

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
84R13572 JXC-D

S.B. 1756  
By: Taylor, Van  
Transportation  
3/26/2015  
As Filed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

The Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas (DPS) currently has the authority to issue duplicate and renewal driver's licenses, election identification certificates, and personal identification certificates, as well as collect associated fees. As the state's population has increased, so has the demand for these services. Consequently, interested parties point out that this surge in demand has caused long wait times and backlogs in DPS driver's license offices.

In 2013, the legislature responded by enacting a pilot program that authorized DPS to enter into an agreement with eight counties. The program authorized county offices to process and issue identification documents and collect associated fees. Further, the pilot program authorized clerks or county assessor-collectors to train county employees in the administration procedures involved with issuing identification documents. These responsibilities including taking photos, administering vision tests, updating address and name information, and distributing information regarding organ donation. It did not authorize county employees to administer the driving examination or traffic laws examination required for driver's license applications. The program also authorized an additional county fee of up to \$5 for each transaction related only to driver's license and personal identification certificate services.

Since 2013, the pilot program has increased efficiency and expediency of local DPS offices by alleviating the volume of individuals seeking duplicate or renewal driver's licenses, election identification certificates, and personal identification certificates. As introduced, S.B. 1756 expands the program to authorize all county clerks or county assessor collectors to issue the three identification documents and collect associated fees.

As proposed, S.B. 1756 amends current law relating to agreements between the Department of Public Safety and counties for the provision of renewal and duplicate driver's license and other identification certificate services and authorizes a fee.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends the heading to Section 521.008, Transportation Code, as added by Chapter 1233 (S.B. 1729), Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, to read as follows:

Sec. 521.008. PROGRAM REGARDING THE PROVISION OF RENEWAL AND DUPLICATE DRIVER'S LICENSE AND OTHER IDENTIFICATION CERTIFICATE SERVICES.

SECTION 2. Reenacts Sections 521.008(a) and (a-1), Transportation Code, as added by Chapter 1233 (S.B. 1729), Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, and amends them, as follows:

(a) Authorizes the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas (DPS) to establish a program for the provision of renewal and duplicate driver's license, election identification

certificate, and personal identification certificate services in counties that enter into an agreement with DPS under Subsection (a-1). Deletes existing text authorizing DPS to establish a pilot program for the provision of renewal and duplicate driver's license, election identification certificate, and personal identification certificate services in not more than three counties with a population of 50,000 or less, not more than three counties with a population of more than 50,000 but less than 1,000,001, not more than two counties with a population of more than one million, and, notwithstanding Subdivisions (1)-(3), any county in which DPS operates a driver's license office as a scheduled or mobile office.

(a-1) Changes a reference to pilot program to program.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2015.