

By: Zaffirini, et al.

S.B. No. 656

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an optional health condition or disability designation on a driver's license or personal identification certificate.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 521.060(a) and (c), Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The department shall maintain in its files a record of the name, address, and telephone number of each individual identified by the holder of a driver's license or personal identification certificate as an individual the holder authorizes to be contacted in the event that the holder is injured or dies in or as a result of a vehicular accident or another emergency situation. In addition, the department shall maintain in its files a record of any medical information described by Section 521.125(a) that is provided to the department under Subsection (c) or any health condition information that is voluntarily provided to the department under Sections 521.1251 and [Section] 521.142(h).

(c) An application for an original, renewal, or duplicate driver's license or personal identification certificate must:

(1) be designed to allow, but not require, the applicant to provide:

(A) the name, address, and telephone number of not more than two individuals to be contacted if the applicant is injured or dies in a circumstance described by Subsection (a); and

1 (B) in addition to health condition information
2 voluntarily provided under Sections 521.1251 and [Section]
3 521.142(h), medical information described by Section 521.125(a);
4 and

5 (2) include a statement that:

6 (A) describes the confidential nature of the
7 information; and

8 (B) states that by providing the department with
9 the information, the applicant consents to the limited disclosure
10 and use of the information.

11 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 521, Transportation Code,
12 is amended by adding Section 521.1251 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 521.1251. OPTIONAL HEALTH CONDITION OR DISABILITY
14 DESIGNATION. (a) The department shall provide to each applicant
15 for the issuance of an original, renewal, corrected, or duplicate
16 driver's license or personal identification certificate who
17 applies in person the opportunity to voluntarily indicate on a
18 driver's license or personal identification certificate that the
19 person has a health condition or disability that may impede
20 effective communication with a peace officer. The department may
21 request from a person who makes an indication under this subsection
22 verification of a condition in the form of a written statement from
23 a licensed physician, including a psychiatrist.

24 (b) The department shall include a designation that
25 indicates the person has a health condition or disability that may
26 impede effective communication with a peace officer on each
27 driver's license or personal identification certificate issued to a

1 person who:

2 (1) makes an election under this section; and

3 (2) provides sufficient evidence under Subsection (a)

4 to qualify for the designation.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.