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Amendment Floor Report for SB 601 – Tuesday, May 14, 2019 Autor: Hall Birdwell Buckingham Nichols Watson Sponsor: Flynn (Texas Veteran’s Commission Sunset Bill)		
Paddie 861651	<p>This amendment would strike language regarding the appointment of a mental health program director for the administration of mental health services for the Texas Veterans Commission. Included in the language struck is the provision of the program administrator having at least a master’s degree in a mental health field as well as trauma-informed experience prior to the appointment. Trauma-informed practice, as well as education relating to mental health, creates a more proficient administration of services. To strike this language could be detrimental to the administration of efficient programming and administration of that programming.</p>	<u>Unfavorable</u>
Paddie 861661	<p>This amendment would strike language regarding service experience for those who are appointed to an officer position for the Texas Veterans Commission. Additional language struck would be the acceptance of someone who may not meet the qualification of United States Department of Veteran Affairs experience and that the listing of the vacancy is listed online on the Texas Workforce Commissions website. Language added establishes a veteran preference as applicable to the county where the vacancy is taking place.</p> <p>Removing the services experience requirement for the listing opens the listing to potentially more applicants, but the provision of not listing the vacancy paired with veteran county preference stands narrows the pool of candidates significantly. This would potentially leave some more rural areas without a large veteran population from finding a qualified candidate to fulfill the vacancy.</p>	<u>Will of the House</u>
Amendment Floor Report for SB 604 – Tuesday, May 14, 2019 Author: Buckingham Birdwell Sponsor: Paddie (Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Sunset Bill)		
Canales 861648	<p>This amendment is similar to HB 2834 which did not make it out of calendars. Information confidentiality is important during investigations and joint investigations. TxDMV gets complaints about dealerships they license or credential as household goods movers, for example. When the complaint is sufficient, TxDMV will open an investigation to look into what is going on. TxDMV would like to protect individuals who complain as well as entities they license. One example would look like: someone purchased a used car from a dealership and was unhappy with how they were treated on the premises. The dealership could become defensive and want to know who complained but releasing that information could hinder an investigation more than help it. TxDMV doesn’t currently have the authority to withhold the information even though it can be in the best interest of the parties submitting or receiving the complaint. Amendment 648 simply allows information related to ongoing investigations to be kept confidential until the investigation is dismissed or finally resolved.</p>	<u>Favorable</u>


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<p>Minjarez 861650</p>	<p>This amendment allows certain counties to administer an additional \$10 vehicle registration fee if approved by the voters with the goal to incorporate all stand-alone legislation filed this session regarding optional vehicle registration fees (Optional VRFs). Bexar, Cameron, El Paso, Hidalgo, and Webb counties have had authority to impose Optional VRFs since 2007. This means that certain counties can add an additional \$10 vehicle registration fee that will go to regional mobility authorities to fund long-term transportation projects.</p> <p>Amendment 650 allows Brazos County (HB 642 by Representative Raney which was passed out of the house on May 2nd, 2019), Williamson County (HB 3353 by Representative Bucy), and Dimmit, Frio, Kinney, Maverick, Uvalde, Val Verde, and Zavala Counties (HB 333 by Chair Nevarez, passed out of the house on April 23rd, 2019) to impose Optional VRFs not to exceed \$10 through an order adopted by the county commissioners court.</p> <p>Amendment 650 would also allow Bexar County (HB 130 by Representative Minjarez/SB 2434 by Senator Menendez) and El Paso County (HB 2769 by Representative Ortega/SB 2184 by Senator Rodriguez) to increase their fees to a maximum of \$20 if approved by the county in an election—these counties already have the authorization to implement \$10 Optional VRFs.</p> <p>Amendment 650 allows Nueces County (SB 2273 by Senator Hinojosa and the House floor amendment to HB 333 by Chair Canales) to implement the \$10 Optional VRFs through an order adopted by the county commissioners court AND increase the amount to a maximum of \$20 with the approval of the county voters in an election.</p> <p>The portion of fee revenue from the additional vehicle registration fees will go to long-term transportation projects in the counties the fees are collected in or other counties participating in the regional mobility authority. If there is no regional mobility authority, the collected revenue goes to the county.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>Paddie 861652</p>	<p>This amendment is introduced in a bill, as well, HB 1711 by Representative Paddie. Amendment 852 provides the option for issuance of digital license plates. The purpose is to add functionality regarding motor vehicle license plates. Digital license plates have GPS capabilities, Radio Frequency ID technology that can link with toll booths and parking meters, automatic registration renewal, ability to purchase multiple specialty license plates (revenue stream) and ability to post public safety notices. Furthermore, digital license plates use E-ink technology which is reflective and visible during day and night. There is one vendor providing this technology.</p> <p>Law enforcement agencies rely on plate readers and their technology systems are not built for digital license plates. However, the Radio Frequency ID technology works better in some ways—officers can acquire registration and license plate information without reading the plate. This doesn't force digital license plates on Texans, it allows citizens to acquire them. They are relatively expensive due to the E-ink technology (\$400+).</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>Paddie 861654</p>	<p>Currently, SB 604 requires TxDMV to establish education and training requirements for applicants to become independent motor vehicle dealers. This is important because currently there are instances where people become independent motor vehicle dealers without proper education on what they are getting into. Then, individuals attain their licenses and end up with violations. SB 604 requires applicants to complete the education and training before acquiring their first license and every two years when they renew their licenses, as well.</p> <p>Amendment 654 deletes that section and substitutes requirements for independent motor vehicle dealers to complete web-based education and training developed by TxDMV including information on laws and board rules applicable to independent motor vehicle dealers and the consequences of violating those rules. The biggest change is that Amendment 654 does not require applicants to complete additional training for subsequent renewal of the applicant's license, so they will only have to complete the education and training once.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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Amendment Floor Report for SB 621 – Tuesday, May 14, 2019
 Author: Nichols | Birdwell | Buckingham | Hall Sponsor: Lambert
 (Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners Sunset Bill)

<p>Geren 861655</p>	<p>This amendment requires the board to adopt the International Plumbing Code (IPC) instead of allowing the board to decide whether to adopt the International Plumbing Code or the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC). However, there are concerns that the IPC is too lenient on plumbers in order to be cost effective. The UPC is backed by the plumbing industry because it is the safer option for communities and holds the plumbers to a higher standard than the IPC.</p>	<p><u>Unfavorable</u></p>
<p>Schaefer 861649</p>	<p>This amendment mirrors the language of HB 4296 which requires the board to develop applicable license for high school students who complete a set of courses through their career and technology education program. The amendment allows for any high school student of any age to enroll in these courses and allows them to not have to register as a plumbers apprentice, pay for a registration fee, or have to comply with any other requirement of the Plumbing License Law that applies to participating in those courses</p> <p>There are concerns with HB 4296 that the high school students will not have sufficient training to go into the workforce. Although the bill requires for practical training to be included in the courses, it leaves it up to the board to decide how many hours are required. There are concerns that the practical requirements will not be enough and high school students will pass the written certification exam and go into the field inexperienced; which can cause public harm if a mistake occurs in the community.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u></p>
<p>Thompson, Senfronia 861645</p>	<p>This amendment extends the Texas Board of Plumbers Examiners for another 2 years. The amendment also pushes all the dates in the bill back for 2 years. This allows the Board to get an extension for 2 years in order to grant the board more time to fix some of its issues and grants the Board more time to transfer its responsibilities to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. We still find the bill unfavorable. but this amendment would make it somewhat better.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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