

SUBJECT: Extending driver's licenses; allowing private vendors to provide services

COMMITTEE: Homeland Security and Public Safety — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Nevárez, Paul, Burns, Clardy, Goodwin, Israel, Lang, Tinderholt

0 nays

1 absent — Calanni

WITNESSES: For — Patrick Barrett, Driver Ed in a Box and Collision-Free Driver Ed; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Stephen Hilz; Tammy Hilz)

Against — David Carter; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Carlos Reyna, Aceable DSC Course Provider; Cecilia Jackson, Driving School Association of the Americas and Texas Professional Drivers Education Association; Eric Givilancz, Roadworthy Driving Academy; Nina Saint, SafeWay Driving; Kenton Fox, Gregory's Driving School; Debbie Callahan, Texas Professional Driver Education Association; Greg Peters, Vista Ridge Driving School, Inc.; Jeff Adams; Bernadette Mora; Bern Weatherford; Earnest Weatherford)

On — Amanda Arriaga, Texas Department of Public Safety

BACKGROUND: Transportation Code sec. 521.009 allows the Department of Public Safety to enter into an agreement with a county or a municipality to provide services relating to renewal and duplicate driver's licenses, election identification certificates, and personal identification certificates at a county or municipal office.

Under sec. 521.428, a county or municipality that provides services under an agreement may collect an additional fee up to \$5 for each transaction relating to driver's licenses and personal identification certificates.

Due to recent reports of increased wait times at driver's license offices, some have suggested increasing locations to obtain a renewal or duplicate license and extending the duration of licenses to benefit customers.

DIGEST:

CSHB 2478 would authorize a private vendor to provide certain services related to driver's licenses, election identification certificates, and personal identification certificates. The bill also would extend the expiration dates of a driver's license and a commercial driver's license and increase fees.

Program. The bill would expand the program under Transportation Code sec. 521.009 to allow a private vendor to enter into an agreement with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) for the provision of renewal and duplicate driver's license, election identification certificate, and personal identification certificate services at a location determined by the vendor.

The bill would increase from \$5 to \$10 the cap on the fee a county, municipality, or private vendor that provided services under an agreement could collect for transactions relating to driver's licenses and personal identification certificates.

Driver's license. The bill would extend the expiration date of an original or renewal driver's license from six to eight years. The fee for an original or renewal driver's license would be increased from \$24 to \$32.

Commercial driver's license. The bill would extend the expiration date of original and renewal commercial driver's licenses (CDL) and increase associated fees.

Original. The bill would extend the expiration date of an original CDL from five to eight years. An optional expiration date for a non-domiciled CDL would be extended from five to eight years.

The expiration date would be extended from five to eight years for a CDL issued to a person holding a Class A, B, C, or M license that:

- would expire one year or more after the CDL issuance date;

- would expire less than one year after the CDL issuance date or that had been expired for less than one year; or
- had been expired for at least one year but not more than two years.

The bill would set the expiration date of an original CDL with a hazardous materials endorsement at five years after the applicant's next birthday.

The expiration date would be set at five years for a CDL with a hazardous materials endorsement issued to a person holding a Class A, B, C, or M license that:

- would expire one year or more after the CDL issuance date;
- would expire less than one year after the CDL issuance date or that had been expired for less than one year; or
- had been expired for at least one year but not more than two years.

Renewal. The renewal of a CDL that had been expired for less than one year would be extended from five to eight years after its expiration. For a CDL that had been expired for at least one year but no more than two years, the bill would extend the expiration from six to seven years after the applicant's last birthday.

The bill would set at five years after the CDL's expiration the renewal of a CDL with a hazardous materials endorsement that had been expired for less than one year. If the CDL with endorsement had been expired for at least one year but no more than two years, the renewal would be set at five years after the applicant's last birthday.

Fee. The bill would increase the fee for a CDL from \$60 to \$96. The fee for a CDL with a hazardous materials endorsement would be set at \$60.

Effective date. CSHB 2478 would take effect September 1, 2019, and would apply only to a driver's license or CDL issued or renewed on or after June 1, 2020.