

# Legislative Analysis



## COMMUNICATION IMPEDIMENT DESIGNATIONS

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 5950 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Jim Lilly**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

**House Bill 5951 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Frank Liberati**

**Committee: Transportation**  
**Complete to 11-10-20**

### SUMMARY:

House Bills 5950 and 5951 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code and 1972 PA 222 (the state personal identification card act) to add audiologists to the list of medical professionals from whom an applicant for a driver's license or state ID card may obtain the certification required to get a communication impediment designation for his or her license or card.

Under 2020 PAs 92, 93, and 94, an individual who applies for or renews a vehicle registration, driver license, state personal ID card, enhanced driver license, or enhanced state personal ID card may elect to have a communication impediment designation associated with his or her records. A communication impediment means that the individual has a health condition, such as an autism spectrum disorder or deafness or hearing loss, that could impede communication with a police officer. The designation can only be accessed by law enforcement.

Currently, an individual seeking a communication impediment designation must provide a certification of the communication impediment that is signed by a licensed physician, physician assistant, certified nurse practitioner, or physical therapist.

**House Bill 5950** would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to add an audiologist to the list of medical professionals from whom an applicant may obtain the certification required to get a communication impediment designation for his or her operator's or chauffeur's license.

MCL 257.221 and 257.310

**House Bill 5951** would amend 1972 PA 222 to add an audiologist to the list of medical professionals from whom an applicant could obtain the certification required to get a communication impediment designation for his or her state personal identification card.

MCL 28.291

Note: The Enhanced Driver License and Enhanced Official State Personal Identification Card Act provides that individuals seeking to obtain a communication impediment designation for a license or card issued under that act must comply with procedures in the Michigan Vehicle Code or 1972 PA 222, as applicable, so House Bills 5950 and 5951 would effectively allow audiologists to certify a communication impediment for purposes of that act as well.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The bills would result in no fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

The bills would require the Department of State to modify its existing computer systems, which would normally incur vendor information technology (IT) programming costs. However, substantively similar changes were recently required under 2020 PA 93. The costs from changes required under House Bills 5950 and 5951 would be able to be absorbed within the costs to the Department of State to comply with 2020 PA 93. The House Fiscal Agency analysis for 2020 PA 93 estimated costs of 2020 PA 93 to be approximately \$200,000.<sup>1</sup> However, final costs had not been determined and would depend on how much those programming costs could be absorbed into the ongoing project to modernize the department's computerized driver records system, known as the Customer and Automotive Records System (CARS).

Legislative Analyst: E. Best  
Fiscal Analyst: Michael Clossen

---

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2019-2020/billanalysis/House/pdf/2019-HLA-0278-23EBA774.pdf>