

By: Schwertner

S.B. No. 1879

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 maintains weapons proficiency in accordance with 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 who
8 have been issued a certificate of firearms proficiency under
9 Section 1701.2561 shall designate a firearms proficiency officer
10 and require the jailers to demonstrate weapons proficiency to the
11 firearms proficiency officer at least annually. The agency shall
12 maintain records of the weapons proficiency of the agency's
13 jailers. A county jailer's failure to demonstrate weapons
14 proficiency does not affect the county jailer's license under this
15 chapter.

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

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