

SUBJECT: Eliminating preliminary review of concealed handgun license applications

COMMITTEE: Public Safety — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Merritt, Frost, Burnam, Driver, P. King, Mallory Caraway, Rodriguez, Vo
0 nays
1 absent — Lewis

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Norman Garza, Texas Farm Bureau)
Against — None
On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Steve Moninger, Department of Public Safety, Concealed Handgun Licensing)

BACKGROUND: Government Code, sec. 411.175, requires that person seeking a concealed handgun license send a form with the applicant's full name, address, race, sex, height, date of birth, and driver's license number and other identifying information for preliminary review by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Concealed Handgun Licensing division in Austin. If DPS determines that the person meets the qualifications, the department will send the person additional application material. If the preliminary review indicates that the person was not qualified, the DPS will mail written notification of why the person would not be able to receive a concealed handgun license. The applicant is given an opportunity to correct whatever defect may exist.

DIGEST: HB 4406 would repeal Government Code, sec. 411.175. The bill also would permit the DPS director to designate a civilian DPS employee, rather than a commissioned trooper, to review applications for concealed handgun licenses, and would remove a requirement that reviews of concealed handgun permits be conducted by DPS employees in the same region as the applicant.

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The bill would take effect on September 1, 2009.