

SUBJECT: Allowing personal bond offices to supervise occupational license holders

COMMITTEE: Criminal Jurisprudence — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Collier, Zedler, K. Bell, J. González, P. King, Moody, Murr, Pacheco

0 nays

1 absent — Hunter

WITNESSES: For — Kevin McCary, El Paso County; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Paige Williams, Dallas County Criminal District Attorney; Steve Bresnen, El Paso County)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Transportation Code ch. 521, subch. L governs occupational driver's licenses, which are issued to individuals whose driver's licenses have been suspended for reasons other than physical or mental disabilities or impairments or offenses related to operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Under sec. 521.2462, courts granting occupational driver's licenses may order a license recipient to submit to supervision by the local community supervision and corrections department in order to verify compliance with the conditions of the order granting the license. Courts also may require a recipient to pay monthly administrative fees to the supervision and correction department.

Code of Criminal Procedure art. 17.42 governs personal bond offices. These offices may be established by counties or judicial districts to gather and review information that may have a bearing on whether accused individuals will comply with the conditions of a personal bond and report their findings to relevant courts.

Some have suggested that authorizing personal bond offices to supervise

recipients of occupational driver's licenses would be appropriate and could increase efficiency and accessibility for license holders.

DIGEST: HB 156 would allow courts granting occupational driver's licenses to order recipients to submit to supervision conducted by personal bond offices.

The personal bond offices could collect reasonable administrative fees of between \$25 and \$60 per month from a supervised license holder. Local community supervision and corrections departments could not collect administrative fees from individuals already ordered to pay administrative fees to personal bond offices.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019, and would apply to orders issued on or after that date.