

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1960

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to firearm safety awareness; decreasing the application
3 and license fee for a license to carry a handgun.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 411.174(a), Government Code, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 (a) An applicant for a license to carry a handgun must
8 submit to the director's designee described by Section 411.176:

9 (1) a completed application on a form provided by the
10 department that requires only the information listed in Subsection
11 (b);

12 (2) one or more photographs of the applicant that meet
13 the requirements of the department;

14 (3) a certified copy of the applicant's birth
15 certificate or certified proof of age;

16 (4) proof of residency in this state;

17 (5) two complete sets of legible and classifiable
18 fingerprints of the applicant taken by a person appropriately
19 trained in recording fingerprints who is employed by a law
20 enforcement agency or by a private entity designated by a law
21 enforcement agency as an entity qualified to take fingerprints of
22 an applicant for a license under this subchapter;

23 (6) a nonrefundable application and license fee of \$25
24 [~~\$140~~] paid to the department;

1 (7) evidence of handgun proficiency, in the form and
2 manner required by the department;

3 (8) an affidavit signed by the applicant stating that
4 the applicant:

5 (A) has read and understands each provision of
6 this subchapter that creates an offense under the laws of this state
7 and each provision of the laws of this state related to use of
8 deadly force; and

9 (B) fulfills all the eligibility requirements
10 listed under Section [411.172](#); and

11 (9) a form executed by the applicant that authorizes
12 the director to make an inquiry into any noncriminal history
13 records that are necessary to determine the applicant's eligibility
14 for a license under Section [411.172\(a\)](#).

15 SECTION 2. Sections [411.185\(a\)](#) and (b), Government Code,
16 are amended to read as follows:

17 (a) To renew a license, a license holder must, on or before
18 the date the license expires, submit to the department by mail or,
19 in accordance with the procedure adopted under Subsection (f), on
20 the Internet:

21 (1) a renewal application on a form provided by the
22 department;

23 (2) payment of a nonrefundable renewal fee of \$25 [~~as~~
24 ~~set by the department~~]; and

25 (3) the informational form described by Subsection (c)
26 signed or electronically acknowledged by the applicant.

27 (b) The director by rule shall adopt a renewal application

1 form requiring an update of the information on the original
2 completed application. ~~[The director by rule shall set the renewal~~
3 ~~fee in an amount that is sufficient to cover the actual cost to the~~
4 ~~department to:~~

5 ~~(1) verify the information contained in the renewal~~
6 ~~application form;~~

7 ~~(2) conduct any necessary investigation concerning~~
8 ~~the license holder's continued eligibility to hold a license; and~~

9 ~~(3) issue the renewed license.]~~

10 SECTION 3. Section 411.201(d), Government Code, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 (d) An applicant for a license who is an active or retired
13 judicial officer must submit to the department:

14 (1) a completed application, including all required
15 affidavits, on a form prescribed by the department;

16 (2) one or more photographs of the applicant that meet
17 the requirements of the department;

18 (3) two complete sets of legible and classifiable
19 fingerprints of the applicant, including one set taken by a person
20 employed by a law enforcement agency who is appropriately trained
21 in recording fingerprints;

22 (4) evidence of handgun proficiency, in the form and
23 manner required by the department for an applicant under this
24 section;

25 (5) a nonrefundable application and license fee of \$25

26 ~~[set by the department in an amount reasonably designed to cover the~~
27 ~~administrative costs associated with issuance of a license to carry~~

1 ~~a handgun under this subchapter]; and~~

2 (6) if the applicant is a retired judicial officer, a
3 form executed by the applicant that authorizes the department to
4 make an inquiry into any noncriminal history records that are
5 necessary to determine the applicant's eligibility for a license
6 under this subchapter.

7 SECTION 4. Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, is
8 amended by adding Sections 411.210 and 411.211 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 411.210. FIREARM SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM. (a) The
10 department, in collaboration with the Department of Family and
11 Protective Services, shall develop and administer a firearm safety
12 awareness program.

13 (b) The program must be designed to encourage firearm safety
14 and to improve public awareness on firearm safety topics,
15 including:

16 (1) prevention of firearm accidents, including the
17 prevention of accidents involving children;

18 (2) identifying mental health crisis and suicide
19 prevention; and

20 (3) the safe handling and storage of firearms.

21 (c) The department shall dedicate \$5 from each fee collected
22 under this subchapter to the program.

23 (d) The department may pay the costs of the program and its
24 administration only from:

25 (1) the proceeds of fees collected under this chapter
26 and dedicated to the program under this section;

27 (2) gifts, grants, or donations;

1 (3) matching funds; and

2 (4) funds received from the federal government.

3 Sec. 411.211. FIREARM AWARENESS AND SAFETY TASK FORCE. (a)

4 The Firearm Awareness and Safety Task Force is created.

5 (b) The members of the task force shall develop
6 recommendations to the department on the administration of the
7 firearm safety awareness program established by Section 411.210.

8 (c) The task force consists of:

9 (1) two members of the public;

10 (2) two members representing the department;

11 (3) one member representing the Health and Human
12 Services Commission;

13 (4) one member representing local law enforcement;

14 (5) one member representing the firearm industry;

15 (6) one member representing a suicide prevention
16 organization;

17 (7) one member representing a gun violence prevention
18 organization;

19 (8) one member representing a gun advocacy
20 organization; and

21 (9) one member representing the Texas Veterans
22 Commission.

23 (d) All members of the task force are appointed by the
24 governor and do not require confirmation.

25 (e) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the task force.

26 SECTION 5. The change in law made by this Act applies only
27 to an application that is made to obtain an original or renewed

1 license to carry a handgun and submitted on or after the effective
2 date of this Act. An application described by this section that is
3 submitted before the effective date of this Act is governed by the
4 law in effect when the application was submitted, and the former law
5 is continued in effect for that purpose.

6 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.