

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 656  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 27, 2023; February 17, 2023,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Transportation;  
1-4 March 15, 2023, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; March 15, 2023,  
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7	COMMITTEE VOTE				
1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Nichols	X			
1-10	West	X			
1-11	Alvarado	X			
1-12	Eckhardt	X			
1-13	Hancock	X			
1-14	King			X	
1-15	Miles	X			
1-16	Parker	X			
1-17	Perry	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 656 By: West

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to an optional health condition or disability designation  
1-22 on a driver's license or personal identification certificate.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Sections 521.060(a) and (c), Transportation  
1-25 Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-26 (a) The department shall maintain in its files a record of  
1-27 the name, address, and telephone number of each individual  
1-28 identified by the holder of a driver's license or personal  
1-29 identification certificate as an individual the holder authorizes  
1-30 to be contacted in the event that the holder is injured or dies in or  
1-31 as a result of a vehicular accident or another emergency situation.  
1-32 In addition, the department shall maintain in its files a record of  
1-33 any medical information described by Section 521.125(a) that is  
1-34 provided to the department under Subsection (c) or any health  
1-35 condition information that is voluntarily provided to the  
1-36 department under Sections 521.1251 and ~~[Section]~~ 521.142(h).

1-37 (c) An application for an original, renewal, or duplicate  
1-38 driver's license or personal identification certificate must:

1-39 (1) be designed to allow, but not require, the  
1-40 applicant to provide:

1-41 (A) the name, address, and telephone number of  
1-42 not more than two individuals to be contacted if the applicant is  
1-43 injured or dies in a circumstance described by Subsection (a); and

1-44 (B) in addition to health condition information  
1-45 voluntarily provided under Sections 521.1251 and ~~[Section]~~  
1-46 521.142(h), medical information described by Section 521.125(a);  
1-47 and

1-48 (2) include a statement that:

1-49 (A) describes the confidential nature of the  
1-50 information; and

1-51 (B) states that by providing the department with  
1-52 the information, the applicant consents to the limited disclosure  
1-53 and use of the information.

1-54 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 521, Transportation Code,  
1-55 is amended by adding Section 521.1251 to read as follows:

1-56 Sec. 521.1251. OPTIONAL HEALTH CONDITION OR DISABILITY  
1-57 DESIGNATION. (a) The department shall provide to each applicant  
1-58 for the issuance of an original, renewal, corrected, or duplicate  
1-59 driver's license or personal identification certificate who  
1-60 applies in person the opportunity to voluntarily indicate on a

driver's license or personal identification certificate that the person has a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication with a peace officer. The department may request from a person who makes an indication under this subsection verification of a condition in the form of a written statement from a licensed physician, including a psychiatrist.

(b) The department shall include a designation that indicates the person has a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication with a peace officer on each driver's license or personal identification certificate issued to a person who:

- (1) makes an election under this section; and
- (2) provides sufficient evidence under Subsection (a) to qualify for the designation.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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