

- SUBJECT:** Creating an offense for a false statement to illegally acquire a firearm
- COMMITTEE:** Criminal Jurisprudence — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Collier, K. Bell, Cook, Crockett, Hinojosa, A. Johnson, Murr, Vasut
- 1 nay — Cason
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jennifer Szimanski, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas; M. Paige Williams, for Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot; David Sinclair, Game Warden Peace Officers Association; Jimmy Rodriguez, San Antonio Police Officers Association; Tom Maddox, Sheriffs Association of Texas; Lindy Borchardt, for Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney Sharen Wilson; Gyl Switzer, Texas Gun Sense; Dan Finch, Texas Medical Association; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court; Thomas Parkinson)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Shannon Edmonds, Texas District and County Attorneys Association)
- BACKGROUND:** Penal Code sec. 46.06 establishes an offense for the unlawful transfer of certain weapons.
- While state law limits the persons to whom a seller of a firearm may legally provide a firearm, some contend that stronger criminal penalties are needed to deter unfit individuals from seeking to acquire a firearm in the first place.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 347 would make it an offense for a person prohibited from possessing a weapon under state or federal law to knowingly make a material false statement on a form that was:

- required by state or federal law for the purchase, sale, or other transfer of a firearm; and
- submitted to a licensed firearms dealer, as defined by federal law.

The offense would be a state-jail felony (180 days to two years in a state jail and an optional fine of up to \$10,000).

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021, and would apply only to an offense committed on or after that date.