

**SUBJECT:** Authorizing use of a document from driving school as permission to drive

**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 — Carlos Reyna, Aceable; Patrick Barrett, Driver Ed in a Box and Collision-Free Driver Ed; Tom Pennington, Green Light Driving Academy; Samuel Shotts, Vista Ridge Driving School; Jeff Adams; Chad Henry; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Dawn Thomas, Austin Driving School; Lupe Farias, Roel Farias, and Madalyn Stepanski, Champions Driving School; Cecilia Jackson, Driving School Association of the Americas, Texas Professional Drivers Education Association; Eric Givilancz, Roadworthy Driving Academy; Nina Saint, SafeWay Driving; Kenton Fox, Gregory's Driving School; Robert Young, Sears Driving School; Debbie Callahan, Texas Professional Driver Education Association; Greg Peters, Vista Ridge Driving School; and six individuals)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: David Carter; Pete Inocencio; Bill Kelberlau; Gregory Young)

**BACKGROUND:** Transportation Code sec. 521.165(e) allows the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to authorize certain employers, government agencies, and other appropriate organizations to administer the driver's license examination to qualifying applicants.

It has been suggested that lines and wait times at DPS driver's license offices could be reduced by allowing these third parties to issue a temporary receipt to qualifying persons to serve as permission to drive

until DPS could mail a permanent license to the applicant.

**DIGEST:**

CSHB 2931 would allow the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to authorize certain employers, government agencies, and other appropriate organizations, including driver education schools, to issue a temporary receipt to a qualifying person that would serve as permission to operate a vehicle until DPS issued the person a driver's license.

Such a receipt could be issued only to a person who held a learner license issued by DPS, who was a qualifying applicant for a driver's license, and who had completed and passed driver's training and testing.

DPS would be required to develop a process for third parties that issued temporary receipts to electronically transmit to DPS the documents and information required for the issuance of a driver's license.

The bill also would allow DPS to authorize and set standards for authorized third parties to train and certify examiners to administer the driver's license examination.

The bill would require DPS to adopt rules to implement the provisions of the bill relating to the issuance of temporary receipts.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.