Law".

3 2. Beginning January 1, 2027, a resident of this state  
4 with a health condition or disability that limits or impairs  
5 the ability to effectively communicate with law enforcement  
6 may, at any time, apply to the department of revenue for a  
7 designation that shall be associated with the person's motor  
8 vehicle license plate number and available to law  
9 enforcement under the Missouri uniform law enforcement  
10 system (MULES) established under chapter 43.

11 3. The initial application, which shall be on a form  
12 prescribed by the department and made available on the  
13 department's website, shall be signed by a physician  
14 licensed under chapter 334, or a psychologist licensed under  
15 chapter 337, certifying that:

16 (1) The applicant or the applicant's child, parent, or  
17 spouse has a physical or mental health condition that is  
18 likely to impair the ability to effectively communicate with  
19 law enforcement; and

20           (2) The physician or psychologist has determined that  
21 the applicant or the applicant's child, parent, or spouse  
22 will have the communication impairment for at least five  
23 years.

24           4. Upon submission of an application and approval by  
25 the department, the department shall notify the Missouri  
26 state highway patrol of the resident's approved application  
27 and the highway patrol shall prepare an entry in the  
28 Missouri uniform law enforcement system (MULES) that  
29 indicates that the applicant or the applicant's child,  
30 parent, or spouse has a physical or mental health condition  
31 that may impair the ability to effectively communicate with  
32 law enforcement. Such entry shall remain active for a  
33 period of five years, unless the applicant requests that  
34 such designation be removed from the system. Upon  
35 expiration of the five-year period, the designation in MULES  
36 may be reactivated upon the filing of a renewal form with  
37 the department signed by a physician licensed under chapter  
38 334, or a psychologist licensed under chapter 337,  
39 certifying that:

40           (1) The applicant or the applicant's child, parent, or  
41 spouse has a physical or mental health condition that is  
42 likely to impair the ability to effectively communicate with  
43 law enforcement; and

44           (2) The physician or psychologist has determined that  
45 the applicant or the applicant's child, parent, or spouse  
46 will have the communication impairment for at least five  
47 years.

48           5. The department of public safety shall issue  
49 guidance and education materials to all law enforcement  
50 agencies in this state to promote awareness of the  
51 designation established under this section.

52           6. The department of revenue may promulgate all  
53 necessary rules and regulations for the administration of  
54 this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term  
55 is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the  
56 authority delegated in this section shall become effective  
57 only if it complies with and is subject to all of the  
58 provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section  
59 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and  
60 if any of the powers vested with the general assembly  
61 pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective  
62 date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently  
63 held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking  
64 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28,  
65 2026, shall be invalid and void.

650.535. 1. This section shall be known and may be  
2 cited as "RJ's Law".

3           2. There is hereby created within the department of  
4 public safety a statewide program called the "Purple Alert  
5 System" to aid in the identification and location, through  
6 immediate and effective community and emergency response, of  
7 missing persons with developmental disabilities whose  
8 disappearance poses a credible threat of immediate danger or  
9 serious bodily harm to the missing persons and who are  
10 believed to be unable to return to safety without assistance.

11           3. For purposes of this section, "developmental  
12 disability" includes the following:

13           (1) A mental or cognitive disability, which shall not  
14 include, for persons sixty years of age or older,  
15 Alzheimer's disease or a dementia-related disorder;

16           (2) An intellectual disability;

17           (3) A brain injury;

18           (4) Other physical, mental, or emotional disabilities  
19 that are not related to substance abuse; or

20 (5) Any combination of such conditions.

21 4. Before July 1, 2027, the department of public  
22 safety, in cooperation with the Missouri state highway  
23 patrol, department of transportation, department of mental  
24 health, local developmental disability resource boards, the  
25 state lottery, and local law enforcement agencies shall:

26 (1) Develop a training program and alert system for  
27 missing persons who have developmental disabilities that is  
28 compatible with existing alert systems in the state. The  
29 training program shall implement crisis intervention team  
30 training to equip law enforcement officers with the skills  
31 necessary to understand developmental disabilities, to de-  
32 escalate interactions with persons in crisis, to facilitate  
33 appropriate interventions, and to respond effectively to a  
34 reported missing person emergency when the person has a  
35 developmental disability;

36 (2) Establish policies and procedures for responding  
37 to a reported missing person emergency when the person has a  
38 developmental disability. The policies shall, at a minimum,  
39 provide for the following:

40 (a) Immediate and widespread dissemination of critical  
41 information when a person who has a developmental disability  
42 is reported missing;

43 (b) Enhancement of emergency response teams'  
44 competence by informing them of the unique behaviors and  
45 needs of persons with developmental disabilities; and

46 (c) Measures to increase public awareness and  
47 understanding of the risks associated with developmental  
48 disability-related elopement to foster community support for  
49 persons with developmental disabilities; and

50 (3) Require a law enforcement agency to do the  
51 following, at a minimum, upon receiving a report:

52           (a) Contact media outlets in the affected area or  
53 surrounding jurisdictions;  
54           (b) Inform all on-duty law enforcement officers of the  
55 reported missing person with a developmental disability; and  
56           (c) Communicate the report to all other law  
57 enforcement agencies in the counties surrounding the county  
58 in which the report is filed.

59           5. The department of public safety shall administer  
60 and promulgate rules for the implementation of the alert  
61 system established under this section. Any rule or portion  
62 of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that  
63 is created under the authority delegated in this section  
64 shall become effective only if it complies with and is  
65 subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if  
66 applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536  
67 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the  
68 general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay  
69 the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are  
70 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of  
71 rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after  
72 August 28, 2026, shall be invalid and void.

          Section B. The enactment of section 301.287 of this  
2 act shall take effect as soon as technologically possible  
3 following the development and maintenance of a modernized,  
4 integrated system for the titling of vehicles, issuance and  
5 renewal of vehicle registrations, issuance and renewal of  
6 driver's licenses and identification cards, and perfection  
7 and release of liens and encumbrances on vehicles, to be  
8 funded by the motor vehicle administration technology fund  
9 as created in section 301.558. Following the development of  
10 the system, the director of the department of revenue shall  
11 notify the governor, the secretary of state, and the revisor

12 of statutes, and shall implement the provisions of section  
13 301.287 of this act.