applicant holding a license from another state or country that has license requirements substantially equivalent to those of this state.

(c) A license or certificate issued under Subsection (a) must be renewed as provided by Subchapter L.

SECTION 3. Subchapter F, Chapter 1602, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1602.268 to read as follows:

Sec. 1602.268. WAIVER OF CERTAIN LICENSE REQUIREMENTS. (a) The department shall issue a license to an applicant for a license issued under Section 1602.254 if the applicant:

(1) submits an application on a form prescribed by the department;
(2) pays the application fee; and
(3) provides proof that the applicant holds a current license to engage in the same or a similar activity issued by another state that has license requirements substantially equivalent to those of this state.

(b) The department may waive any requirement for a license or certificate issued under this chapter, other than a license listed in Subsection (a), for an applicant holding a license from another state that has license requirements substantially equivalent to those of this state.

(c) A license issued under Subsection (a) must be renewed as provided by Subchapter H.

SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to an application for the issuance of a license or certificate under Chapters 1601 and 1602, Occupations Code, as amended by this Act, that is filed with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation on or after the effective date of this Act. An application for the issuance of a license or certificate that is filed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the application was filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed by the House on May 8, 2013: Yeas 139, Nays 8, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 20, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective September 1, 2013.

CHAPTER 259

H.B. No. 622

AN ACT
relating to the report by the General Land Office to the legislature on the effectiveness of the coastal management program.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 33.204(f), Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

(f) The land office, in coordination with other agencies and subdivisions, shall prepare a biennial [an annual] report on the effectiveness of the coastal management program. On or before January 15 of each odd-numbered year, the land office shall send the report to the legislature [each of the previous two annual reports].

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed by the House on April 3, 2013: Yeas 146, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 15, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.
CHAPTER 260

H.B. No. 625

AN ACT relating to the penalty for the operation of a vehicle without a license plate.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 504.943, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) An offense under this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed $200.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is covered by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed by the House on April 18, 2013: Yeas 139, Nays 4, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 15, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective September 1, 2013.

CHAPTER 261

H.B. No. 634

AN ACT relating to the verification of an inmate's veteran status by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 501, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 501.023 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.023. VERIFICATION OF INMATE VETERAN STATUS. (a) In this section, "system" means the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) operated by the Administration for Children and Families of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) The department shall:

(1) investigate and verify the veteran status of each inmate by using data made available from the system through the Health and Human Services Commission, and

(2) use system data to assist inmates who are veterans in applying for federal benefits or compensation for which the inmates may be eligible under a program administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.