

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a pilot program for the issuance of digital identification.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 7, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Chapter 526 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 526. DIGITAL IDENTIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM

Sec. 526.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Department" and "driver's license" have the meanings assigned by Section 521.001.

(2) "Digital identification" includes digital driver's licenses and digital personal identification certificates.

Sec. 526.002. DIGITAL IDENTIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The department by rule shall establish a pilot program for the issuance of digital identification.

(b) In establishing the digital identification pilot program, the department shall:

(1) assess existing department infrastructure and identify changes required to implement the program;

(2) upgrade department infrastructure according to the department's findings under Subdivision (1);

(3) acquire a mobile application that:

(A) displays digital identification that

1 includes the information described by Section 521.121(a) on a  
2 wireless communication device;

3 (B) includes an authentication and verification  
4 process for a wireless communication device; and

5 (C) may be used in any location regardless of the  
6 location's level of wireless connectivity or cellular telephone  
7 service;

8 (4) deploy the digital identification mobile  
9 application at no cost to focus groups for testing and evaluation;  
10 and

11 (5) implement a law enforcement version of the  
12 application for field testing.

13 (c) Digital identification issued under this section may  
14 not be used or accepted as valid proof of identification.

15 (d) The department may contract with a third party to  
16 establish the pilot program described by this section if the  
17 contract is at no cost to the department.

18 (e) The department shall prepare a report containing the  
19 results of the pilot program and the department's recommendations.  
20 The department shall submit the report to the Public Safety  
21 Commission and the legislature not later than the 180th day after  
22 the date of completion of the pilot program.

23 Sec. 526.003. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires September  
24 1, 2023.

25 SECTION 2. The Department of Public Safety shall adopt the  
26 initial rules for the digital identification pilot program under  
27 Chapter 526, Transportation Code, as added by this Act, not later

1 than February 1, 2022.

2           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.