

By: Bettencourt

S.B. No. 983

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to restrictions on the assessment of the fee charged for
3 issuance of certain birth records.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 191.0046, Health and Safety Code, is
6 amended by adding Subsections (e) and (f) to read as follows:

7 (e) It is the intent of the legislature to not impose a cost
8 for obtaining certified records for the purpose of obtaining an
9 election identification certificate issued pursuant to Chapter
10 521A, Transportation Code. Notwithstanding any other law, the
11 state registrar, a local registrar, or a county clerk shall not
12 charge a fee to an applicant that is associated with searching for
13 or providing a record, including a certified copy of a birth record,
14 if the applicant states that the applicant is requesting the record
15 for the purpose of obtaining an election identification certificate
16 under Section 521A.001, Transportation Code.

17 (f) Notwithstanding Subsection (e), a local registrar or a
18 county clerk who issues a birth record that is required for the
19 purpose of obtaining an election identification certificate issued
20 pursuant to Chapter 521A, Transportation Code, and is otherwise
21 entitled by law to retain all or a portion of a fee for that birth
22 record, is entitled to payment of the amount from the department.

23 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to an
24 application for a certified copy of a birth record filed on or after

1 the effective date of this Act. An application for a certified copy
2 of a birth record filed before the effective date of this Act is
3 governed by the law in effect on that date, and the former law is
4 continued in effect for that purpose.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.