

By: White

H.B. No. 123

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the issuance of personal identification documents for
3 foster children, homeless children or youth, and unaccompanied
4 youth.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 521, Transportation Code,
7 is amended by adding Section 521.1015 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 521.1015. PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CERTIFICATE ISSUED
9 TO FOSTER CHILD, HOMELESS CHILD OR YOUTH, OR UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH.

10 (a) In this section:

11 (1) "Foster child" means a person who is 16 years of
12 age or older and in the managing conservatorship of the Department
13 of Family and Protective Services.

14 (2) "Homeless child or youth" has the meaning assigned
15 by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a.

16 (3) "Unaccompanied youth" has the meaning assigned by
17 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a.

18 (b) This section applies to the application for a personal
19 identification certificate only for a foster child, a homeless
20 child or youth, or an unaccompanied youth.

21 (c) Notwithstanding Section 521.101, Section 521.1426, or
22 any other provision of this chapter, a child or youth described by
23 Subsection (b) may, in applying for a personal identification
24 certificate:

1 (1) provide a copy of the child's or youth's birth
2 certificate as proof of the child's or youth's identity and United
3 States citizenship, as applicable; and

4 (2) if the child or youth does not have a residence or
5 domicile, provide a letter from the school district in which the
6 child or youth is enrolled certifying that the child or youth is a
7 homeless child or youth or an unaccompanied youth.

8 (d) A child or youth described by Subsection (b) may apply
9 for and the department may issue a personal identification
10 certificate without the signature or presence of or permission from
11 a parent or guardian of the child or youth.

12 (e) A child or youth described by Subsection (b) is exempt
13 from the payment of any fee for the issuance of a personal
14 identification certificate under this chapter.

15 SECTION 2. Section 521.1811, Transportation Code, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Sec. 521.1811. WAIVER OF FEES FOR FOSTER CHILD, HOMELESS
18 CHILD OR YOUTH, OR UNACCOMPANIED [~~CARE~~] YOUTH. A person is exempt
19 from the payment of any fee for the issuance of a driver's license,
20 as provided under this chapter, if that person is:

21 (1) younger than 18 years of age and in the managing
22 conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective
23 Services; [~~or~~]

24 (2) at least 18 years of age, but younger than 21 years
25 of age, and resides in a foster care placement, the cost of which is
26 paid by the Department of Family and Protective Services; or

27 (3) a homeless child or youth or an unaccompanied

1 youth as those terms are defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a.

2 SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act apply to an
3 application for a driver's license or personal identification
4 certificate submitted on or after the effective date of this Act.
5 An application for a driver's license or personal identification
6 certificate submitted before the effective date of this Act is
7 governed by the law in effect on the date the application was
8 submitted, and the former law is continued in effect for that
9 purpose.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.