

SUBJECT: Granting certain courts access to vehicle insurance coverage database

COMMITTEE: Insurance — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Oliverson, Vo, J. González, Hull, Israel, Middleton, Romero,
Sanford

0 nays

1 absent — Paul

WITNESSES: For — Meg Oswald, Houston Municipal Court; Gary Janssen;
(*Registered, but did not testify*: TJ Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Jamaal
Smith, City of Houston, Office of the Mayor Sylvester Turner; Amber
Hausenfluck, City of McAllen; Brandi Youngkin, City of Plano; Monty
Wynn, Texas Municipal League)

Against — None

On — Luke Bellsnyder, Texas Department of Insurance

BACKGROUND: Transportation Code sec. 601.452 requires the Texas Department of
Insurance to establish a program for verification of whether owners of
motor vehicles have established financial responsibility. Each insurance
company providing motor vehicle liability insurance policies in the state is
required to provide information for those policies to allow for verification
of financial responsibility.

Concerns have been raised that courts have difficulty verifying motor
vehicle liability insurance coverage for related offenses through insurance
companies due to security and privacy concerns. Some have noted that
granting certain courts access to the TexasSure database for motor vehicle
insurance verification purposes would save motorists and court staff time
and money.

DIGEST: HB 1693 would allow a justice or municipal court to access the financial

responsibility verification program under the Texas Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act to verify financial responsibility for the purpose of court proceedings.

The costs associated with accessing the program would be paid out of the county treasury by order of the commissioners court or the municipal treasury by order of the city's governing body, as applicable.

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, 2021.