By: Schaefer

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H.B. No. 1927

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

2 relating to the carrying of a firearm by a person 21 years of age or 3 older and who is not otherwise prohibited from possessing the 4 firearm and to criminal offenses otherwise related to the carrying 5 of a firearm; creating criminal offenses.

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

7 SECTION 1. This Act Shall be known as the Firearm Carry Act 8 of 2021.

9 SECTION 2. Article 14.02, Code of Criminal Procedure, is 10 amended by adding Subsections (h), (h-1), and (h-2) to read as 11 follows:

12 (h) A peace officer who is acting in the lawful discharge of the officer's official duties may temporarily disarm a person at 13 14 any time the officer reasonably believes it is necessary for the protection of the person, officer, or another individual. The 15 16 peace officer shall return the weapon to the person before discharging the person from the scene if the officer determines 17 that the person is not a threat to the officer, person, or another 18 individual and if the person has not committed a violation that 19 results in the arrest of the person. 20

21 (h-1) A peace officer who is acting in the lawful discharge
22 of the officer's official duties may temporarily disarm a person
23 when the person enters a nonpublic, secure portion of a law
24 enforcement facility, if the law enforcement agency provides a gun

locker where the peace officer can secure the weapon. The peace
 officer shall secure the weapon in the locker and shall return the
 weapon to the person immediately after the person leaves the
 nonpublic, secure portion of the law enforcement facility.
 (h-2) In this section "law enforcement facility" and

6 "nonpublic, secure portion of a law enforcement facility" have the 7 meanings assigned by Section 411.207(d), Government Code.

8 SECTION 3. Section 37.0815(b), Education Code, is amended 9 to read as follows:

10 (b) This section does not authorize a person to possess, 11 transport, or store a handgun, a firearm, or ammunition in 12 violation of Section 37.125 of this code, Section 46.03 [or 13 <u>46.035</u>], Penal Code, or other law.

SECTION 4. Section 411.186(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

16 (a) The department shall revoke a license under this section17 if the license holder:

18 (1) was not entitled to the license at the time it was19 issued;

(2) made a material misrepresentation or failed to
21 disclose a material fact in an application submitted under this
22 subchapter;

(3) subsequently becomes ineligible for a license
under Section 411.172, unless the sole basis for the ineligibility
is that the license holder is charged with the commission of a Class
A or Class B misdemeanor or equivalent offense, or of an offense
under Section 42.01, Penal Code, or equivalent offense, or of a

1 felony under an information or indictment;

2 (4) [is convicted of an offense under Section 46.035, 3 Penal Code;

4 (5)] is determined by the department to have engaged
5 in conduct constituting a reason to suspend a license listed in
6 Section 411.187(a) after the person's license has been previously
7 suspended twice for the same reason; or

8 (5) [(6)] submits an application fee that is dishonored or reversed if the applicant fails to submit a cashier's 9 10 check or money order made payable to the "Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas" in the amount of the dishonored or 11 reversed fee, plus \$25, within 30 days of being notified by the 12 department that the fee was dishonored or reversed. 13

SECTION 5. Section 411.2031(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

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(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Campus" means all land and buildings owned or
leased by an institution of higher education or private or
independent institution of higher education.

(2) "Institution of higher education" and "private or
21 independent institution of higher education" have the meanings
22 assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

(3) "Premises" has the meaning assigned by Section
 24 <u>46.03(c)</u> [46.035], Penal Code.

25 SECTION 6. Section 411.209, Government Code, is amended by 26 amending Subsections (a) and (j) to read as follows:

27 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (i), a state agency or

a political subdivision of the state may not take any action, 1 including an action consisting of the provision of notice by a 2 communication described by Section 30.06 or 30.07, Penal Code, that 3 states or implies that a license holder who is carrying a handgun 4 5 under the authority of this subchapter is prohibited from entering or remaining on a premises or other place owned or leased by the 6 governmental entity unless license holders are prohibited from 7 8 carrying a handgun on the premises or other place by Section 46.03 [or 46.035], Penal Code, or other law. 9

10 (j) In this section, "premises" has the meaning assigned by 11 Section <u>46.03(c)</u> [46.035], Penal Code.

SECTION 7. Section 552.002(a), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

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(a) In this section:

15 (1) "License holder" has the meaning assigned by
16 Section <u>30.06(c)</u> [46.035(f)], Penal Code.

"State hospital" means the following facilities: 17 (2) the Austin State Hospital; 18 (A) 19 (B) the Big Spring State Hospital; the El Paso Psychiatric Center; 20 (C) 21 (D) the Kerrville State Hospital; (E) the North Texas State Hospital; 22 the Rio Grande State Center; 23 (F) 24 (G) the Rusk State Hospital; the San Antonio State Hospital; 25 (H) 26 (I) the Terrell State Hospital; and the Waco Center for Youth. 27 (J)

H.B. No. 1927 1 (3) "Written notice" means a sign that is posted on property and that: 2 3 (A) includes in both English and Spanish written language identical to the following: "Pursuant to Section 552.002, 4 5 Health and Safety Code (carrying of handgun by license holder in state hospital), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, 6 Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this 7 8 property with a handgun"; 9 (B) appears in contrasting colors with block 10 letters at least one inch in height; and is displayed in a conspicuous manner clearly 11 (C) 12 visible to the public at each entrance to the property. SECTION 8. Section 773.0145(a), Health and Safety Code, is 13 14 amended to read as follows: 15 (a) This section applies to: 16 (1) an amusement park, as defined by Section 46.0317 [46.035], Penal Code; a child-care facility, as defined by Section (2) 18 19 42.002, Human Resources Code; (3) a day camp or youth camp, as defined by Section 20 21 141.002; (4) a private or independent institution of higher 22 23 education, as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code; 24 (5) a restaurant, as defined by Section 17.821, 25 Business & Commerce Code; 26 (6) a sports venue, as defined by Section 504.151, 27 Local Government Code;

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(7) a youth center, as defined by Section 481.134; or 2 subject to Subsection (b), any other entity that (8) 3 the executive commissioner by rule designates as an entity that would benefit from the possession and administration of epinephrine 4 5 auto-injectors.

6 SECTION 9. Section 52.062(b), Labor Code, is amended to 7 read as follows:

8 (b) Section 52.061 does not prohibit an employer from prohibiting an employee who holds a license to carry a handgun under 9 Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, or who otherwise 10 lawfully possesses a firearm, from possessing a firearm the 11 employee is otherwise authorized by law to possess on the premises 12 of the employer's business. In this subsection, "premises" has the 13 14 meaning assigned by Section 46.03(c) [46.035(f)(3)], Penal Code.

15 SECTION 10. Section 30.05, Penal Code, is amended by 16 amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsection (i-1) to read as 17 follows:

An offense under this section is: (d) 18

19 (1) a Class B misdemeanor, except as provided by Subdivisions (2), (3), and (4) [(3)]; 20

21 (2) a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$200, except as provided by Subdivision (4)(D), if the 22 offense is committed under Subsection (i-1); 23

(3) [(2)] a Class C misdemeanor, except as provided by 24 25 Subdivision (3), if the offense is committed:

(A) on agricultural land and within 100 feet of 26 27 the boundary of the land; or

H.B. No. 1927 on residential land and within 100 feet of a 1 (B) protected freshwater area; and 2 3 (4) [(3)] a Class A misdemeanor if: (A) the offense is committed: 4 (i) in a habitation or a shelter center; 5 (ii) on a Superfund site; or 6 7 (iii) on or in a critical infrastructure 8 facility; 9 (B) the offense is committed on or in property of an institution of higher education and it is shown on the trial of 10 the offense that the person has previously been convicted of: 11 an offense under this section relating 12 (i) to entering or remaining on or in property of an institution of 13 14 higher education; or 15 (ii) an offense under Section 51.204(b)(1), Education Code, relating to trespassing on the grounds of an 16 institution of higher education; or 17 18 the person carries a deadly weapon during the (C) 19 commission of the offense; or 20 (D) if the offense is committed under Subsection 21 (i-1) and it is shown on the trial of the offense that, after entering the property, the person personally received notice by 22 oral communication from the owner of the property, or from someone 23 24 with apparent authority to act for the owner, and subsequently 25 failed to depart. 26 (i-1) If the basis on which entry on the property or land or

27 in the building was forbidden is that entry with a firearm or other

H.B. No. 1927 weapon was forbidden it is a defense to prosecution under this 1 section that the person personally received notice by oral 2 communication from the owner of the property, or from someone with 3 apparent authority to act for the owner, and promptly departed from 4 5 the property. 6 SECTION 11. Section 30.06, Penal Code, is amended by 7 amending Subsection (c) and Subsection (e) to read as follows: In this section: 8 (c) 9 (1)"Entry" has the meaning assigned by Section 30.05(b). 10 "License holder" means a person licensed to carry 11 (2) a handgun under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code [has the 12 meaning assigned by Section 46.035(f)]. 13 14 (3) "Written communication" means: 15 (A) a card or other document on which is written language identical to the following: "Pursuant to Section 30.06, 16 17 Penal Code (trespass by license holder with a concealed handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code 18 (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a 19 concealed handgun"; or 20 21 (B) a sign posted on the property that: 22 (i) includes the language described by 23 Paragraph (A) in both English and Spanish; 24 (ii) appears in contrasting colors with 25 block letters at least one inch in height; and (iii) is displayed in a conspicuous manner 26 27 clearly visible to the public.

1 (e) It is an exception to the application of this section 2 that the property on which the license holder carries a handgun is 3 owned or leased by a governmental entity and is not a premises or 4 other place on which the license holder is prohibited from carrying 5 the handgun under Section 46.03 [or 46.035].

6 SECTION 12. Section 30.07, Penal Code, is amended by 7 amending Subsection (c) and Subsection (e), to read as follows:

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(c) In this section:

9 (1) "Entry" has the meaning assigned by Section 10 30.05(b).

11 (2) "License holder" has the meaning assigned by 12 Section 30.06(c) [46.035(f)].

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(3) "Written communication" means:

(A) a card or other document on which is written language identical to the following: "Pursuant to Section 30.07, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with an openly carried handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a handgun that is carried openly"; or

20 a sign posted on the property that: (B) 21 (i) includes the language described by Paragraph (A) in both English and Spanish; 22 23 (ii) appears in contrasting colors with 24 block letters at least one inch in height; and 25 (iii) is displayed in a conspicuous manner 26 clearly visible to the public at each entrance to the property. 27 (e) It is an exception to the application of this section

1 that the property on which the license holder openly carries the 2 handgun is owned or leased by a governmental entity and is not a 3 premises or other place on which the license holder is prohibited 4 from carrying the handgun under Section 46.03 [or 46.035].

5 SECTION 13. Section 46.02, Penal Code, is amended by 6 amending Subsections (a) and (a-1), and adding Subsection (a-5) to 7 read as follows:

8 (a) A person younger than 21 years of age commits an offense
9 if the person:

10 (1) intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly carries11 on or about his or her person a handgun; and

12 (2) is not:

13 (A) on the person's own premises or premises14 under the person's control; or

(B) inside of or directly en route to a motor vehicle or watercraft that is owned by the person or under the person's control.

18 (a-1) A person <u>younger than 21 years of age</u> commits an 19 offense if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly 20 carries on or about his or her person a handgun in a motor vehicle or 21 watercraft that is owned by the person or under the person's control 22 at any time in which:

(1) the handgun is in plain view, unless the person is
24 licensed to carry a handgun under Subchapter H, Chapter 411,
25 Government Code, and the handgun is carried in a shoulder or belt
26 holster; or

27 (2) the person is:

H.B. No. 1927 1 (A) engaged in criminal activity, other than a 2 Class C misdemeanor that is a violation of a law or ordinance 3 regulating traffic or boating; 4 prohibited by law from possessing a firearm; (B) 5 or 6 (C) a member of a criminal street gang, as 7 defined by Section 71.01. (a-5) A person commits an offense if the person carries a 8 handgun on or about their person, and intentionally displays the 9 handgun in plain view of another person in a public place. It is an 10 exception to the application of this subsection that the handgun 11 12 was partially or wholly visible but was carried in a holster on or 13 about the person. 14 SECTION 14. Section 46.03, Penal Code, is amended to read as 15 follows: 16 A person commits an offense if the person intentionally, (a) 17 knowingly, or recklessly possesses or goes with a firearm, location-restricted knife, club, or prohibited weapon listed in 18 Section 46.05(a): 19 20 (1) on the physical premises of a school or 21 educational institution, any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by a school or educational institution is being 22 conducted, or a passenger transportation vehicle of a school or 23 24 educational institution, whether the school or educational institution is public or private, unless: 25 26 (A) pursuant to written regulations or written authorization of the institution; or 27

1 (B) the person possesses or goes with a concealed handgun that the person is licensed to carry under Subchapter H, 2 Chapter 411, Government Code, and no other weapon to which this 3 section applies, on the premises of an institution of higher 4 5 education or private or independent institution of higher education, on any grounds or building on which an activity 6 sponsored by the institution is being conducted, or in a passenger 7 transportation vehicle of the institution; 8

9 (2) on the premises of a polling place on the day of an 10 election or while early voting is in progress;

(3) on the premises of any government court or offices utilized by the court, unless pursuant to written regulations or written authorization of the court;

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(4) on the premises of a racetrack;

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(5) in or into a secured area of an airport; [or]

16 (6) within 1,000 feet of premises the location of 17 which is designated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a 18 place of execution under Article 43.19, Code of Criminal Procedure, 19 on a day that a sentence of death is set to be imposed on the 20 designated premises and the person received notice that:

(A) going within 1,000 feet of the premises with
 a weapon listed under this subsection was prohibited; or

(B) possessing a weapon listed under this
 subsection within 1,000 feet of the premises was prohibited; [-

25 (a=1) A person commits an offense if the person 26 intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly possesses or goes with a 27 location=restricted knife:]

1 (7) [(1)] on the premises of a business that has a 2 permit or license issued under Chapter 25, 28, 32, 69, or 74, 3 Alcoholic Beverage Code, if the business derives 51 percent or more 4 of its income from the sale or service of alcoholic beverages for 5 on-premises consumption, as determined by the Texas Alcoholic 6 Beverage Commission under Section 104.06, Alcoholic Beverage Code;

7 (8) [(2)] on the premises where a high school, 8 collegiate, or professional sporting event or interscholastic 9 event is taking place, unless the person is a participant in the 10 event and a <u>firearm</u>, location-restricted knife, <u>club</u>, <u>or prohibited</u> 11 <u>weapon listed in Section 46.05(a)</u> is used in the event;

12(9) [(3)]on the premises of a correctional facility;13(10) on the premises of a civil commitment facility;

14 <u>(11)</u> [(4)] on the premises of a hospital licensed 15 under Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code, or on the premises of a 16 nursing facility licensed under Chapter 242, Health and Safety 17 Code, unless the person has written authorization of the hospital 18 or nursing facility administration, as appropriate;

19 <u>(12)</u> [(5)] on the premises of a mental hospital, as 20 defined by Section 571.003, Health and Safety Code, unless the 21 person has written authorization of the mental hospital 22 administration; <u>or</u>

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(13) [(6)] in an amusement park [+

24 (7) on the premises of a church, synagogue, or other
 25 established place of religious worship].

26 (a-1) A person commits an offense if the person carries a
27 partially or wholly visible handgun, regardless of whether the

1	handgun is holstered, on or about their person and intentionally
2	displays the handgun in plain view of another person:
3	(1) on the premises of an institution of higher
4	education or private or independent institution of higher
5	education; or
6	(2) on any public or private driveway, street,
7	sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking
8	area of an institution of higher education or private or
9	independent institution of higher education.
10	(a-2) Notwithstanding Subsection (a) or Section 46.02(a-5),
11	a license holder commits an offense if the license holder carries a
12	handgun on the campus of a private or independent institution of
13	higher education in this state that has established rules,
14	regulations, or other provisions prohibiting license holders from
15	carrying handguns pursuant to Section 411.2031(e), Government
16	Code, or on the grounds or building on which an activity sponsored
17	by such an institution is being conducted, or in a passenger
18	transportation vehicle of such an institution, regardless of
19	whether the handgun is concealed, provided the institution gives
20	effective notice under Section 30.06.
21	(a-3) Notwithstanding Subsection (a) or Section 46.02(a-5),
22	a license holder commits an offense if the license holder
23	intentionally carries a concealed handgun on a portion of a
24	premises located on the campus of an institution of higher
25	education in this state on which the carrying of a concealed handgun
26	is prohibited by rules, regulations, or other provisions
27	established under Section 411.2031(d-1), Government Code, provided

1 <u>the institution gives effective notice under Section 30.06 with</u> 2 <u>respect to that portion.</u>

3 (b) It is a defense to prosecution under Subsections 4 (a)(1)-(4) that the actor possessed a firearm while in the actual 5 discharge of his official duties as a member of the armed forces or 6 national guard or a guard employed by a penal institution, or an 7 officer of the court.

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(c) In this section:

9 (1) "Amusement park" means a permanent indoor or 10 outdoor facility or park where amusement rides are available for use by the public that is located in a county with a population of 11 12 more than one million, encompasses at least 75 acres in surface area, is enclosed with access only through controlled entries, is 13 open for operation more than 120 days in each calendar year, and has 14 15 security guards on the premises at all times. The term does not include any public or private driveway, street, sidewalk or 16 17 walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area.

18 (2) [(1)] "Institution of higher education" and 19 "private or independent institution of higher education" have the 20 meanings assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

21 (3) "Premises" means a building or a portion of a 22 building. The term does not include any public or private driveway, 23 street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other 24 parking area. [(2) "Amusement park" and "premises" have the 25 meanings assigned by Section 46.035.]

26 <u>(4)</u> [(3)] "Secured area" means an area of an airport 27 terminal building to which access is controlled by the inspection

1 of persons and property under federal law.

(d) It is a defense to prosecution under Subsection (a)(5) 2 3 that the actor possessed a firearm or club while traveling to or from the actor's place of assignment or in the actual discharge of 4 5 duties as:

(1)a member of the armed forces or national guard; 6 7 a guard employed by a penal institution; or (2) 8 (3) a security officer commissioned by the Texas Private Security Board if:

10 (A) the actor is wearing a distinctive uniform; 11 and

12 (B) the firearm or club is in plain view; or

a security officer who holds a personal protection 13 (4) 14 authorization under Chapter 1702, Occupations Code, provided that 15 the officer is either:

16 (A) wearing the uniform of a security officer, 17 including any uniform or apparel described by Section 1702.323(d), Occupations Code, and carrying the officer's firearm in plain view; 18 19 or

not wearing the uniform of a security officer 20 (B) and carrying the officer's firearm in a concealed manner. 21

It is a defense to prosecution under Subsection (a)(5) 22 (e) that the actor checked all firearms as baggage in accordance with 23 24 federal or state law or regulations before entering a secured area.

(e-1) It is a defense to prosecution under Subsection (a)(5) 25 26 that the actor:

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possessed, at the screening checkpoint for the (1)

H.B. No. 1927 1 secured area, a concealed handgun that the actor was licensed to 2 carry under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code; and

3 (2) exited the screening checkpoint for the secured
4 area immediately upon completion of the required screening
5 processes and notification that the actor possessed the handgun.

6 (e-2) A peace officer investigating conduct that may 7 constitute an offense under Subsection (a)(5) and that consists 8 only of an actor's possession of a concealed handgun that the actor 9 is licensed to carry under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government 10 Code, may not arrest the actor for the offense unless:

(1) the officer advises the actor of the defense available under Subsection (e-1) and gives the actor an opportunity to exit the screening checkpoint for the secured area; and

14 (2) the actor does not immediately exit the checkpoint15 upon completion of the required screening processes.

(f) Except as provided by Subsection (e-1), it is not a defense to prosecution under this section that the actor possessed a handgun and was licensed to carry a handgun under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code.

(g) Except as provided by Subsection (g-1) <u>and (g-2)</u>, an
 offense under this section is a felony of the third degree.

(g-1) If the weapon that is the subject of the offense is a location-restricted knife, an offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor, except that the offense is a felony of the third degree if the offense is committed under Subsection (a)(1).

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 (g-2) An offense committed under Subsections (a)(8),

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 (a)(10), (a)(11), (a)(13), (a-1), (a-2), or (a-3) is a Class A

1 <u>misdemeanor</u>.

2 (h) It is a defense to prosecution under Subsection (a)(4) 3 that the actor possessed a firearm or club while traveling to or 4 from the actor's place of assignment or in the actual discharge of 5 duties as a security officer commissioned by the Texas Board of 6 Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies, if:

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(1) the actor is wearing a distinctive uniform; and(2) the firearm or club is in plain view.

9 (i) It is an exception to the application of Subsection 10 (a)(6) that the actor possessed a firearm or club:

11 (1) while in a vehicle being driven on a public road; 12 or

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(2) at the actor's residence or place of employment.

SECTION 15. Section 46.15, Penal Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-1) and amending Subsection (1) to read as follows:

16 (b-1) Section 46.03 does not apply to a person unless the 17 person personally received notice by oral communication from the 18 owner of the property or from someone with apparent authority to act 19 for the owner and subsequently failed to depart.

20 (1) Sections 46.02, 46.03(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), and 21 (a)(4)[, and 46.035 (a), (a=1), (a=2), (a=3), (b)(1), (b)(5), and 22 (b)(6)] do not apply to a person who carries a handgun if:

(1) the person carries the handgun on the premises, as defined by the statute providing the applicable offense, of a location operating as an emergency shelter during a state of disaster declared under Section 418.014, Government Code, or a local state of disaster declared under Section 418.108, Government

1 Code;

(2) the owner, controller, or operator of the premises
or a person acting with the apparent authority of the owner,
controller, or operator, authorized the carrying of the handgun;

5 (3) the person carrying the handgun complies with any 6 rules and regulations of the owner, controller, or operator of the 7 premises that govern the carrying of a handgun on the premises; and

8 (4) the person is not prohibited by state or federal9 law from possessing a firearm.

10 SECTION 16. The following provisions are repealed:

11 (1) Section 11.041, 11.61(e), 61.11 and 61.71(f), 12 Alcoholic Beverage Code;

13 (2) Sections 411.198(b), 411.204(d), and 411.206(c),
14 Government Code; and

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(3) Sections 46.02(c) and 46.035, Penal Code.

16 SECTION 17. The change in law made by this Act applies only 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. 20 For 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

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SECTION 18. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.