

By: Canales

H.B. No. 2413

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the renewal, expiration, and suspension of driver's licenses.

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. 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) the date the department receives a clearance notice under Section 706.005;

(2) the first anniversary of the date that both of the following become true:

(i) the person's license has expired, and

1                   (ii) the department or a vendor described by  
2 Subsection (b) has received notice under this chapter that there  
3 was cause to deny renewal of the person's driver's license; or

4                   (3) The department has determined that the person is  
5 indigent under section 706.0046 of this chapter; or

6                   (4) A court having jurisdiction over the underlying  
7 offense makes a determination that the person is indigent as  
8 described by Section 706.006(d).

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

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

15                   (2) provide the name of each person identified under  
16 Subdivision (1) to:

17                               (A) the department; and

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

23                   SECTION 3. Section 706.005, Transportation Code, is amended  
24 by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as  
25 follows:

26                   (a) A political subdivision shall immediately notify the  
27 department that there is no cause to continue to deny renewal of a

1 person's driver's license based on the person's previous failure to  
2 appear or failure to pay or satisfy a judgment ordering the payment  
3 of a fine and cost in the manner ordered by the court in a matter  
4 involving an offense described by Section 706.002(a), on payment of  
5 a reimbursement fee, or on a finding by the court that the person is  
6 indigent and not required to pay a reimbursement fee, as provided by  
7 Section 706.006 and:

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

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

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

16 (4) the payment or discharge of the fine and cost owed  
17 on an outstanding judgment of the court; ~~[or]~~

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

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

1        (c) A political subdivision that notifies the department  
2 that there is no cause to continue to deny renewal of a person's  
3 driver's license under Subsection (a) may notify the department if  
4 the court subsequently determines the person failed to complete an  
5 arrangement to satisfy the fine and cost under Subsection (a)(6),  
6 including failure to complete payment plan installments or failure  
7 to complete community service. On receiving the necessary  
8 information from the political subdivision under this subsection,  
9 the department may deny renewal of the person's driver's license.

10        SECTION 4. Chapter 706, Transportation Code, is amended by  
11 adding Section 706.0046 to read as follows:

12        706.0046. INDIGENCY PROGRAM. The department shall develop  
13 and implement an indigency program, through which people who have  
14 been denied renewal under this chapter may renew their licenses if  
15 they provide proof to the department that they are indigent. A  
16 person may prove that they are indigent under this section by  
17 providing evidence to the department that their annual net income  
18 is less than 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, as  
19 defined annually by the United States Department of Health and  
20 Human Services. A person who is found to be indigent under this  
21 program may not be denied renewal under this Chapter.

22        SECTION 5. (a) Sections 521.2719 and 521.421(1),  
23 Transportation Code, as added by this Act, apply only to an  
24 application for a renewal driver's license that is submitted on or  
25 after the effective date of this Act. An application that is  
26 submitted before the effective date of this Act is governed by the  
27 law in effect when the application was submitted, and the former law

1 is continued in effect for that purpose.

2 (b) Section 706.0045 and 706.0046, Transportation Code, as  
3 added by this Act, applies to a determination to deny renewal of a  
4 driver's license that is made by the Department of Public Safety of  
5 the State of Texas before, on, or after the effective date of this  
6 Act.

7 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.