

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 2054

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the payment of fees and costs associated with driver education and safety courses and driver's license examinations for foster children or youth, former foster children or youth, and youth experiencing homelessness.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 521, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 521.168 to read as follows:

Sec. 521.168. PAYMENT OF FEES FOR CERTAIN FOSTER AND HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS. (a) Unless prohibited under Section 521.4265(c), the Texas Workforce Commission shall on request pay the fees associated with meeting a requirement imposed under this subchapter or Chapter 1001, Education Code, for a person who is:

(1) eligible for a driver's license fee exemption under Section 521.1811; or

(2) younger than 26 years of age and:

(A) was in the managing conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services on the day before the person's 18th birthday; or

(B) is a homeless child or youth as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a.

(b) The Texas Workforce Commission by rule shall establish a process by which:

(1) a person described by Subsection (a) may apply to

1 that commission for the payment of fees under this section; and

2 (2) that commission pays fees associated with meeting
3 a requirement imposed under this subchapter or Chapter 1001,
4 Education Code, to appropriate entities on behalf of the person
5 described by Subsection (a).

6 SECTION 2. Section 521.4265, Transportation Code, is
7 amended by amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsection
8 (d) to read as follows:

9 (b) From the money in the identification fee exemption
10 account the department shall:

11 (1) request that the comptroller transfer to the Texas
12 Workforce Commission amounts sufficient to provide for the payment
13 by the Texas Workforce Commission of fees to entities other than the
14 department under Section 521.168;

15 (2) pay the department's costs associated with
16 administering Subdivision (1); and

17 (3) for [~~For~~] each exemption granted under Section
18 521.1015 or 521.1811, [~~the department shall~~] deposit to the credit
19 of the Texas mobility fund an amount [~~from the identification fee~~
20 ~~exemption account under Subsection (a)~~] that is equal to the amount
21 of the waived fee that would otherwise be deposited to the mobility
22 fund.

23 (c) The department may not:

24 (1) request a transfer under Subsection (b)(1) or pay
25 a cost under Subsection (b)(2) if the department determines in
26 consultation with the Texas Workforce Commission that the balance
27 of the account is insufficient; or

1 (2) grant an exemption under Section 521.1015 or
2 521.1811 if money is not available in the identification fee
3 exemption account to meet the requirements of Subsection (b)(3)
4 [~~(b)~~].

5 (d) The department, in consultation with the Texas
6 Workforce Commission, by rule shall establish a process by which
7 transfers are made under Subsection (b).

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.