

By: Watson

S.B. No. 876

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the fee for a personal identification certificate for a homeless individual.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter R, Chapter 521, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 521.4265 to read as follows:

Sec. 521.4265. EXEMPTION FOR A 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) Except as provided by Subsections (e) and (g), a
2 homeless individual is entitled to an exemption from the payment of
3 fees under this chapter for the issuance of a personal
4 identification certificate.

5 (c) For the purposes of this section, a person's status as a
6 homeless individual may be verified by an affidavit from:

7 (1) an employee of an organization that receives
8 funding from the federal government, this state, or a county or
9 municipality to provide services to homeless individuals;

10 (2) an employee of a faith-based organization that
11 provides services to homeless individuals;

12 (3) an attorney licensed to practice law in this
13 state; or

14 (4) a public school homeless liaison, public school
15 counselor, or public school social worker.

16 (d) A person may not charge a fee for the affidavit
17 described by Subsection (c).

18 (e) Subsection (b) does not apply to a person subject to the
19 registration requirements of Chapter 62, Code of Criminal
20 Procedure.

21 (f) A homeless individual may receive only one exemption.

22 (g) Not more than 10,000 homeless individuals may receive an
23 exemption under this section per fiscal biennium.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.