

By: Canales

H.B. No. 71

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a 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 PROGRAM

Sec. 526.0101. 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. 526.0102. DIGITAL IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM. (a) The department by rule shall establish a program for the issuance of digital identification.

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

(1) assess existing department infrastructure and upgrade department infrastructure according to the department's findings;

(2) acquire a mobile application that:

(A) displays digital identification that includes the information described by Section 521.121(a) on a

1 wireless communication device;

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

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

7 (3) deploy the digital identification mobile
8 application; and

9 (4) implement a law enforcement version of the
10 application.

11 (c) The department may contract with a third party to
12 establish the program described by this section if the contract is
13 at no cost to the department.

14 SECTION 2. The Department of Public Safety shall adopt the
15 rules for the digital identification program under Chapter 526,
16 Transportation Code, as added by this Act, not later than February
17 1, 2024.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.