

- SUBJECT:** Lowering proficiency requirement to obtain a concealed handgun license
- COMMITTEE:** Homeland Security & Public Safety — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Phillips, Nevárez, Burns, Dale, Johnson, Metcalf, M. White, Wray
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Moody
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, March 24 — 31 - 0
- WITNESSES:** *(On the companion bill, HB 284)*
For — Richard Briscoe, Open Carry Texas; Alice Tripp, Texas State Rifle Association; Leland Freeman; *(Registered, but did not testify:* Tara Mica, National Rifle Association; Rachel Malone, Texas Firearms Freedom; Read King; Noe Perez; Raymond Smith)
- Against — (Registered, but did not testify:* Jonathan Panzer, Texas Gun Sense; Heather Ross; Nobie White)
- On — (Registered, but did not testify:* Michael Cargill)
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code, sec. 411.188 requires completion of a handgun proficiency course to obtain a license to carry a concealed handgun. The course must include classroom and range instruction, including a demonstration of the applicant's ability to safely and proficiently use a handgun. An applicant must demonstrate, at a minimum, the degree of proficiency to effectively operate a handgun of .32 caliber or above.
- DIGEST:** SB 179 would amend Government Code, sec. 411.188 by lowering the caliber of a handgun that could be used to demonstrate proficiency for purposes of obtaining a concealed handgun license from .32 calibers or above to .22 calibers or above.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015.