

By: Flores

S.B. No. 684

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of a code enforcement officer to possess or carry an instrument used for deterring an animal bite.

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

SECTION 1. Section 46.15, Penal Code, is amended by adding Subsection (h) to read as follows:

(h) The provisions of Sections 46.02 and 46.03 prohibiting the possession or carrying of a club do not apply to a code enforcement officer who:

(1) holds a certificate of registration issued under Chapter 1952, Occupations Code; and

(2) possesses or carries an instrument used specifically for deterring an animal bite while the officer is:

(A) performing official duties; or

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

SECTION 2. Section 1952.051, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) The education requirements adopted under Subsection (b) must include education regarding the principles and procedures for a code enforcement officer to follow when possessing or carrying an instrument used specifically for deterring an animal bite.

SECTION 3. Section 1952.1051, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1952.1051. CONTINUING EDUCATION. The commission by

1 rule shall prescribe continuing education requirements for code
2 enforcement officers and code enforcement officers in training
3 that:

4 (1) establish the number of hours of continuing
5 education required for renewal of a certificate of registration;

6 (2) establish an approved curriculum that includes
7 material regarding changes in applicable law and the principles and
8 procedures to follow when possessing or carrying an instrument used
9 specifically for deterring an animal bite; and

10 (3) provide that the approved curriculum may be taught
11 by suitable public agencies and by private entities approved by the
12 department.

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