

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 1173

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the issuance of an occupational driver's license.

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

SECTION 1. Section 521.242, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsections (b-1), (g), and (h) and amending Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(b-1) A person whose driver's license is suspended under Chapter 708 or denied renewal under Chapter 706 may apply for an occupational license by filing a verified petition with the clerk of a court in which the person was convicted for an underlying offense giving rise to the license suspension or denial.

(d) A petition filed under Subsection (b) or (b-1) must state that the petitioner was convicted in that court for an offense under the laws of this state.

(g) A court shall notify a person at sentencing that the person may be entitled to an occupational license if:

(1) the person's driver's license is automatically suspended following the conviction;

(2) the person's driver's license is suspended for failure to pay surcharges associated with the conviction under Chapter 708; or

(3) the person's driver's license is denied renewal under Chapter 706 for failure to pay or satisfy a judgment ordering the payment of a fine and cost in the manner ordered by the court.

1        (h) Each justice and municipal court shall provide a  
2 standard petition form that a person may complete and file with the  
3 clerk to apply for an occupational license. The form must include  
4 instructions for obtaining a waiver of the application fee for  
5 persons who are unable to pay.

6        SECTION 2. Section [521.2462](#), Transportation Code, is  
7 amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

8        (d) This section does not apply to a person who petitioned  
9 for an occupational license solely because the person's driver's  
10 license was suspended under Chapter [708](#) or the person's driver's  
11 license was denied renewal under Chapter [706](#).

12        SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.