

By: Eltife  
(Smith)

S.B. No. 700

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of electronic processes by and electronic information submitted to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission; authorizing a fee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 5, Alcoholic Beverage Code, is amended by adding Section 5.321 to read as follows:

Sec. 5.321. ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES. Any electronic information, record, or other document, including an application, submitted to the commission that has an electronic signature with the required specific identifiers of the signatory has the same force and effect as a manual signature before a notary public and is considered a sworn statement for purposes of Section 101.69, notwithstanding any other law.

SECTION 2. Section 5.55, Alcoholic Beverage Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5.55. ELECTRONIC PROCESSING OF LICENSES, ~~OR~~ PERMITS, AND CERTIFICATES. (a) The commission shall expedite the processing of original and renewal applications for licenses, ~~and~~ permits, and certificates by using electronic means, including the Internet.

(b) The commission or administrator may enter into an agreement with another agency of this state to provide for the issuance of original or renewal licenses, ~~or~~ permits, or

1 certificates through the use of electronic means, including use of  
2 the Internet, to facilitate the licensing process.

3 (c) A reasonable service fee may be charged to applicants  
4 who choose to use electronic or Internet service to apply for  
5 original or renewal licenses, ~~[or]~~ permits, or certificates ~~[or to~~  
6 ~~renew licenses or permits]~~, subject to other laws limiting or  
7 defining those fees; provided, that no service fee may be charged by  
8 the commission or by another agency to those applicants who choose  
9 not to utilize the electronic or Internet method to apply for an  
10 original or a renewal license, ~~[or]~~ permit, or certificate.

11 SECTION 3. Section 5.321, Alcoholic Beverage Code, as added  
12 by this Act, applies only to a document submitted to the Texas  
13 Alcoholic Beverage Commission on or after the effective date of  
14 this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.