

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

relating to the issuance of personal identification documents for foster children, homeless children or youth, and unaccompanied youth.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 521, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 521.1015 to read as follows:

Sec. 521.1015. PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CERTIFICATE ISSUED TO FOSTER CHILD, HOMELESS CHILD OR YOUTH, OR UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Foster child" means a person who is 16 years of age or older and in the managing conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.

(2) "Homeless child or youth" has the meaning assigned by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a.

(3) "Unaccompanied youth" has the meaning assigned by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a.

(b) This section applies to the application for a personal identification certificate only for a foster child, a homeless child or youth, or an unaccompanied youth.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 521.101, Section 521.1426, or any other provision of this chapter, a child or youth described by Subsection (b) may, in applying for a personal identification certificate:

(1) provide a copy of the child's or youth's birth certificate as proof of the child's or youth's identity and United States citizenship, as applicable; and

(2) if the child or youth does not have a residence or domicile, provide a letter from the school district in which the child or youth is enrolled certifying that the child or youth is a homeless child or youth or an unaccompanied youth.

(d) A child or youth described by Subsection (b) may apply for and the department may issue a personal identification certificate without the signature or presence of or permission from a parent or guardian of the child or youth.

(e) A child or youth described by Subsection (b) is exempt from the payment of any fee for the issuance of a personal identification certificate under this chapter.

SECTION 2. Section 521.1811, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 521.1811. WAIVER OF FEES FOR FOSTER CHILD, HOMELESS CHILD OR YOUTH, OR UNACCOMPANIED [CARE] YOUTH. A person is exempt from the payment of any fee for the issuance of a driver's license, as provided under this chapter, if that person is:

(1) younger than 18 years of age and in the managing conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services; ~~or~~

(2) at least 18 years of age, but younger than 21 years of age, and resides in a foster care placement, the cost of which is paid by the Department of Family and Protective Services; or

(3) a homeless child or youth or an unaccompanied

youth as those terms are defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a.

SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply to an application for a driver's license or personal identification certificate submitted on or after the effective date of this Act. An application for a driver's license or personal identification certificate submitted before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the application was submitted, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.