

By: Meza

H.B. No. 201

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the carrying of handguns on the campuses of and certain other locations associated with institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Section 411.2031(e), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) An institution of higher education or [A] private or independent institution of higher education in this state, after consulting with students, staff, and faculty of the institution, may establish rules, regulations, or other provisions prohibiting license holders from carrying handguns on the campus of the institution, any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by the institution is being conducted, or a passenger transportation vehicle owned by the institution.

SECTION 2. Sections 411.208(a), (b), and (d), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A court may not hold the state, an agency or subdivision of the state, an officer or employee of the state, an institution of higher education [~~, an officer~~] or [~~employee of an institution of higher education, a~~] private or independent institution of higher education that has not adopted rules under Section 411.2031(e), an officer or employee of an institution of higher education or [a] private or independent institution of higher education that has not adopted rules under Section 411.2031(e), a peace officer, a

1 qualified handgun instructor, or an approved online course provider  
2 liable for damages caused by:

3 (1) an action authorized under this subchapter or a  
4 failure to perform a duty imposed by this subchapter; or

5 (2) the actions of an applicant or license holder that  
6 occur after the applicant has received a license or been denied a  
7 license under this subchapter.

8 (b) A cause of action in damages may not be brought against  
9 the state, an agency or subdivision of the state, an officer or  
10 employee of the state, an institution of higher education~~[, an~~  
11 ~~officer]~~ or ~~[employee of an institution of higher education, a]~~  
12 private or independent institution of higher education that has not  
13 adopted rules under Section 411.2031(e), an officer or employee of  
14 an institution of higher education or ~~[a]~~ private or independent  
15 institution of higher education that has not adopted rules under  
16 Section 411.2031(e), a peace officer, a qualified handgun  
17 instructor, or an approved online course provider for any damage  
18 caused by the actions of an applicant or license holder under this  
19 subchapter.

20 (d) The immunities granted under Subsections (a), (b), and  
21 (c) do not apply to:

22 (1) an act or a failure to act by the state, an agency  
23 or subdivision of the state, an officer of the state, an institution  
24 of higher education~~[, an officer]~~ or ~~[employee of an institution of~~  
25 ~~higher education, a]~~ private or independent institution of higher  
26 education that has not adopted rules under Section 411.2031(e), an  
27 officer or employee of an institution of higher education or ~~[a]~~

1 private or independent institution of higher education that has not  
2 adopted rules under Section 411.2031(e), or a peace officer if the  
3 act or failure to act was capricious or arbitrary; or

4 (2) any officer or employee of an institution of  
5 higher education or private or independent institution of higher  
6 education described by Subdivision (1) who possesses a handgun on  
7 the campus of that institution and whose conduct with regard to the  
8 handgun is made the basis of a claim for personal injury or property  
9 damage.

10 SECTION 3. Sections 46.035(a-2), (h), and (j), Penal Code,  
11 are amended to read as follows:

12 (a-2) Notwithstanding Subsection (a) or Section 46.03(a), a  
13 license holder commits an offense if the license holder carries a  
14 handgun on the campus of an institution of higher education or [a]  
15 private or independent institution of higher education in this  
16 state that has established rules, regulations, or other provisions  
17 prohibiting license holders from carrying handguns pursuant to  
18 Section 411.2031(e), Government Code, or on the grounds or building  
19 on which an activity sponsored by such an institution is being  
20 conducted, or in a passenger transportation vehicle of such an  
21 institution, regardless of whether the handgun is concealed,  
22 provided the institution gives effective notice under Section  
23 30.06.

24 (h) It is a defense to prosecution under Subsection (a),  
25 (a-1), or (a-2) [~~or (a-3)~~] that the actor, at the time of the  
26 commission of the offense, displayed the handgun under  
27 circumstances in which the actor would have been justified in the

1 use of force or deadly force under Chapter 9.

2 (j) Subsections (a), (a-1), (a-2), [~~(a-3)~~], and (b)(1) do  
3 not apply to a historical reenactment performed in compliance with  
4 the rules of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

5 SECTION 4. The following laws are repealed:

6 (1) Sections 411.2031(c), (d-1), (d-2), (d-3), and  
7 (d-4), Government Code; and

8 (2) Section 46.035(a-3), Penal Code.

9 SECTION 5. Section 411.208, Government Code, as amended by  
10 this Act, applies only to a cause of action that accrues on or after  
11 the effective date of this Act. A cause of action that accrues  
12 before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in  
13 effect immediately before that date, and that law is continued in  
14 effect for that purpose.

15 SECTION 6. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
16 to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act.  
17 An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is  
18 governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed,  
19 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For  
20 purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the  
21 effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred  
22 before that date.

23 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.