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(1) a law enforcement officer or peace officer for this state or a political subdivision of this state under Article 2.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, or other law; or
(2) a federal law enforcement officer or special agent performing duties in this state, including those officers under Article 2.122, Code of Criminal Procedure.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.
Passed the Senate on April 23, 2009: Yeas 30, Nays 0; passed the House on May 26, 2009: Yeas 144, Nays 0, one present not voting.
Approved June 19, 2009.
Effective September 1, 2009.

CHAPTER 565

S.B. No. 2041

AN ACT
relating to requiring an applicant for a driver’s license to demonstrate knowledge of motorists’ rights and responsibilities in relation to bicyclists.

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

SECTION 1. Subsections (b) and (c), Section 521.161, Transportation Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) The examination must include:
(1) a test of the applicant’s:
   (A) vision;
   (B) ability to identify and understand highway signs in English that regulate, warn, or direct traffic; [and]
   (C) knowledge of the traffic laws of this state; and
   (D) knowledge of motorists’ rights and responsibilities in relation to bicyclists;
   (2) a demonstration of the applicant’s ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle of the type that the applicant will be licensed to operate; and
   (3) any additional examination the department finds necessary to determine the applicant’s fitness to operate a motor vehicle safely.

(c) The department shall give each applicant the option of taking the parts [traffic law and highway sign part] of the examination under Subsections (b)(1)(B), (C), and (D) in writing in addition to or instead of through a mechanical, electronic, or other testing method. If the applicant takes that part of the examination in writing in addition to another testing method, the applicant is considered to have passed that part of the examination if the applicant passes either version of the examination. The department shall inform each person taking the examination of the person’s rights under this subsection.

SECTION 2. A driver’s license examination administered by the Department of Public Safety is not required to include a question required by Paragraph (D), Subdivision (1), Subsection (b), Section 521.161, Transportation Code, as added by this Act, if the examination is administered before February 1, 2010.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.
Passed the Senate on April 23, 2009: Yeas 29, Nays 1; passed the House on May 26, 2009: Yeas 146, Nays 0, one present not voting.
Approved June 19, 2009.
Effective September 1, 2009.

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CHAPTER 566

S.B. No. 2048

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a centralized sex offender registration authority in certain counties in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Article 62.001, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by amending Subdivision (2) and adding Subdivision (11) to read as follows:

(2) "Local law enforcement authority" means, as applicable, the chief of police of a municipality, or the sheriff of a county in this state, or a centralized registration authority.

(11) "Centralized registration authority" means a mandatory countywide registration location designated under Article 62.0045.

SECTION 2. Article 62.004, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-i) to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (a-1), for each person subject to registration under this chapter, the department shall determine which local law enforcement authority serves as the person's primary registration authority based on the municipality or county in which the person resides or, as provided by Article 62.152, the municipality or county in which the person works or attends school.

(a-1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, if a person resides or, as described by Article 62.152, works or attends school in a county with a centralized registration authority, the centralized registration authority serves as the person's primary registration authority under this chapter, regardless of whether the person resides, works, or attends school, as applicable, in any municipality located in that county.

SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 62.0045 to read as follows:

Art. 62.0045. CENTRALIZED REGISTRATION AUTHORITY. (a) The commissioners court in a county with a population of 100,000 or more may designate the office of the sheriff of the county or may, through interlocal agreement, designate the office of a chief of police of a municipality in that county to serve as a mandatory countywide registration location for persons subject to this chapter.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a person who is subject to this chapter shall register under Article 62.051 or verify registration under Article 62.058 only with the centralized registration authority for the county, regardless of whether the person resides in any municipality located in that county. If the person resides in a municipality, and the local law enforcement authority in the municipality does not serve as the person's centralized registration authority, the centralized registration authority, not later than the third day after the date the person registers or verifies registration with that authority, shall provide to the local law enforcement authority in that municipality notice of the person's registration or verification of registration, as applicable, with the centralized registration authority.

SECTION 4. 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, 2009.

Passed the Senate on April 30, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 26, 2009: Yeas 142, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved June 19, 2009.