

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

H.B. 798  
By: Thompson, Senfronia  
Licensing & Administrative Procedures  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Current law authorizes the various state agencies that license individuals wishing to practice certain occupations, trades, or professions to deny a license to an individual who has been convicted of a Class C misdemeanor offense. The penalty for conviction of a Class C misdemeanor offense, in almost all instances, is a fine only with no incarceration. Interested parties contend that these offenses are not serious enough to warrant the denial of a license to practice an occupation. H.B. 798 seeks to prevent Texas licensing agencies from denying licenses to individuals who have been convicted of certain Class C misdemeanor offenses and to provide greater opportunities to people who have been convicted of minor crimes and a chance to rebuild their lives and become contributing members of their communities.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

H.B. 798 amends the Occupations Code to remove as a basis for suspension or revocation of a license, disqualification from receipt of a license, or denial of the opportunity to take a licensing examination by certain licensing authorities the fact that a person has been convicted of an offense punishable as a Class C misdemeanor.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

September 1, 2013.