By:  Guillen (Senate Sponsor - Parker) H.B. No. 2453

(In the Senate - Received from the House April 26, 2023; April 27, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Business & Commerce; May 12, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 2; May 12, 2023, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Schwertner           X

King                 X

Birdwell             X

Campbell             X

Creighton            X

Johnson              X

Kolkhorst                X

Menéndez             X

Middleton                X

Nichols              X

Zaffirini            X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the issuance of a digital occupational license by a state agency, county, or municipality.

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

SECTION 1.  Title 2, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Chapter 60 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 60. DIGITAL LICENSES

Sec. 60.001.  DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1)  "Licensing authority" means a state agency, county, or municipality that is authorized to issue an occupational license.

(2)  "Occupational license" means a license, certificate, registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by statute, ordinance, order, or rule that must be obtained by an individual to engage in a particular business, occupation, or profession.

Sec. 60.002.  REQUIREMENTS FOR DIGITAL LICENSES. A licensing authority that issues an occupational license may issue a digital license to a license holder. If the licensing authority issues a digital license, the digital license must comply with the following requirements:

(1)  the digital license must be in a secure format and readily accessible by the license holder through an Internet website and on a wireless communication device;

(2)  the public must be able to view a license holder's digital license through an Internet website or by using a QR code as defined by Section 443.001, Health and Safety Code; and

(3)  if the authority contracts with a vendor for the issuance of a digital license, the digital license must be in a format in which the vendor and authority can verify the validity of the license.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

\* \* \* \* \*