

By: Anderson

H.B. No. 3503

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to firearms training for county jailers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1701.2561 to read as follows:

Sec. 1701.2561. FIREARMS TRAINING FOR COUNTY JAILERS. (a)

The commission shall develop a basic training program in the use of firearms by county jailers. The program must provide instruction in:

(1) legal limitations on the use of firearms and on the powers and authority of jailers;

(2) range firing and procedure;

(3) firearms safety and maintenance; and

(4) other topics determined by the commission to be necessary for the responsible use of firearms by jailers.

(b) The commission shall administer the training program and shall issue a certificate of firearms proficiency to each county jailer the commission determines has successfully completed the program.

(c) A county jailer who is issued a certificate of firearms proficiency and who demonstrates weapons proficiency as required by Section 1701.355 may carry a firearm:

(1) during the course of performing duties as a county jailer, including while transporting persons confined in the county

1 jail; and

2 (2) while traveling to or from the jailer's place of  
3 assignment.

4 SECTION 2. Section 1701.355, Occupations Code, is amended  
5 by adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsection (b) to read as  
6 follows:

7 (a-1) An agency that employs one or more county jailers  
8 authorized to carry firearms under Section 1701.2561 shall  
9 designate a firearms proficiency officer and require each jailer to  
10 demonstrate weapons proficiency to the firearms proficiency  
11 officer at least annually. The agency shall maintain records of the  
12 weapons proficiency of the agency's jailers.

13 (b) On request, the commission may waive the requirement  
14 that a peace officer or county jailer demonstrate weapons  
15 proficiency on a determination by the commission that the  
16 requirement causes a hardship.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.