

By: Sanford

H.B. No. 4191

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the renewal, expiration, and suspension of driver's licenses; increasing a fee.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter M, Chapter 521, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 521.2719 to read as follows:

Sec. 521.2719. EXPIRED LICENSES. (a) A person may renew an expired driver's license if the person's license has not been expired for more than 10 years.

(b) A person whose driver's license has been expired for more than 10 years may obtain a new driver's license by complying with the requirements and procedures for obtaining an original driver's license.

SECTION 2. Section 521.421, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (1) to read as follows:

(1) If a person is applying for the renewal of a driver's license that has been expired for more than 90 days, the fee for the renewal driver's license is increased by \$20.

SECTION 3. Chapter 706, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 706.0045 to read as follows:

Sec. 706.0045. PERIOD OF DENIAL OF RENEWAL OF DRIVER'S LICENSE. (a) Notwithstanding Section 706.004(a) or 706.006(c), the department may deny renewal of a person's driver's license under this chapter only until the earlier of:

1 (1) the date the department receives a clearance
2 notice under Section 706.005; or

3 (2) the 10th anniversary of the date the department or
4 a vendor described by Subsection (b) first received notice under
5 this chapter that there was cause to deny renewal of the person's
6 driver's license.

7 (b) This subsection applies only if the department
8 contracts with a vendor under Section 706.008 to implement this
9 chapter. Each month, the vendor shall:

10 (1) identify each person whose license may no longer
11 be denied renewal because of the expiration of the time period
12 described by Subsection (a)(2); and

13 (2) provide the name of each person identified under
14 Subdivision (1) to:

15 (A) the department; and

16 (B) the applicable court in which the person
17 failed to appear based on a complaint or citation or failed to pay
18 or satisfy a judgment ordering the payment of a fine and cost in the
19 manner ordered by the court in a matter involving an offense
20 described by Section 706.002(a).

21 SECTION 4. Section 706.005, Transportation Code, is amended
22 by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as
23 follows:

24 (a) A political subdivision shall immediately notify the
25 department that there is no cause to continue to deny renewal of a
26 person's driver's license based on the person's previous failure to
27 appear or failure to pay or satisfy a judgment ordering the payment

1 of a fine and cost in the manner ordered by the court in a matter
2 involving an offense described by Section 706.002(a), on payment of
3 a reimbursement fee, or on a finding by the court that the person is
4 indigent and not required to pay a reimbursement fee, as provided by
5 Section 706.006 and:

6 (1) the perfection of an appeal of the case for which
7 the warrant of arrest was issued or judgment arose;

8 (2) the dismissal of the charge for which the warrant
9 of arrest was issued or judgment arose, other than a dismissal with
10 prejudice by motion of the appropriate prosecuting attorney for
11 lack of evidence;

12 (3) the posting of bond or the giving of other security
13 to reinstate the charge for which the warrant was issued;

14 (4) the payment or discharge of the fine and cost owed
15 on an outstanding judgment of the court; ~~or~~

16 (5) if the person's license is denied renewal solely
17 because of the person's previous failure to appear, the person's
18 appearance in court in any manner authorized by law for the
19 underlying offense for which the person previously failed to
20 appear; or

21 (6) any other [suitable] arrangement to satisfy [pay]
22 the fine and cost within the court's discretion, including any
23 instance in which the person enters into an arrangement with the
24 court to satisfy the fine and cost under a payment plan or by
25 performing community service.

26 (c) A political subdivision that notifies the department
27 that there is no cause to continue to deny renewal of a person's

1 driver's license under Subsection (a) may notify the department if
2 the court subsequently determines the person failed to complete an
3 arrangement to satisfy the fine and cost under Subsection (a)(6),
4 including failure to complete payment plan installments or failure
5 to complete community service. On receiving the necessary
6 information from the political subdivision under this subsection,
7 the department may deny renewal of the person's driver's license.

8 SECTION 5. (a) Section 3, Chapter 710 (H.B. 162), Acts of
9 the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, is repealed.

10 (b) Section 521.293, Transportation Code, as amended by
11 Chapter 710 (H.B. 162), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular
12 Session, 2019, applies to a determination to suspend a driver's
13 license that is made by the Department of Public Safety of the State
14 of Texas before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

15 SECTION 6. (a) Sections 521.2719 and 521.421(1),
16 Transportation Code, as added by this Act, apply only to an
17 application for a renewal driver's license that is submitted on or
18 after the effective date of this Act. An application that is
19 submitted before the effective date of this Act is governed by the
20 law in effect when the application was submitted, and the former law
21 is continued in effect for that purpose.

22 (b) Section 706.0045, Transportation Code, as added by this
23 Act, applies to a determination to deny renewal of a driver's
24 license that is made by the Department of Public Safety of the State
25 of Texas before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

26 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.