

SUBJECT: Allowing the addition of a handgun license designation to driver's licenses

COMMITTEE: Community Safety, Select — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Guillen, Burrows, Dorazio, Harless, Holland, T. King, Landgraf, Moody, Troxclair

1 nay — Goodwin

3 absent — Jarvis Johnson, Bowers, Canales

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jennifer Szimanski, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas; Claudia Torres Yañez, Moms Demand Action Texas Chapter; Chris McNutt, Texas Gun Rights; Cynthia Van Maanen, Travis County Democratic Party; Linda Guy; Dash Kostka; Eve Margolis)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: CJ Grisham, Open Carry Texas; Michael Belsick; Richard Bohnert; Greg Rising)

On — Jason Hester and Sheri Gipson, Texas Department of Public Safety (*Registered, but did not testify*: Nicole Golden, Texas Gun Sense; Thomas Parkinson)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that allowing Texans with a handgun license to opt-in to having proof of licensure added to their driver's licenses could make it easier for these individuals to show proof of having a handgun license.

DIGEST: HB 3443 would require the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to adopt rules allowing an applicant for an original, duplicate, modified, or renewed handgun license, in addition to being issued this license, to elect to include on the person's driver's license or commercial driver's license a designation indicating that the person was licensed to carry a handgun. The rules would include procedures to ensure that a person who made such an election:

- received the designation on the person's driver's license only if the person met the requirements for issuance of the handgun license; and
- maintained the designation only during the period for which the person was licensed to carry a handgun.

DPS would have to adopt these rules by December 1, 2023.

The bill would require DPS to include the designation on each driver's license issued to a handgun license holder who made such an election. The designation would include the person's handgun license number and a statement of the period for which the handgun license was effective.

The bill would allow a handgun license holder to display a driver's license that included a handgun license designation if a magistrate or a peace officer demanded that the license holder display identification.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023, and apply only to an applicant for a handgun license who submitted an application on or after January 1, 2024.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a negative impact on general revenue related funds of \$1,290,764 through fiscal 2024-25.