

- SUBJECT:** Requiring DPS to issue handgun licenses regardless of permitless carry
- COMMITTEE:** Homeland Security and Public Safety — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — White, Bowers, Goodwin, Harless, Hefner, E. Morales, Patterson, Schaefer, Tinderholt
- 0 nays
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 15 — 26-4 (Blanco, Gutierrez, West, Whitmire)
- WITNESSES:** For — Emily Taylor; Gary Zimmerman; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Robin Hayes, Eastland County Republicans; Aaron Rickel, Grizzly Arms; Felisha Bull and Rachel Malone, Gun Owners of America; John Bolgiano, Llano County Patriots; Tara Mica, National Rifle Association; Ruth York, Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County and Texas Family Defense Committee; Jason Vaughn, Texas Young Republicans; and 29 individuals)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Christina Puentes, Mary Lynn Rice-Lively, Frances Schenkkan, and Gyl Switzer, Texas Gun Sense; and 16 individuals)
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Thomas Parkinson)
- BACKGROUND:** Some have noted that if legislation allowing for permitless carry in the state was enacted, there could be a need to ensure the state continued to offer a handgun license as an option for gun owners traveling outside of Texas for the purpose of maintaining reciprocity with other states.
- DIGEST:** CSSB 1253 would require the Department of Public Safety to issue or renew a handgun license to each applicant or license holder who met all the applicable eligibility requirements and submitted all the application or renewal materials, regardless of whether the applicant or license holder legally could carry a handgun without a license in Texas under state law.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.