

- SUBJECT:** Removing conflicting requirements to get a driver's license
- COMMITTEE:** Transportation — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Morrison, Martinez, Burkett, Goldman, Minjarez, Phillips, Pickett, Simmons, E. Thompson, S. Thompson, Wray
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Y. Davis, Israel
- WITNESSES:** For — None
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Brian Francis, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation)
- BACKGROUND:** During the 81st Legislative Session in 2009, two bills were passed that included provisions requiring applicants for a driver's license to complete a driver's education course if they were under a certain age:
- HB 339 by Phillips required applicants under 21 to complete a driver's education course; and
 - SB 1317 by Wentworth required applicants under 25 to complete a driver's education course.
- These requirements appear under Transportation Code, sec. 521.142(d).
- DIGEST:** HB 516 would require applicants for a driver's license to complete a driver's education course if they were under the age of 25. The bill would repeal the provision enacted by the 81st Legislature in 2009 that applicants under 21 complete a driver's education course.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 516 would prevent confusion from two contradictory statutes. Currently, there are two conflicting subsections under Transportation Code, sec. 521.142, and the bill would ensure the current practice of requiring applicants for a driver's license to complete a driver's education course if they are under 25 was clearly reflected in statute.

The current practice of requiring applicants under 25 to complete a driver's education course improves safety. In 2014, more than 560 drivers between the ages of 21 and 25 were in a fatal traffic accident, and drivers in these age groups were in more fatal traffic accidents than most other age groups. This bill would ensure new drivers in this age group and younger would have to pass a driver's education course, decreasing the chances of fatal car accidents.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.