

- SUBJECT:** Exempting certain retired officers from handgun license course
- COMMITTEE:** Homeland Security and Public Safety — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Nevárez, Paul, Burns, Calanni, Clardy, Goodwin, Israel, Lang, Tinderholt  
0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Chris Jones, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas; Pete Elizalde, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas Retiree Association; (*Registered, but did not testify:* David Sinclair, Game Warden Peace Officers Association; Mitch Landry, Texas Municipal Police Association)  
  
Against — None  
  
On — Chris Sims, Texas Department of Public Safety; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Steve Moninger, Texas Department of Public Safety)
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code sec. 411.199 allows honorably retired peace officers to apply for a license to carry a handgun. Sec. 411.199(b) requires a retired officer to submit a sworn statement from the head of the law enforcement agency that employed the applicant and that included certain information listed in statute.  
  
Sec. 411.188 requires each applicant for a license to carry to take a handgun proficiency course consisting of both classroom and range instruction, including demonstration of the applicant's ability to safely and proficiently use a handgun.  
  
Occupations Code sec. 1701.357 allows the head of a state or local law enforcement agency to issue a certificate of proficiency to certain honorably retired peace officers who demonstrated weapons proficiency by satisfying requirements listed in statute.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 2137 would exempt an honorably retired peace officer from completing the classroom instruction portion of the required handgun proficiency course under Government Code sec. 411.188, if the officer complied with certain requirements to obtain a license to carry a handgun as listed in the bill.

An honorably retired peace officer who complied with those requirements and held a current certificate of proficiency under Occupations Code sec. 1707.357 would be exempt from the range instruction portion of the handgun proficiency course. As part of a license-to-carry application for a retired officer, a law enforcement agency would have to include in its sworn statement whether the applicant held a current certificate of proficiency.

The bill would require the Department of Public Safety to waive the application fee for honorably retired peace officers.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019, and would apply to applications submitted on or after that date.