By: Cortez   H.B. No. 2584

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to the authority of a code enforcement officer performing

3 official duties to possess or carry an instrument used for

4 deterring an animal bite.

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

6   SECTION 1. Section 46.15, Penal Code, is amended by adding

7 Subsection (h) to read as follows:

8   (h) The provisions of Sections 46.02 and 46.03 prohibiting

9 the possession or carrying of a club do not apply to a code

10 enforcement officer who:

11   (1) holds a certificate of registration issued under

12 Chapter 1952, Occupations Code; and

13   (2) possesses   or   carries   an   instrument   used

14 specifically for deterring an animal bite while the officer is:

15   (A) performing official duties; or

16   (B) traveling to or from a place of duty.

17   SECTION 2. Section 1952.051, Occupations Code, is amended

18 by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

19   (c) The education requirements adopted under Subsection (b)

20 must include education regarding the principles and procedures to

21 be followed when possessing or carrying an instrument used

22 specifically for deterring an animal bite.

23   SECTION 3. Section 1952.1051, Occupations Code, is amended

24 to read as follows:

1   Sec. 1952.1051. CONTINUING EDUCATION. The commission by

2 rule shall prescribe continuing education requirements for code

3 enforcement officers and code enforcement officers in training

4 that:

5   (1) establish the number of hours of continuing

6 education required for renewal of a certificate of registration;

7   (2) establish an approved curriculum that includes

8 material regarding changes in applicable law and the principles and

9 procedures to be followed when possessing or carrying an instrument

10 used specifically for deterring an animal bite; and

11   (3) provide that the approved curriculum may be taught

12 by suitable public agencies and by private entities approved by the

13 department.

14   SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.