

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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S.B. 1608
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Transportation & Homeland Security
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

The 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009, passed H.B. 2012. H.B. 2012 amended Chapter 521 (Driver's Licenses and Certificates), Transportation Code, to provide that a person commits a Class B misdemeanor if a person commits an offense of driving without a valid driver's license and at the time is also operating a motor vehicle without maintaining liability insurance. If, at the time a person is driving without a valid driver's license, that person causes or is at fault in a motor vehicle accident that results in serious bodily injury to or death of another and is driving without maintaining without maintaining liability insurance, the offense would be a Class A misdemeanor. However, the bill's provisions did not address circumstance where a person does not possess a driver's license.

S.B. 1608 would further amend Chapter 521, Transportation Code, to include circumstances where a person does not possess a driver's license. Under S.B. 1608, a person commits a Class B misdemeanor if a person commits an offense of driving without a valid driver's license or not possessing a driver's license and at the time is also operating a motor vehicle without maintaining liability insurance. If, at the time a person is driving without a valid driver's license or does not possess a driver's license, that person causes or is at fault in a motor vehicle accident that results in serious bodily injury to or death of another and is driving without maintaining liability insurance, the offense would be a Class A misdemeanor.

As proposed, S.B. 1608 amends current law relating to operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license and creates an offense.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 521.457(a), Transportation Code, as follows:

(a) Provides that a person commits an offense if the person operates a motor vehicle on a highway under certain conditions, including without holding a driver's license for any other reason and the person is not exempt from the license requirement imposed under this chapter. Makes nonsubstantive changes.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2011.