

By: Lopez of Bexar, Campos, Collier, et al.

H.B. No. 510

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the issuance of a certified birth record to a homeless individual.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 191, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 191.00495 to read as follows:

Sec. 191.00495. BIRTH RECORD ISSUED TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL.

(a) In this section, "homeless individual":

(1) means an individual who:

(A) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; or

(B) has a primary nighttime residence that is:

(i) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill;

(ii) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or

(iii) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; and

(2) does not include an individual who is imprisoned or otherwise detained in a correctional facility.

1 (b) On request of a homeless individual, the state
2 registrar, a local registrar, or a county clerk shall issue,
3 without fee, a certified copy of the individual's birth record to
4 the individual.

5 (c) The executive commissioner by rule shall:

6 (1) adopt a process to verify a person's status as a
7 homeless individual; and

8 (2) prescribe the documentation necessary for
9 issuance of a certified copy of a birth record to a homeless
10 individual whose status is verified through the process adopted
11 under Subdivision (1).

12 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of state law, the
13 department may not require a homeless individual to provide a
14 physical address of the individual's residence to satisfy any
15 requirement of this section.

16 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
17 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
18 Services Commission shall adopt the rules required by Section
19 191.00495, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

20 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply to an
21 application for a birth record submitted on or after the effective
22 date of this Act. An application for a birth record submitted before
23 the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on
24 the date the application was submitted, and the former law is
25 continued in effect for that purpose.

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.