

SUBJECT: Creating a joint legislative committee on the issuance of driver's licenses

COMMITTEE: House Administration — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Geren, Anchia, Anderson, Ortega, Parker, Sanford, Sherman, E. Thompson
0 nays
3 absent — Howard, Flynn, Thierry

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: Some have noted that the Legislature could benefit from having a focused, deliberate examination of current programs to administer the driver's license program and related programs.

DIGEST: CSHB 2025 would establish a Joint Oversight Committee on the Issuance of Driver's Licenses and Other Forms of Identification.

The committee would review the administration and implementation of the Department of Public Safety's duties to:

- issue driver's licenses;
- issue personal identification certificates;
- issue election identification certificates; and
- register voters during the issuance or renewal of a driver's license or personal identification certificate.

The committee would be required to review plans and receive updates from state and local governmental entities involved in administering and implementing these duties.

The committee would have eight members, including four senators appointed by the lieutenant governor and four members of the House of

Representatives appointed by the speaker. The chair of the committee would alternate biennially between a senator and a House member, with the House speaker appointing the initial chair.

The committee would have to report to the Legislature biennially on:

- the appropriations and expended funds to administer and implement the duties described above during a period determined by the committee;
- current technological and operational deficiencies in the administration and implementation of those duties;
- the amount of time the interaction between the department and a customer currently takes when issuing a driver's license, personal identification certificate, or election identification certificate; and
- recommendations relating to the improvement and optimization of the administration and implementation of the department's duties, including necessary funding and timelines to implement the committee's recommendations.

The committee would operate under the rules adopted by the 86th Legislature for joint committees created by proclamation to the extent they did not conflict with CSHB 2025. The committee would be abolished September 1, 2029.

Appointments to the committee would have to be made within 30 days of the bill's effective date.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.