

By: Garcia

S.B. No. 1778

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the provision of information regarding firearm safety and suicide prevention.

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

SECTION 1. Section 411.188(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Only qualified handgun instructors may administer the classroom instruction part or the range instruction part of the handgun proficiency course. The classroom instruction part of the course must include not less than four hours and not more than six hours of instruction on:

(1) the laws that relate to weapons and to the use of deadly force;

(2) handgun use and safety, including use of restraint holsters and methods to ensure the secure carrying of openly carried handguns;

(3) nonviolent dispute resolution; ~~and~~

(4) proper storage practices for handguns with an emphasis on storage practices that eliminate the possibility of accidental injury to a child; and

(5) the information described by Section 411.189(a).

SECTION 2. Section 411.190(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) In addition to the qualifications described by

1 Subsection (a), a qualified handgun instructor must be qualified to
2 instruct persons in:

3 (1) the laws that relate to weapons and to the use of
4 deadly force;

5 (2) handgun use, proficiency, and safety, including
6 use of restraint holsters and methods to ensure the secure carrying
7 of openly carried handguns;

8 (3) nonviolent dispute resolution; ~~and~~

9 (4) proper storage practices for handguns, including
10 storage practices that eliminate the possibility of accidental
11 injury to a child; and

12 (5) the information described by Section 411.189(a).

13 SECTION 3. Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, is
14 amended by adding Section 411.189 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 411.189. FIREARM SAFETY AND SUICIDE PREVENTION
16 INFORMATION. (a) The department shall post the following on the
17 department's Internet website:

18 (1) information regarding:

19 (A) the importance of an owner of a firearm
20 safely storing the firearm, particularly when a member of the
21 owner's family or household is at risk of suicide;

22 (B) the warning signs that a person is at risk of
23 suicide; and

24 (C) the rate of suicide in this state, including
25 statistics regarding the method of suicide used; and

26 (2) the phone number for the National Suicide
27 Prevention Lifeline.

1 (b) The department shall also include on the department's
2 Internet website information regarding the risk of suicide among
3 various age groups and veterans and the importance of safely
4 storing firearms around a person who is at risk of suicide.

5 (c) The department may provide the information described by
6 Subsection (a) to:

7 (1) a person who is a licensed firearms dealer under 18
8 U.S.C. Section 923;

9 (2) an owner or operator of a sport shooting range, as
10 defined by Section 250.001, Local Government Code; or

11 (3) a promoter or operator of a gun show.

12 (d) The department may partner with suicide prevention
13 programs and use existing resources to provide the information
14 described by Subsection (a).

15 SECTION 4. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is
16 amended by adding Section 531.02493 to read as follows:

17 Sec. 531.02493. FIREARM SAFETY AND SUICIDE PREVENTION
18 INFORMATION. (a) On the commission's Internet website the
19 commission shall post evidence-based information regarding the
20 importance of an owner of a firearm safely storing the firearm,
21 particularly when a member of the owner's family or household is at
22 risk of suicide.

23 (b) The commission shall also include the information
24 described by Subsection (a) on any portion of the commission's
25 Internet website that provides information primarily to veterans or
26 to minors and their parents.

27 (c) The commission may provide the information described by

1 Subsection (a) to:

2 (1) a person who is a licensed firearms dealer under 18
3 U.S.C. Section 923;

4 (2) an owner or operator of a sport shooting range, as
5 defined by Section 250.001, Local Government Code; or

6 (3) a promoter or operator of a gun show.

7 (d) The commission may partner with suicide prevention
8 programs and use existing resources to provide the information
9 described by Subsection (a).

10 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.