

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 1, 2015

TO: Honorable Larry Phillips, Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB937 by Fletcher (Relating to the carrying of handguns on the campuses of and certain other locations associated with institutions of higher education; amending provisions subject to a criminal penalty; creating a criminal offense.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Government Code and Penal Code to authorize an individual possessing a valid concealed handgun license issued in the state of Texas to carry a concealed handgun on premises associated with certain public and private institutions of higher education. The bill would proscribe possession of a concealed handgun within a biocontainment laboratory inside a higher education facility, if the institution provides effective notice of the proscription, and would create a Class A Misdemeanor penalty if a license holder carries a partially or wholly visible handgun and intentionally displays the handgun in plain view of another person on the premises of a public or private institution of higher education. The bill would allow an institution of higher education to establish rules governing the storage of handguns in dormitories, and would stipulate that an institution, officer, employee, peace officer or handgun instructor may not be held liable for damages or cause under the provisions of the bill.

State institutions of higher education reported varying estimates of cost associated with implementing certain provisions of the bill, primarily with respect to health related institutions. It is assumed implementing the provisions of the bill could be absorbed within existing resources. This analysis assumes the provisions of the bill related would not result in a significant impact on state correctional agencies.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015.

Local Government Impact

Local community college districts could experience increased costs related to campus police operations, security programs, and staff training. Adaptation of community college campus facilities to accommodate the storage of handguns could result in new costs for community college districts.

Source Agencies: 405 Department of Public Safety, 710 Texas A&M University System Administrative and General Offices, 720 The University of Texas System

Administration, 758 Texas State University System, 768 Texas Tech
University System Administration, 769 University of North Texas System
Administration, 781 Higher Education Coordinating Board, 783 University
of Houston System Administration

LBB Staff: UP, ESI, JAW, AG, AI, EH, LM, SZ, EP, JPo