

- SUBJECT:** Removing tax delinquency as prohibition for handgun license
- COMMITTEE:** Homeland Security and Public Safety — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — White, Bowers, Harless, Hefner, Morales, Patterson, Schaefer, Tinderholt  
1 nay — Goodwin
- WITNESSES:** For —Rick Briscoe, Open Carry Texas; Alexie Swirsky; Gary Zimmerman; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Rachel Malone, Gun Owners of America; Tara Mica, National Rifle Association; Ruth York, Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County, Texas Family Defense Committee; Marcia Strickler, WilcoWeThePeople; and 26 individuals)  
  
Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jay Propes, Everytown for Gun Safety; Jon Brandt, Christina Puentes, and Gyl Switzer, Texas Gun Sense; and 13 individuals)  
  
On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* David Carter; Thomas Parkinson)
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code sec. 411.172 establishes eligibility for a license to carry a handgun. Under sec. 411.172(a)(11), to be eligible for a license an individual must not have been finally determined to be delinquent in the payment of a tax or other money collected by the comptroller, the tax collector of a political subdivision, or an agency or subdivision of the state.
- DIGEST:** HB 2169 would revise the eligibility criteria for receiving a license to carry a handgun so that delinquency in paying a tax or other money collected by the comptroller, the tax collector of a political subdivision of the state, or an agency or subdivision no longer prohibited someone from receiving a license.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 2169 would remove an unfair and unnecessary restriction on Texans' eligibility to obtain a license to carry a handgun. The Second Amendment rights of Texans should not be infringed upon based on their tax status. These are separate issues that should not be intertwined. Other remedies can be pursued against those who are delinquent in their taxes.

**CRITICS SAY:** The criteria to obtain a license to carry a handgun in Texas helps ensure safe and responsible carrying of handguns, and the requirements should not be eroded by removing a licensing restriction. Removing a restriction could open the door for additional loosening of criteria, which would not make Texas safer.