

By: Parker

H.B. No. 2320

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to establishing a pilot program for driver education
3 schools to administer certain driver's license examinations;
4 authorizing fees.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 521, Transportation Code,
7 is amended by adding Section 521.1656 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 521.1656. PILOT PROGRAM FOR ADDITIONAL TESTING BY
9 DRIVER EDUCATION SCHOOL. (a) The department shall establish a
10 pilot program under which the department may designate driver
11 education schools licensed under Chapter 1001, Education Code, to
12 administer the examination required under Section 521.161(b)(2) in
13 addition to the department's administration of that examination.

14 (b) The department shall:

15 (1) establish criteria for determining the
16 eligibility of a driver education school to apply for participation
17 in the pilot program and continue to operate under the pilot
18 program;

19 (2) monitor participating driver education schools to
20 ensure that the driver education schools are conducting thorough
21 examinations; and

22 (3) conduct annual reports outlining:

23 (A) the number of individuals who opt to have the
24 examination required under Section 521.161(b)(2) administered by a

1 participating driver education school;

2 (B) the number of traffic incidents and citations
3 involving drivers who were administered the examination required
4 under Section 521.161(b)(2) by a driver education school under the
5 pilot program and whether that number is proportional to the
6 overall incident and citation rate in this state; and

7 (C) the department's assessment of the ability of
8 driver education schools to effectively administer the examination
9 required under Section 521.161(b)(2).

10 (c) The department may charge a driver education school a
11 fee for applying to enter the pilot program and for participating in
12 the program. The department shall set the fees in amounts
13 sufficient to cover the costs of administering this section.

14 (d) The department shall adopt rules to implement this
15 section.

16 (e) The pilot program established under this section
17 expires September 1, 2017. After September 1, 2017, on the
18 recommendation of the department, the commission may authorize the
19 department to implement the pilot program as a permanent program.

20 SECTION 2. The Department of Public Safety shall adopt the
21 rules required by Section 521.1656, Transportation Code, as added
22 by this Act, not later than January 1, 2014.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.