87R4916 BEE-D

By:  Ramos H.B. No. 1619

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a fee exemption for trafficking victims for certain personal identification documents.

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 191.00495 to read as follows:

Sec. 191.00495.  BIRTH RECORD ISSUED TO TRAFFICKING VICTIM. (a) In this section, "trafficking victim" has the meaning assigned by Section 521.1813, Transportation Code.

(b)  On request of a person who is a trafficking victim, the state registrar, a local registrar, or a county clerk shall issue without fee a certified copy of the person's birth record.

(c)  The state registrar, a local registrar, or a county clerk may require a person to provide only the documentation prescribed by a rule adopted by the Department of Public Safety under Section 521.1813(c), Transportation Code, to confirm a person's status as a trafficking victim.

SECTION 2.  Subchapter I, Chapter 521, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 521.1813 to read as follows:

Sec. 521.1813.  EXEMPTION FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS. (a) In this section, "trafficking victim" means a victim of trafficking of persons under Chapter 20A, Penal Code.

(b)  A person who is a trafficking victim is exempt from the payment of fees under this chapter for the issuance of a driver's license or personal identification certificate, subject to Section 521.4265.

(c)  The department shall adopt rules to implement this section, including rules prescribing any documentation necessary to confirm a person's status as a trafficking victim.

SECTION 3.  Sections 521.4265(b) and (c), Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b)  For each exemption granted under Section 521.1015, [~~or~~] 521.1811, or 521.1813, the department shall deposit to the credit of the Texas mobility fund an amount from the identification fee exemption account under Subsection (a) that is equal to the amount of the waived fee that would otherwise be deposited to the mobility fund.

(c)  The department may not grant an exemption under Section 521.1015, [~~or~~] 521.1811, or 521.1813 if money is not available in the identification fee exemption account to meet the requirements of Subsection (b).

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

SECTION 5.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.