

By: Isaac, Louderback, et al.

H.B. No. 5014

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the rights of special forces veterans who hold a license to carry a handgun.

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

SECTION 1. Section 411.174(b-1), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b-1) The application must provide space for the applicant to:

(1) list any military service that may qualify the applicant to receive a license with a veteran's designation under Section 411.179(e) or a special forces veterans designation under Section 411.1845; and

(2) include proof required by the department to determine the applicant's eligibility to receive the applicable ~~that~~ designation.

SECTION 2. Section 411.179(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The department by rule shall adopt the form of the license. A license must include:

(1) a number assigned to the license holder by the department;

(2) a statement of the period for which the license is effective;

(3) a photograph of the license holder;

(4) the license holder's full name, date of birth, hair and eye color, height, weight, and signature;

(5) the license holder's residence address or, as provided by Subsection (d), the street address of the courthouse in which the license holder or license holder's spouse or parent serves as a federal judge or the license holder serves as a state judge;

(6) the number of a driver's license or an identification certificate issued to the license holder by the department;

(7) the designation "VETERAN" if required under Subsection (e);

(8) any at-risk designation for which the license holder has established eligibility under Section 411.184; ~~and~~

(9) if applicable, a protective order designation under Section 411.1735; and

(10) the designation "SPECIAL FORCES VETERAN" for which the license holder has established eligibility under Section 411.1845.

SECTION 3. Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 411.1845 to read as follows:

Sec. 411.1845. SPECIAL FORCES VETERAN DESIGNATION. (a) In this section, "special forces veteran" means a person who:

(1) is a veteran, as defined by Section 411.1951; and

(2) served for a period of at least 12 consecutive months in one or more of the following positions at the enlisted pay grade of E5-E9, at the warrant officer pay grade of W1-W5, or at the

commissioned officer pay grade O1-O10:

(A) United States Army Special Forces as:

- (i) a detachment commander (18A);
- (ii) a detachment warrant officer (180A);
- (iii) a weapons sergeant (18B);
- (iv) an engineer sergeant (18C);
- (v) a medical sergeant (18D);
- (vi) a communications sergeant (18E);
- (vii) an intelligence sergeant (18F); or
- (viii) an operations sergeant (18Z);

(B) United States Army 75th Ranger Regiment as:

- (i) a commissioned officer who served as an
infantry officer (11A); or
- (ii) a noncommissioned officer or enlisted
member who served as:

- (a) an infantryman (11B);
- (b) an indirect fire infantryman
(11C); or
- (c) a combat medic specialist (68W);

(C) United States Navy SEAL as:

- (i) an active duty officer qualified in
special warfare (1130); or
- (ii) an enlisted member who served as a
special warfare operator (5326);

(D) United States Marine Corps as:

- (i) a scout sniper (0317, previously 8541);
- (ii) a reconnaissance marine (0321);

1 (iii) a sniper qualified reconnaissance
2 marine (0322);

3 (iv) a parachute and combatant diver
4 qualified reconnaissance marine (0326, previously 8654);

5 (v) a special operations officer (0370); or

6 (vi) a critical skills operator (0372); or

7 (E) United States Air Force as:

8 (i) a member who served in combat control
9 (1Z2X1);

10 (ii) a member who served in pararescue
11 (1T2X1);

12 (iii) a member who served in special
13 reconnaissance (1Z4X1);

14 (iv) a member who served as a tactical air
15 control party airman (1Z3X1); or

16 (v) a member who served as a special
17 operations weather technician (1W0X2).

18 (b) The department shall include the designation "SPECIAL
19 FORCES VETERAN" on the face of any original, duplicate, modified,
20 or renewed license under this subchapter or on the reverse side of
21 the license, as determined by the department, if the license is
22 issued to a special forces veteran who:

23 (1) requests the designation; and

24 (2) provides to the department sufficient proof of the
25 veteran's military service and honorable discharge and the
26 veteran's eligibility under this section.

27 (c) The director shall adopt rules to implement this

1 section.

2 SECTION 4. Subchapter N, Chapter 1702, Occupations Code, is
3 amended by adding Section 1702.334 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 1702.334. SPECIAL FORCES VETERANS. (a) This chapter
5 does not apply to:

6 (1) a person who holds a license to carry a handgun
7 under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, that bears the
8 special forces veteran designation under Section 411.1845 of that
9 code; or

10 (2) a charitable, nonprofit organization that:

11 (A) provides services only in furtherance of its
12 mission;

13 (B) is exempt from the payment of federal income
14 taxes under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and its
15 subsequent amendments by being listed as an exempt entity under
16 Section 501(c)(3) of that code; and

17 (C) is managed by a person described by
18 Subdivision (1).

19 (b) This chapter may not be construed to authorize a special
20 forces veteran to own or operate a for-profit company regulated
21 under this chapter without obtaining a company license under this
22 chapter.

23 SECTION 5. Section 46.15(a), Penal Code, as amended by
24 Chapters 501 (H.B. 2291), 765 (H.B. 4504), and 1077 (S.B. 599), Acts
25 of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, is reenacted and
26 amended to read as follows:

27 (a) Sections 46.02 and 46.03 do not apply to:

1 (1) peace officers or special investigators under
2 Article [2A.002](#), Code of Criminal Procedure, and neither section
3 prohibits a peace officer or special investigator from carrying a
4 weapon in this state, including in an establishment in this state
5 serving the public, regardless of whether the peace officer or
6 special investigator is engaged in the actual discharge of the
7 officer's or investigator's duties while carrying the weapon;

8 (2) parole officers, and neither section prohibits an
9 officer from carrying a weapon in this state if the officer is:

10 (A) engaged in the actual discharge of the
11 officer's duties while carrying the weapon; and

12 (B) in compliance with policies and procedures
13 adopted by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice regarding the
14 possession of a weapon by an officer while on duty;

15 (3) community supervision and corrections department
16 officers appointed or employed under Section [76.004](#), Government
17 Code, and neither section prohibits an officer from carrying a
18 weapon in this state if the officer is:

19 (A) engaged in the actual discharge of the
20 officer's duties while carrying the weapon; and

21 (B) authorized to carry a weapon under Section
22 [76.0051](#), Government Code;

23 (4) an active or retired judicial officer as defined
24 by Section [411.201](#), Government Code, who is licensed to carry a
25 handgun under Subchapter [H](#), Chapter [411](#), Government Code;

26 (5) an honorably retired peace officer or other
27 qualified retired law enforcement officer, as defined by 18 U.S.C.

1 Section 926C, who holds a certificate of proficiency issued under
2 Section 1701.357, Occupations Code, and is carrying a photo
3 identification that is issued by a federal, state, or local law
4 enforcement agency, as applicable, and that verifies that the
5 officer is an honorably retired peace officer or other qualified
6 retired law enforcement officer;

7 (6) the attorney general or a United States attorney,
8 district attorney, criminal district attorney, county attorney, or
9 municipal attorney who is licensed to carry a handgun under
10 Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code;

11 (7) an assistant United States attorney, assistant
12 attorney general, assistant district attorney, assistant criminal
13 district attorney, or assistant county attorney who is licensed to
14 carry a handgun under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code;

15 (8) a bailiff designated by an active judicial officer
16 as defined by Section 411.201, Government Code, who is:

17 (A) licensed to carry a handgun under Subchapter
18 H, Chapter 411, Government Code; and

19 (B) engaged in escorting the judicial officer;

20 (9) a juvenile probation officer who is authorized to
21 carry a firearm under Section 142.006, Human Resources Code;

22 (10) a person who is volunteer emergency services
23 personnel if the person is:

24 (A) carrying a handgun under the authority of
25 Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code; and

26 (B) engaged in providing emergency services;

27 [~~or~~]

(11) a person who:

(A) retired after serving as a judge or justice described by Section 411.201(a)(1), Government Code; and

(B) is licensed to carry a handgun under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code;

(12) [~~(11)~~] a district or county clerk who is carrying a handgun the clerk is licensed to carry under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code; or

(13) a person who:

(A) is carrying a handgun; and

(B) holds a license to carry a handgun under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, that bears the special forces veteran designation under Section 411.1845 of that code.

SECTION 6. The public safety director of the Department of Public Safety shall adopt the rules necessary to implement Section 411.1845, Government Code, as added by this Act, not later than December 1, 2025.

SECTION 7. The Department of Public Safety may not accept an application for or grant a designation under Section 411.1845, Government Code, as added by this Act, before January 1, 2026.

SECTION 8. The change in law made by this Act in amending Section 46.15, Penal Code, applies only to an offense committed on or after January 1, 2026. An offense committed before January 1, 2026, is governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before January 1, 2026, if any element of the offense occurred

1 before that date.

2 SECTION 9. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails
3 over another Act of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025,
4 relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted
5 codes.

6 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.