

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a program for the issuance of digital identification; authorizing a fee.

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 a digital driver's license, a digital personal identification certificate, a digital handgun license, and a digital hunting or fishing license.

(3) "Handgun license" means a license to carry a handgun issued under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code.

(4) "Hunting or fishing license" means a noncommercial hunting or fishing license of any type issued by the Parks and Wildlife Department, including:

(A) a hunting license issued under Chapter 42, Parks and Wildlife Code;

(B) a fishing license issued under Chapter 46, Parks and Wildlife Code; or

(C) a combination hunting and fishing license issued under Chapter 50, Parks and Wildlife Code.

1 Sec. 526.0102. DIGITAL IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM. (a) The
2 department, in consultation with the Parks and Wildlife Department,
3 by rule shall establish a program for the issuance of digital
4 identification.

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

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

10 (2) provide a digital identification solution that:

11 (A) is capable of presenting digital
12 identification on a wireless communication device that:

13 (i) must include the information included
14 on a driver's license, as described by Section 521.121(a); and

15 (ii) may include, as applicable:

16 (a) the information included on a
17 handgun license, as required by Subchapter H, Chapter 411,
18 Government Code; and

19 (b) the information included on a
20 hunting or fishing license, as required by the Parks and Wildlife
21 Code, including a stamp or other authorization issued by the Parks
22 and Wildlife Department in connection with the hunting or fishing
23 license;

24 (B) includes an authentication and verification
25 process for a wireless communication device; and

26 (C) may be used in any location regardless of the
27 location's level of wireless connectivity or cellular telephone

1 service;

2 (3) deploy the digital identification solution; and

3 (4) implement any procedures necessary to allow law
4 enforcement officials to accept digital identification.

5 (c) The department may contract with a third party to
6 establish the program described by this section if the cost of the
7 contract is covered by the fee authorized under Subsection (d).

8 (d) The department may charge a fee of not more than \$5 for
9 the issuance of digital identification under this section.

10 (e) Except as otherwise provided by this subsection or
11 federal law, a person shall accept digital identification issued
12 under this section as evidence of another person's identity in the
13 same manner as a driver's license. Digital identification issued
14 under this section may not be used for voting purposes.

15 SECTION 2. (a) The Department of Public Safety by rule
16 shall establish and implement the digital identification program
17 under Chapter 526, Transportation Code, as added by this Act, not
18 later than September 1, 2026.

19 (b) If before implementing any provision of this Act the
20 Department of Public Safety determines that a waiver or
21 authorization from a federal agency is necessary for the
22 implementation of that provision, the Department of Public Safety
23 shall request the waiver or authorization and may delay
24 implementing that provision until the waiver or authorization is
25 granted.

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.