

By: Watson

S.B. No. 481

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to personal identification documents for foster children or youth, homeless children or youth, and unaccompanied youth.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 191, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 191.0049 to read as follows:

Sec. 191.0049. BIRTH RECORD ISSUED TO FOSTER CHILD OR YOUTH OR HOMELESS OR UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH. On request of a child or youth described by this section, the state registrar, a local registrar, or a county clerk shall issue, without fee or parental consent, a certified copy of the child's or youth's birth record to:

(1) a homeless child or youth or an unaccompanied youth as those terms are defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a;

(2) a child in the managing conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services; and

(3) a young adult who:

(A) is at least 18 years of age, but younger than 21 years of age; and

(B) resides in a foster care placement, the cost of which is paid by the Department of Family and Protective Services.

SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 521, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 521.1015 to read as follows:

Sec. 521.1015. PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CERTIFICATE ISSUED

1 TO FOSTER CHILD OR YOUTH, HOMELESS CHILD OR YOUTH, OR UNACCOMPANIED

2 YOUTH. (a) In this section:

3 (1) "Foster child or youth" means:

4 (A) a child in the managing conservatorship of
5 the Department of Family and Protective Services; or

6 (B) a young adult who:

7 (i) is at least 18 years of age, but younger
8 than 21 years of age; and

9 (ii) resides in a foster care placement,
10 the cost of which is paid by the Department of Family and Protective
11 Services.

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

14 (3) "Unaccompanied youth" has the meaning assigned by
15 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a.

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

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

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

26 (2) if the child or youth does not have a residence or
27 domicile:

1 (A) provide a letter certifying the child or
2 youth is a homeless child or youth or an unaccompanied youth issued
3 by:

4 (i) the school district in which the child
5 or youth is enrolled;

6 (ii) the director of an emergency shelter
7 or transitional housing program funded by the United States
8 Department of Housing and Urban Development; or

9 (iii) the director of:

10 (a) a basic center for runaway and
11 homeless youth; or

12 (b) a transitional living program; or

13 (B) use the address of the regional office where
14 the Department of Family and Protective Services caseworker for the
15 child or youth is based.

16 (d) A child or youth described by Subsection (b) may apply
17 for and the department may issue a personal identification
18 certificate without the signature or presence of or permission from
19 a parent or guardian of the child or youth.

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

23 SECTION 3. Section [521.1811](#), Transportation Code, is
24 amended to read as follows:

25 Sec. 521.1811. WAIVER OF FEES FOR FOSTER CHILD OR YOUTH,
26 HOMELESS CHILD OR YOUTH, OR UNACCOMPANIED [~~CARE~~] YOUTH. A person is
27 exempt from the payment of any fee for the issuance of a driver's

1 license, as provided under this chapter, if that person is:

2 (1) younger than 18 years of age and in the managing
3 conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective
4 Services; ~~or~~

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

8 (3) a homeless child or youth or an unaccompanied
9 youth as those terms are defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a.

10 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply to an
11 application for a driver's license, personal identification
12 certificate, or birth record submitted on or after the effective
13 date of this Act. An application for a driver's license, personal
14 identification certificate, or birth record submitted before the
15 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the
16 date the application was submitted, and the former law is continued
17 in effect for that purpose.

18 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.