

By: Ramos

H.B. No. 1619

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a fee exemption for trafficking victims for certain
3 personal identification documents.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 191, Health and Safety
6 Code, is amended by adding Section 191.00495 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 191.00495. BIRTH RECORD ISSUED TO TRAFFICKING VICTIM.

8 (a) In this section, "trafficking victim" has the meaning assigned
9 by Section 521.1813, Transportation Code.

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

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

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

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

23 (b) A person who is a trafficking victim is exempt from the
24 payment of fees under this chapter for the issuance of a driver's

1 license or personal identification certificate, subject to Section
2 521.4265.

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

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

8 (b) For each exemption granted under Section 521.1015, ~~[or]~~
9 521.1811, or 521.1813, the department shall deposit to the credit
10 of the Texas mobility fund an amount from the identification fee
11 exemption account under Subsection (a) that is equal to the amount
12 of the waived fee that would otherwise be deposited to the mobility
13 fund.

14 (c) The department may not grant an exemption under Section
15 521.1015, ~~[or]~~ 521.1811, or 521.1813 if money is not available in
16 the identification fee exemption account to meet the requirements
17 of Subsection (b).

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

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