

By: Hughes

S.B. No. 908

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a license to carry a handgun for active and retired  
3 railroad peace officers and special cattle rangers; authorizing a  
4 fee.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, is  
7 amended by adding Sections 411.1995 and 411.1996 to read as  
8 follows:

9 Sec. 411.1995. ACTIVE RAILROAD PEACE OFFICERS AND SPECIAL  
10 CATTLE RANGERS. (a) In this section:

11 (1) "Railroad peace officer" means an officer  
12 appointed by the director of the department under Article 2.121,  
13 Code of Criminal Procedure, who holds a certificate of authority  
14 issued by the director under that article and a railroad peace  
15 officer license issued by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

16 (2) "Special cattle ranger" means a special ranger  
17 appointed by the director of the department under Article 2.125,  
18 Code of Criminal Procedure, who holds a certificate of authority  
19 issued by the director under that article and a special ranger  
20 license issued by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

21 (b) A person who is employed as a railroad peace officer or  
22 special cattle ranger may apply for a license to carry a handgun  
23 under this subchapter.

24 (c) An applicant shall submit to the department:

1           (1) the name of the applicant;

2           (2) a current copy of the applicant's railroad peace  
3 officer license or special ranger license, as applicable; and

4           (3) evidence of employment as a railroad peace officer  
5 or special cattle ranger, as applicable.

6           (d) An applicant under this section who complies with  
7 Subsection (c) and the other requirements of this subchapter is not  
8 required to complete the handgun proficiency course described by  
9 Section 411.188 to obtain a license under this subchapter.

10           (e) The department shall waive any fee required for a  
11 license issued under this subchapter to an applicant under this  
12 section.

13           (f) A license issued under this section expires as provided  
14 by Section 411.183.

15           Sec. 411.1996. RETIRED RAILROAD PEACE OFFICERS AND SPECIAL  
16 CATTLE RANGERS. (a) In this section, "railroad peace officer" and  
17 "special cattle ranger" have the meanings assigned by Section  
18 411.1995.

19           (b) For purposes of this section, a person is considered to  
20 be honorably retired from service as a railroad peace officer or  
21 special cattle ranger if the person did not retire in lieu of  
22 disciplinary action and:

23           (1) retired after not less than a total of 15 years of  
24 service; or

25           (2) separated from service after a period of less than  
26 15 years as a result of an injury received in the course of the  
27 applicant's employment.

1        (c) The person shall submit two complete sets of legible and  
2 classifiable fingerprints and a sworn statement from the  
3 applicant's former employer. The applicant's former employer may  
4 not refuse to issue a statement under this subsection. If the  
5 applicant alleges that the statement is untrue, the department  
6 shall investigate the validity of the statement. The statement  
7 must include:

- 8            (1) the name of the applicant;  
9            (2) the status of the applicant before retirement;  
10           (3) whether or not the applicant was accused of  
11 misconduct at the time of the retirement;  
12           (4) the physical and mental condition of the  
13 applicant;  
14           (5) the type of weapons the applicant had demonstrated  
15 proficiency with during the last year of employment; and  
16           (6) a recommendation from the employer regarding the  
17 issuance of a license under this subchapter.

18        (d) The department may issue a license under this subchapter  
19 to an applicant under this section if the applicant is honorably  
20 retired and physically and emotionally fit to possess a handgun.

21        (e) An applicant under this section must pay a fee of \$25 for  
22 a license issued under this subchapter.

23        (f) A license issued under this section expires as provided  
24 by Section [411.183](#).

25        SECTION 2. Section [411.175](#), Government Code, is amended to  
26 correct a cross-reference and is further amended to read as  
27 follows:

1           Sec. 411.175. PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING FINGERPRINTS. The  
2 department shall establish procedures for the submission of legible  
3 and classifiable fingerprints by an applicant for a license under  
4 this subchapter who:

5                   (1) is required to submit those fingerprints to the  
6 department, including an applicant under Section [411.199](#),  
7 [411.1996](#), [~~[411.1991](#)~~], or [411.201](#); and

8                   (2) resides in a county having a population of 46,000  
9 or less and does not reside within a 25-mile radius of a facility  
10 with the capability to process digital or electronic fingerprints.

11           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.