

SUBJECT: Allowing cigarette and tobacco permit fees to be paid by credit card

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — Meyer, Thierry, Button, Cole, Guerra, Martinez Fischer, Murphy, Noble, Rodriguez, Sanford, Shine

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Matt Burgin, Texas Food and Fuel Association)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Karey Barton, Comptroller of Public Accounts)

BACKGROUND: Tax Code secs. 154.1135 and 155.050 require applicants for a cigarette or tobacco product permit, respectively, to pay the required application fee in cash, by money order, or by check.

Some have suggested allowing this payment to be made by credit card to provide for faster, more efficient payment processing.

DIGEST: HB 3578 would allow a cigarette or tobacco product permit application fee to be paid by credit card.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.