

By: Carona

S.B. No. 1783

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of an offender identification card or similar form of identification as proof of identity for an applicant for a driver's license or commercial driver's license.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (a), Section 521.142, Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) An application for an original license must state the applicant's full name and place and date of birth. This information must be verified by presentation of proof of identity satisfactory to the department. The department must accept as satisfactory proof of identity under this subsection an offender identification card or similar form of identification issued to an inmate by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice if the applicant also provides supplemental verifiable records or documents that aid in establishing identity.

SECTION 2. Subchapter G, Chapter 521, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 521.1421 to read as follows:

Sec. 521.1421. INMATE IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The department shall participate in an inmate identification verification pilot program for the purpose of issuing driver's licenses and personal identification certificates to inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

(b) Under the pilot program, the department may:

1 (1) enter into a contract with the Texas Department of
2 Criminal Justice and the Department of State Health Services to
3 establish an identification verification process for inmates of the
4 Texas Department of Criminal Justice; and

5 (2) issue a driver's license or a personal
6 identification certificate to an inmate whose identity has been
7 confirmed through the verification process and who otherwise meets
8 the requirements for the issuance of the driver's license or
9 personal identification certificate.

10 (c) At the conclusion of the pilot program the governing
11 bodies of the participating agencies may agree to continue the
12 pilot program on a permanent basis.

13 (d) Not later than December 1, 2010, the department and the
14 Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall jointly issue a report
15 to the standing committees of the legislature with jurisdiction
16 over issues related to criminal justice and homeland security
17 addressing:

18 (1) the status of the pilot program;
19 (2) the effectiveness of the pilot program; and
20 (3) an analysis of the feasibility of implementing a
21 statewide program based on the pilot program.

22 SECTION 3. Subsection (c-1), Section 522.021,
23 Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:

24 (c-1) If the department requires proof of an applicant's
25 identity as part of an application under this section, the
26 department must accept as satisfactory proof of identity an
27 offender identification card or similar form of identification

1 issued to an inmate by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice if
2 the applicant also provides supplemental verifiable records or
3 documents that aid in establishing identity.

4 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
5 an application for a driver's license, commercial driver's license,
6 or personal identification certificate submitted on or after the
7 effective date of this Act. An application for a driver's license,
8 commercial driver's license, or personal identification
9 certificate submitted before the effective date of this Act is
10 subject to the law in effect on the date the application was
11 submitted, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

12 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.