

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 656

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to an optional health condition or disability designation
3 on a driver's license or personal identification certificate.

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

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

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

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

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

22 (A) the name, address, and telephone number of
23 not more than two individuals to be contacted if the applicant is
24 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, by mail, over the Internet, or by other
18 electronic means the opportunity to voluntarily indicate on a
19 driver's license or personal identification certificate that the
20 person has a health condition or disability that may impede
21 effective communication with a peace officer. The department may
22 request from a person who makes an indication under this subsection
23 verification of a condition in the form of:

24 (1) for a physical health condition, a written
25 statement from a licensed physician; or

26 (2) for a mental health condition, a written statement
27 from a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, or a

1 non-physician mental health professional, as defined by Section
2 571.003, Health and Safety Code.

3 (b) The department shall include a designation that
4 indicates the person has a health condition or disability that may
5 impede effective communication with a peace officer on each
6 driver's license or personal identification certificate issued to a
7 person who:

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

9 (2) provides sufficient evidence under Subsection (a)
10 to qualify for the designation.

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