

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Urban Affairs  
For HB 1677

Compiled on: Thursday, April 20, 2023 4:25 PM

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Hearing Date: April 4, 2023 2:00 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Bethany Johnson  
Self, professor  
Austin, TX

I am writing in support of HB 1677. Unhoused individuals have a right to easy and clear access to identification documents that can help them with matters of housing, employment, and social services. Thank you.

Joy Davis  
Pure Justice  
Houston, TX

Dear Honorable State Representatives,

I am in favor of this bill. Providing birth certificates to individuals free of charge is very important. Birth certificates are essential documents that serve as proof of identity and age. They are required for obtaining a driver's license, housing, enrolling in school and accessing governmental services. Obtaining these documents can be very challenging if you are homeless due to financial barriers especially if you have misplaced the original documents or have lost them due to the many disasters we have in Texas. By providing these free of charge, we can help them overcome these obstacles and access services they may need. This can help find employment, housing, and reduce the costs associated with homelessness, including healthcare costs and criminal justice expenses. Some of the requests we see consistently are for people that need to replace their documents because they were lost, confiscated and never returned, or due to disaster. Having a location like a jail or a prison to offer these services would be very beneficial.

Elizabeth Paulette  
Retired  
New Braunfels, TX

First, thank you for reading my concerns. I have serious opposition to this bill. I recently had to get a certified copy of my birth certificate because I needed one for a passport. I had to submit personal information in order for me to obtain this certified copy of a birth certificate that only I would know or next of kin. So, if the State of Texas wants to issue certified documents to homeless individuals then they must be able to provide this required personal information. The State needs to be very critical when allowing homeless people to obtain certified documents. This process needs to be legitimate.

Marie Day  
self  
Shiner, TX

I am shocked the TX leg would even consider a bill such as this; it is time for special interest groups to stop getting a place at the front of the line...in this case a homeless person getting a FREE copy of a birth certificate; there are plenty of privately funded charities that can handle this; government should require ALL folks to pay for fee services by government; please vote NO on this bill