By: Jones of Harris H.B. No. 1856

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a firearms policy for campus peace officers commissioned by a public institution of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.2031 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.2031. FIREARMS POLICY. (a) In this section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt a policy regarding the use of firearms by a campus peace officer commissioned by the institution under Section 51.203. The policy must prohibit a campus peace officer from drawing a firearm in an interaction with a member of the public unless the officer physically sees that another weapon, other than a weapon carried by a peace officer, is present during the interaction.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, each public institution of higher education shall adopt the firearms policy required under Section 51.2031, Education Code, as added by this Act.

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

Act takes effect September 1, 2023.