

SUBJECT: Authorizing district clerks to sell money orders for passport payments

COMMITTEE: County Affairs — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Neave Criado, Stucky, Gerdes, J. Jones, Rosenthal, Schatzline, Tinderholt
1 nay — Slaton
1 absent — Orr

WITNESSES: For — Velva Price, Travis County District Clerk (*Registered, but did not testify*: Adam Haynes, Conference of Urban Counties; Rebekah Chenelle, Dallas County Commissioners Court; Tammy Narvaez, Harris County Commissioners Court; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court)
Against — None

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that the passport application process would be more convenient if district clerks were authorized to sell money orders to applicants who did not bring the appropriate form of payment to the district clerk's office.

DIGEST: HB 3607 would authorize a district clerk to sell money orders to passport applicants and collect a reasonable fee for the provided service.
The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.