

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 87TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 25, 2021

TO: Honorable James White, Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB2900 by Hefner (Relating to provisions governing the carrying of a firearm by a person who is not otherwise prohibited by state or federal law from possessing the firearm and to other provisions related to the carrying, possessing, transporting, or storing of a firearm; making conforming changes.),
As Introduced

The fiscal implications of the bill cannot be determined at this time due to a lack of reliable information to provide a reasonably sound basis for estimating the impact of the bill on the number of license to carry applications.

However, the Comptroller of Public Accounts estimates annual revenue from License to Carry a Handgun fees at \$11.8 million, some or all of which could be lost depending on the impact of the bill.

The bill would amend and repeal various provisions governing the carrying of a firearm by a person who is not otherwise prohibited by state or federal law from possessing the firearm and other provisions related to the carrying, possessing, transporting, or storing of a firearm.

The bill would make the unlawful carrying of certain age-restricted weapons a Class C misdemeanor offense.

According to the Department of Public Safety (DPS), while there has been a steady and significant growth in the License to Carry program, there is a scarcity of data regarding the choices current or future handgun license holders may make regarding their preferences for obtaining a license or renewing a license that is not required. Additionally, public interest in a license to carry is affected by state and national events, which can cause significant increases in the number of applications. Based on the information provided by DPS, the fiscal impact of the bill cannot be determined due to a lack of reliable information to provide a reasonably sound basis for estimating the impact of the bill on the number of license to carry applications.

However, the Comptroller of Public Accounts estimates \$11.8 million in annual revenue from License to Carry a Handgun fees. Some or all of that amount could be lost depending on the impact of the bill.

This analysis assumes the provisions of the bill addressing felony sanctions for criminal offenses would not result in a significant impact on state correctional agencies.

According to the Office of Court Administration, no significant fiscal impact to the state court system is anticipated.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

A Class C misdemeanor under the bill is punishable by a fine of not more than \$200. Costs associated with enforcement and prosecution could likely be absorbed within existing resources. Revenue gain from fines imposed and collected is not anticipated to have a significant fiscal impact.

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Admin, 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts, 405 Department of Public Safety
LBB Staff: JMc, DKN, CMA, ANE