

By: Cain

H.B. No. 4818

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the creation of an enhanced license designation for a
3 license to carry a handgun and the locations in which the holder of
4 that enhanced license may carry a handgun.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 411.171, Government Code, is amended by
7 adding Subdivision (8) to read as follows:

8 (8) "Enhanced license" means a license to carry a
9 handgun that bears an enhanced license designation under Section
10 411.1845.

11 SECTION 2. Section 411.174, Government Code, is amended by
12 adding Subsection (b-2) to read as follows:

13 (b-2) The application must provide space for the applicant
14 to:

15 (1) request an enhanced license designation described
16 by Section 411.1845; and

17 (2) include sufficient proof of the applicant's
18 satisfaction of the requirements of Section 411.1845, including
19 the applicant's successful completion of:

20 (A) the training course under Section
21 411.1845(c); and

22 (B) the demonstration of handgun proficiency
23 under Section 411.1845(d), not earlier than the 180th day before
24 the date of the application.

1 SECTION 3. Section [411.179](#), Government Code, is amended by
2 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (e-1) to read as
3 follows:

4 (a) The department by rule shall adopt the form of the
5 license. A license must include:

6 (1) a number assigned to the license holder by the
7 department;

8 (2) a statement of the period for which the license is
9 effective;

10 (3) a photograph of the license holder;

11 (4) the license holder's full name, date of birth, hair
12 and eye color, height, weight, and signature;

13 (5) the license holder's residence address or, as
14 provided by Subsection (d), the street address of the courthouse in
15 which the license holder or license holder's spouse or parent
16 serves as a federal judge or the license holder serves as a state
17 judge;

18 (6) the number of a driver's license or an
19 identification certificate issued to the license holder by the
20 department;

21 (7) the designation "VETERAN" if required under
22 Subsection (e);

23 (8) any at-risk designation for which the license
24 holder has established eligibility under Section [411.184](#); ~~and~~

25 (9) if applicable, a protective order designation
26 under Section [411.1735](#); and

27 (10) the designation "ENHANCED" if required under

1 Subsection (e-1).

2 (e-1) The department shall include the designation
3 "ENHANCED" on the face of any license under this subchapter if the
4 license is issued to an applicant who:

5 (1) requests the designation; and

6 (2) includes sufficient proof of the applicant's
7 satisfaction of the requirements of Section 411.1845, including the
8 applicant's successful completion of:

9 (A) the training course under Section
10 411.1845(c); and

11 (B) the demonstration of handgun proficiency
12 under Section 411.1845(d), not earlier than the 180th day before
13 the date of the application.

14 SECTION 4. Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, is
15 amended by adding Section 411.1845 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 411.1845. ENHANCED LICENSE DESIGNATION; TRAINING
17 COURSE. (a) In this section:

18 (1) "Commissioned security officer" has the meaning
19 assigned by Section 1702.002, Occupations Code.

20 (2) "Open-enrollment charter school" means a school
21 that has been granted a charter under Subchapter D, Chapter 12,
22 Education Code.

23 (3) "Peace officer" has the meaning assigned by
24 Article 2A.001, Code of Criminal Procedure.

25 (4) "Public security officer" has the meaning assigned
26 by Section 1701.001, Occupations Code.

27 (5) "School district" means any public school district

1 in this state.

2 (6) "School marshal" means a person appointed under
3 Section 37.0811, Education Code.

4 (7) "School resource officer" has the meaning assigned
5 by Section 1701.601, Occupations Code.

6 (b) The department shall designate a license to carry a
7 handgun as an enhanced license if the applicant:

8 (1) requests the designation;

9 (2) has held a license to carry a handgun issued under
10 this subchapter for at least four years;

11 (3) is at least:

12 (A) 25 years of age; or

13 (B) 22 years of age if first issued a license
14 under Section 411.172(g);

15 (4) has not been convicted of a Class A misdemeanor or
16 equivalent offense;

17 (5) has not, in the 15-year period preceding the date
18 of application, been convicted of a Class B misdemeanor or
19 equivalent offense or of an offense under Section 42.01, Penal
20 Code, or equivalent offense;

21 (6) has not, in the 20-year period preceding the date
22 of application, had a license revoked under Section 411.186(a)(3);

23 (7) has not received:

24 (A) involuntary psychiatric hospitalization;

25 (B) psychiatric hospitalization in the 20-year
26 period preceding the date of application;

27 (C) inpatient or residential substance abuse

1 treatment in the 20-year period preceding the date of application;

2 or

3 (D) a diagnosis, in the 20-year period preceding
4 the date of application, by a licensed physician that the person is
5 dependent on alcohol, a controlled substance, or a similar
6 substance;

7 (8) has not received a diagnosis at any time by a
8 licensed physician that the person suffers or has suffered from a
9 psychiatric disorder or condition consisting of or relating to any
10 condition listed in Section 411.172(e)(5); and

11 (9) has successfully completed the training course
12 described by Subsection (c) and the demonstration of handgun
13 proficiency under Subsection (d).

14 (c) The director by rule shall establish minimum standards
15 for a training course that a license holder may complete to receive
16 an enhanced license designation under this section. The training
17 course must:

18 (1) be administered by a qualified handgun instructor;

19 (2) include not less than 32 hours and not more than 48
20 hours of instruction;

21 (3) provide classroom training in:

22 (A) de-escalation techniques;

23 (B) self-defense;

24 (C) discerning between self-defense scenarios
25 and interdiction scenarios;

26 (D) the dangers and potential legal consequences
27 of attempting to interdict a crime that does not pose a threat to

1 the license holder;

2 (E) tactical thinking relating to cover for and
3 concealment of the license holder;

4 (F) the principles of tactical movement;

5 (G) methods to conceal a handgun and methods to
6 ensure the secure carrying of a concealed handgun;

7 (H) the laws pertaining to where and when a
8 holder of an enhanced license may not carry a handgun in this state;

9 and

10 (I) the consequences of improper use of a
11 handgun; and

12 (4) provide at least 20 hours of in-person field
13 instruction, including at least 16 hours on a live-fire shooting
14 range, in the use of handguns, including:

15 (A) instinctive or reactive shooting;

16 (B) discerning between "shoot" and "don't shoot"
17 scenarios;

18 (C) tactical shooting;

19 (D) shooting while moving;

20 (E) shooting in low-light conditions;

21 (F) tactical movement through doorways and
22 hallways where an assailant may be present; and

23 (G) tactical movement into and out of rooms where
24 an assailant may be present.

25 (d) To receive an enhanced license, a license holder must
26 complete a physical demonstration of proficiency in the use of one
27 or more handguns and in handgun safety procedures as provided by

1 Section 411.188(d)(2), to be administered by a qualified handgun
2 instructor. The physical demonstration of proficiency described by
3 this subsection must be completed not earlier than the 180th day
4 before the date of application.

5 (e) The department shall issue a renewal license without the
6 enhanced license designation unless the application for renewal
7 includes proof that the applicant has successfully repeated the
8 demonstration of handgun proficiency described by Subsection (d)
9 under the supervision of a qualified handgun instructor not earlier
10 than the 180th day before the date the application for the renewal
11 of the enhanced license is submitted.

12 (f) An applicant for an enhanced license is responsible for
13 paying to the course provider the costs incurred by the provider in
14 administering the training course and handgun proficiency
15 demonstration under this section.

16 (g) The training course under Subsection (c) and the handgun
17 proficiency demonstration under Subsection (d) may be administered
18 in any state, district, or territory of the United States, provided
19 that it is administered by a person certified by a governmental
20 entity to provide instruction in the use of handguns.

21 (h) Except as otherwise provided by this section, a
22 governmental entity that employs or otherwise supervises a holder
23 of an enhanced license may not adopt a rule or regulation that
24 prohibits the license holder from carrying a concealed, holstered
25 handgun while fulfilling the license holder's official duties.

26 (i) A school district or an open-enrollment charter school
27 may prohibit an employee who holds an enhanced license from

1 carrying a handgun while fulfilling the license holder's duties as
2 an employee of the school district or charter school only if:

3 (1) the employee is performing duties in a school
4 building that is consistently staffed during classroom hours with
5 at least one school resource officer or school marshal who is armed
6 with a functional semiautomatic firearm loaded with at least seven
7 rounds of ammunition; or

8 (2) the employee is performing duties on a school
9 campus that is consistently staffed during classroom hours with at
10 least two school resource officers or school marshals each of whom
11 is armed with a functional semiautomatic firearm loaded with at
12 least seven rounds of ammunition.

13 (j) A governmental entity may prohibit an employee who holds
14 an enhanced license from carrying a handgun within an area in which:

15 (1) each accessible point of entry is controlled and
16 guarded by:

17 (A) at least one peace officer or public security
18 officer acting in the official discharge of the officer's duties;
19 or

20 (B) at least one commissioned security officer
21 acting in the official discharge of the officer's duties;

22 (2) each officer described by Subdivision (1) carries
23 on the officer's person a readily dischargeable firearm that the
24 officer is trained and qualified to use;

25 (3) each person entering the location is screened for
26 weapons with a metal detector or magnetometer designed for security
27 applications; and

1 (4) the belongings of each person entering the
2 location are screened either by:

3 (A) use of an x-ray machine designed for security
4 applications; or

5 (B) an exhaustive hand search.

6 (k) A governmental entity may prohibit an employee who holds
7 an enhanced license from carrying a handgun within an area that:

8 (1) is not open to the public;

9 (2) is used for medical, scientific, or engineering
10 purposes; and

11 (3) presents a specific danger due to the presence of:

12 (A) dangerous pathogens;

13 (B) powerful electromagnets; or

14 (C) exceptionally poisonous, corrosive, or
15 combustible chemicals.

16 (l) A governmental entity may prohibit an employee who holds
17 an enhanced license from carrying a handgun on premises described
18 by Section 46.03(a)(3), (5), (9), (10), or (12), Penal Code.

19 SECTION 5. Section 30.06, Penal Code, is amended by adding
20 Subsection (h) to read as follows:

21 (h) It is a defense to prosecution under this section that
22 the license holder carries a concealed, holstered handgun and holds
23 a license to carry a handgun issued by this state with an enhanced
24 designation under Section 411.1845, Government Code. The defense
25 provided under this subsection is unavailable if the license holder
26 was personally given notice by oral communication described by
27 Subsection (b) and subsequently failed to depart.

1 SECTION 6. Section 46.15, Penal Code, is amended by adding
2 Subsections (s) and (t) to read as follows:

3 (s) Sections 46.03(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(4), (a)(7), (a)(8),
4 (a)(11), (a)(13), (a)(14), (a-3), and (a-4) do not apply to a person
5 who holds a license in this state to carry a handgun issued under
6 Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, if:

7 (1) the person's license to carry a handgun bears an
8 enhanced license designation under Section 411.1845, Government
9 Code;

10 (2) the person carries one or more handguns, each of
11 which is concealed and carried in a holster, and no other type of
12 weapon to which Section 46.03 applies;

13 (3) the person is not intoxicated;

14 (4) the person does not consume alcohol while in the
15 location;

16 (5) the location is not secured as described by
17 Section 411.1845(j), Government Code; and

18 (6) the person does not deliberately display or reveal
19 the presence of the handgun, except under circumstances that would
20 justify the use of deadly force under Section 9.32 or 9.33.

21 (t) The defense provided by Subsection (s) is not available
22 if:

23 (1) the portion of a premises in which firearms are
24 forbidden:

25 (A) is not open to the public;

26 (B) is used for medical, scientific, or
27 engineering purposes; and

1 (C) presents a specific danger due to the
2 presence of:

- 3 (i) dangerous pathogens;
4 (ii) powerful electromagnets; or
5 (iii) exceptionally poisonous, corrosive,
6 or combustible chemicals; and

7 (2) the license holder was personally given notice by
8 oral communication that firearms are prohibited in that area and
9 subsequently failed to depart.

10 SECTION 7. The public safety director of the Department of
11 Public Safety shall adopt the rules necessary to implement Section
12 411.1845, Government Code, as added by this Act, not later than July
13 1, 2026.

14 SECTION 8. A qualified handgun instructor may not offer the
15 training course described by Section 411.1845(c), Government Code,
16 as added by this Act, or administer a handgun proficiency
17 demonstration under Section 411.1845(d), Government Code, as added
18 by this Act, before September 1, 2026.

19 SECTION 9. The changes in law made by this Act in amending
20 Sections 30.06 and 46.15, Penal Code, apply only to an offense
21 committed on or after September 1, 2026. An offense committed
22 before September 1, 2026, is governed by the law in effect
23 immediately before that date, and the former law is continued in
24 effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense
25 was committed before September 1, 2026, if any element of the
26 offense occurred before that date.

27 SECTION 10. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.