



Gun Owners of America Talking Points & Resources Handbook

87th Regular Session—2021

gunowners.org/texas

Gun Owners of America Talking Points & Resources Handbook

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Section One

Our Right to Bear Arms

We Support:

- Constitutional Carry
- Ending "Gun-Free" Zones
- Use-of-Force Protections
- Reducing Carry Regulations

We Oppose:

- Further Infringing on the Right to Carry



PRIORITY SUPPORT

Constitutional Carry

Stop requiring a license for lawful gun owners to carry a handgun

Current Law

In general, Texas Penal Code 46.02 prohibits handgun carry outside of one's property, living quarters, or vehicle. The main exception is for those who have a license (LTC) to carry a handgun in public. LTC holders may carry openly (visible, in a shoulder or belt holster) or concealed. To be eligible for an LTC, one must be 21 (or 18-20 and military), eligible to purchase a firearm under state and federal law, and meet many other requirements listed in Texas Government Code 411.172.

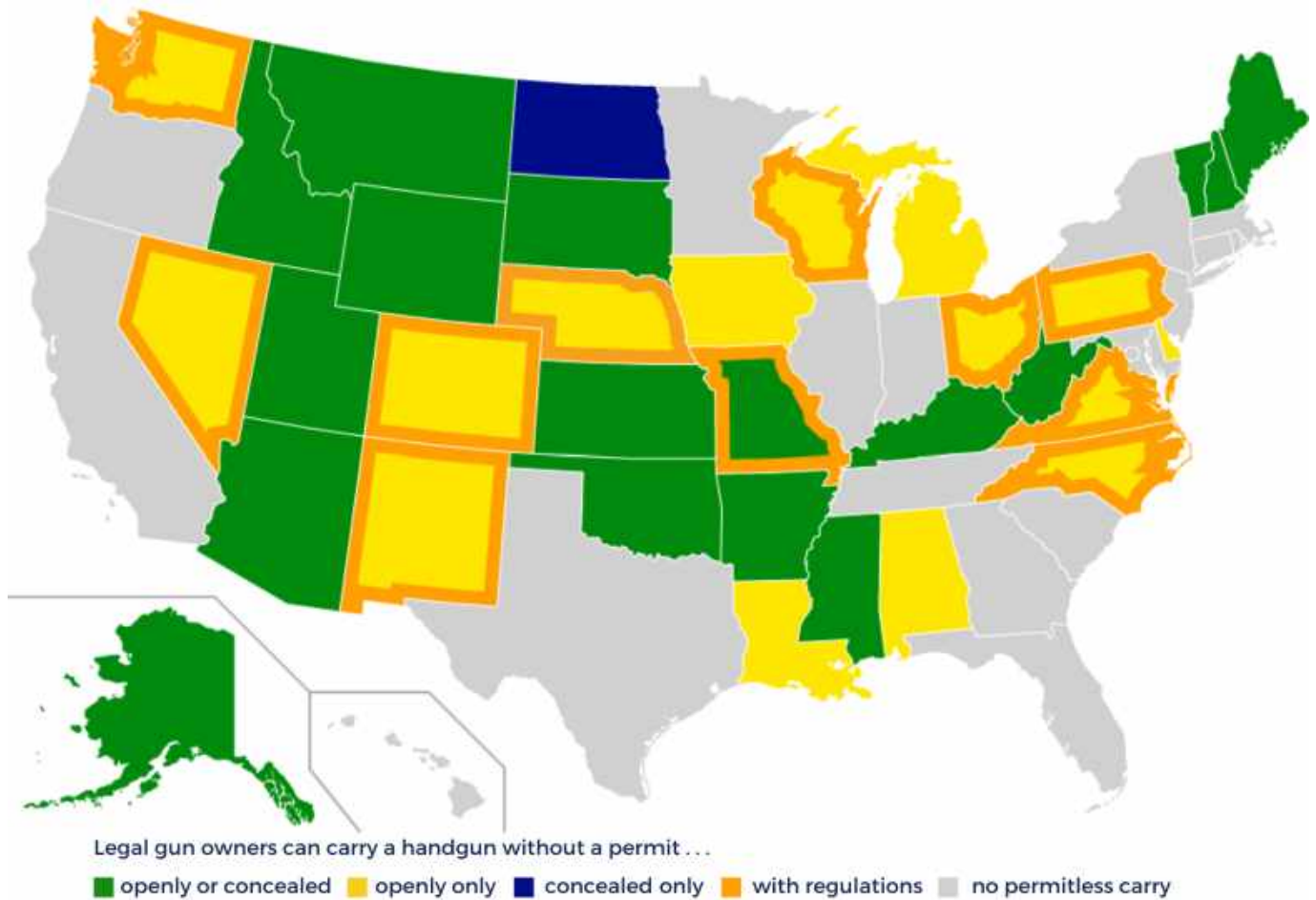
GOA's Position

Texas must recognize the right to carry a handgun without a license. Anyone 18 years or older who can legally possess a handgun should be able to carry it, open or concealed, without asking for permission. Constitutional Carry legislation would still maintain the LTC system as an option for those who would like an LTC (for gun purchase and reciprocity), and it would still prohibit handgun carry by people who are prohibited from owning firearms.

How We Talk About This

- Texans shouldn't have to ask the state for permission to exercise their right to carry a handgun.
- Bans on carrying handguns were enacted in the Southern states during Reconstruction as a racist measure. But these bans were unequally enforced and were intended to keep newly freed black people from carrying guns. The elitist mindset behind this law is intolerable, and it's time to get rid of this Jim Crow-era law and move closer to "liberty and justice for all" by allowing handgun carry for all honest citizens. *(See Link #1.)*
- The majority of states don't require a license to carry a handgun in some form *(see map)*.
- Requiring a license hurts those who are poor, busy, rural, etc. It also keeps potential victims from being able to defend themselves right away. But it does nothing to stop criminals, because they are already determined to break the law.
- No criminal has ever said, "I want to go commit assault and murder – but I have to wait for my license to carry to come in." But every day, honest Texans who want to carry a gun simply to come home safe at night are forced to wait for their permit so they can carry legally.
- Violent crime rates generally go down within the five years after a state passes Constitutional Carry. *(See Link #2.)*
- Vermont has never required a license to carry, and it is consistently ranked as one of the safest states. In 2019, four out of the top five safest states were Constitutional Carry states (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Idaho). *(See Link #3.)*
- Repealing the training requirement does not endanger public safety. States that abandoned training requirements have found that people generally seek more training voluntarily, and public safety stays the same or gets better. *(See Link #4.)*

Constitutional Carry Map



Links:

1. *The Dark Secret of Jim Crow and the Racist Roots of Gun Control* by David Kopel, March 2011, in America's 1st Freedom (<http://davekopel.org/2A/Mags/dark-secret-of-jim-crow.html>). See also *The Racist Roots of Gun Control* by Clayton Kramer, Kansas Journal of Law & Public Policy, Winter 1995 (<https://njjat.com/JunePDFs/The%20Racist%20Roots%20of%20Gun%20Control.pdf>), *The Racist Origins of US Gun Control* by Steve Ekwall (<https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/media/29093/the-racist-origins-of-us-gun-control.pdf>), and "The Discriminatory History of Gun Control" by David Babat, 2009, Senior Honors Projects, Paper 140 (<http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/srhonorsprog/140>).
2. John Lott's PowerPoint presentation for Kentucky (from 2019, before Oklahoma and Kentucky passed Constitutional Carry): <https://crimeresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Kentuck-Constitutional-Carry-1.pptx>
3. US News safest states in 2019: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/crime-and-corrections/public-safety>
4. People voluntarily get training when it's not required: <https://crimeresearch.org/2016/12/concealed-carry-permit-holders-getting-training-even-isnt-required/> (See also "More Guns, Less Crime" by John Lott, pages 177-181, 226-227, 244-248.)

Bills – Constitutional Carry

Each of these four bills recognizes the right of those who can legally possess firearms to carry handguns, open or concealed, without a permit:



HB 1238 by Rep. Biedermann



HB 1927 by Rep. Schaefer



HB 2900 by Rep. Hefner



SB 540 by Sen. Springer

These two bills, if *both* passed, would achieve the same goal:



HB 821 by Rep. White (repeals extraneous License to Carry eligibility requirements)

HB 1587 by Rep. White (allows those who are eligible to apply for an LTC to carry without a permit)

	Current	HB 1238 & HB 2900	HB 1927	HB 1587	SB 540
Age	21+ (18+ if military)	18+	21+	21+ (18+ if military)	21+
Eligibility for Carry	LTC (see Gov. Code 411.172 list of 13 items, including not behind on taxes or child support)	those who can legally possess a firearm	those who can legally possess a firearm	those who are eligible to apply for an LTC* (see Gov. Code 411.172 for list of 13 items)	those who can legally possess a firearm
Prohibited Places	see Penal Code 46.03 and 46.035	same as current law	same as current; don't apply if you leave when asked	same as current law	same as current law
Private Business Ban Unlicensed Carry	N/A	30.06 or 30.07 notice	30.05 notice (defense to prosecution if you leave when asked)	30.05 notice (maximum Class C / \$200 fine if you leave when asked)	new 30.08 notice
Campus Carry	LTC	lawful gun owners	LTC	LTC	LTC
Foster Home Possession	LTC	lawful gun owners	LTC	lawful gun owners	LTC
Employee Parking Lot Possession	LTC	lawful gun owners	LTC	lawful gun owners	LTC
LCRA Property Carry	LTC	lawful gun owners	LTC	lawful gun owners	LTC

*NOTE: If HB 821 also passes (in addition to HB 1587), those who can legally own a firearm and aren't part of a criminal street gang would be eligible to carry without a permit.

Bills – Constitutional Carry-related



SJR 24 by Sen. Hall proposes to amend the TX Constitution so that the Legislature cannot require a citizen of this state to obtain a license or permit to wear arms.



HB 1094 by Rep. Oliverson would allow anyone over 18 who can legally possess a firearm and who is protected by a protective order or emergency restraining order to carry a handgun, open or concealed, without a license. It would also exempt such people from “gun-free” zones listed in Texas Penal Code 46.03 and 46.035.

See our updated bill list at txqoa.us/87r.

PRIORITY SUPPORT

Ending “Gun-Free” Zones

Government should not penalize honest Texans for being prepared to defend themselves

Current Law

Even those with a license to carry (LTC) may not carry handguns, either openly or concealed, in certain places. Those places include schools, polling places, government court or offices utilized by a court, racetracks, secured areas of airports, and within 1,000 feet of places of execution (from Texas Penal Code 46.03); and on the premises of places that derive 51% or more of their income from sale of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption (*e.g.*, bars); high school, collegiate, or professional sporting events; correctional facilities, hospitals and nursing homes (except with permission from the administration); civil commitment facilities; and government meetings that provide effective 30.06 and 30.07 notice (from Texas Penal Code 46.035). LTC holders also may not carry while intoxicated (Texas Penal Code 46.035).

An exception to the above is campus carry: LTC holders *may* carry concealed handguns onto the premises of a college or university, except in places where that establishment has provided effective 30.06 notice. A private college or university may post 30.06 notice anywhere. A public college or university may post 30.06 notice in specific places that it justifies to the legislature, if those places don't constitute a de facto ban.

Texas law provides additional options for carry in K-12 schools. First, an institution may allow carrying however it would like to by issuing a written authorization or a written regulation. The institution may choose to require that those who carry attend a 16-hour course developed by DPS; this is known as the Guardian program. Or, the institution may implement the School Marshal program, in which a few designated school employees attend an 80-hour training course and then are allowed to have handguns at the school. Marshals who interact with students regularly must store their handguns in a locked box. The School Marshal program also applies to junior colleges.

In addition to government-mandated “gun-free” zones, private business owners can also prohibit carrying in their establishments by providing effective 30.06 notice (to prohibit concealed carry) or 30.07 notice (to prohibit open carry). If notice is provided by signage, the signs must meet specific size and wording requirements to have the force of law (*see* Texas Penal Code 30.06 and 30.07).

GOA's Position

Texas should end all government-mandated “gun-free” zones and not penalize gun carry in specific locations. Specifically, we endorse School Carry legislation (allowing LTC holders to carry concealed in K-12 schools) and Designated Defender legislation (allowing those who are not intoxicated to carry in bars, similar to a designated driver who accompanies friends to a bar but remains sober). Business owners in Texas have the right to prohibit carry in their privately owned establishments and to ask those who carry to leave the premises, although this makes their establishments less safe. However, Texas should not criminally penalize a person for simply carrying past 30.06 or 30.07 signs.

How We Talk About Repealing "Gun-Free" Zones

- Around 94% of mass shootings since 1950 have occurred in places where ordinary, honest people weren't allowed to carry a gun for self-defense. Statistically, "gun-free" zones are not safe. (*See Link #1*).
- Someone intent on causing harm won't obey a law and a sign. "Gun-free" zones only make law-abiding citizens more vulnerable.
- Even a quick police response will be too late to stop an attacker from killing innocent victims. We have the best chance of saving our lives when we are able to respond to an attack with equal or greater force.
- New Hampshire does not prohibit carry in any location besides courthouses, and it is consistently ranked one of the top 3 safest states.
- A 2018 FBI Active Shooter Report presented data showing that armed citizens are extremely successful at stopping attackers and saving lives. (*See Link #2*).
- No Texan should have to break the law and risk a criminal charge for simply carrying a gun to be ready to defend herself or her family.
- In a 2013 study ordered by President Obama (*See Link #3*), the Centers for Disease Control found the following:
 - "Defensive use of guns by crime victims is a common occurrence."
 - "Almost all national survey estimates indicate that defensive gun uses by victims are at least as common as offensive uses by criminals, with estimates of annual [defensive gun] uses ranging from about 500,000 to more than 3 million, in the context of about 300,000 violent crimes involving firearms in 2008."
 - "... consistently lower injury rates among gun-using crime victims compared with victims who used other self-protective strategies. ..."
- A comprehensive 1985 study found that a majority of convicted felons were more afraid of encountering armed citizens than police and did not want to mess with those who carried a gun. (*See Link #4*.)
- The 9th Circuit court acknowledged that "an average of 657 Americans — and perhaps up to 6,849 Americans — use guns to defend themselves every single day of the year." (*See Link #5*).
- Let us be our own first defenders.

How We Talk About Designated Defender Law

- Repeal the 51% ban that currently prohibits handgun carry at places that make 51% or more of their income from alcohol to be served on premises — *i.e.*, bars, some festivals.
- It's already illegal to carry while intoxicated, and a Designated Defender law will not change that.
- Allow "designated carriers," similar to "designated drivers." If we're not intoxicated, let us carry.
- Multiple mass attacks have been carried out in bars. (*See Link #6*.) Gun bans didn't stop attackers from shooting and killing victims, but designated defenders, carrying legally, could have saved many lives.

How We Talk About School Carry

- Texas should expand campus carry to K-12 schools, so any LTC holder can carry concealed. This is fully consistent with current Federal law, which already provides that those who have a license to carry may carry within school zones if the state allows such carry.
- Children are one of our most vulnerable populations and deserve the greatest protection possible. Don't deny them a policy that could save their lives.
- Allowing armed citizens in schools is one of the most effective safety solutions and has zero cost to the state.
- The role of armed security or law enforcement is to go after a threat. We don't want to do that – we simply want to be able to defend ourselves and stay alive if the threat finds us.
- We do not advocate for forcibly arming teachers. However, any teachers, staff, coaches, volunteers, or parents who choose to carry on an everyday basis, and who want to carry in schools, should not be penalized for doing so.
- While active shooter training is desirable for those who are tasked with pursuing and engaging a shooter, gun owners with minimal training successfully defend themselves every day in the U.S. (*See Link #5.*)
- Four states allow all license holders to carry in schools statewide (Alabama, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Utah); many others have limited carry programs. No increases in crimes in schools have been attributed to these laws and policies allowing school carry. (*See Link #7.*)

Links

1. Mass Shootings in “gun-free” zones: <https://crimeresearch.org/2018/06/more-misleading-information-from-bloombergs-everytown-for-gun-safety-on-guns-analysis-of-recent-mass-shootings/>
2. *Armed Citizens Are Successful 94% Of the Time at Active Shooter Events* by Jacob Paulsen, September 18, 2018: <https://www.concealedcarry.com/news/armed-citizens-are-successful-95-of-the-time-at-active-shooter-events-fbi/>.
3. CDC Study on Defensive Gun Use: <https://www.nap.edu/read/18319/chapter/3#16>
4. *The Armed Criminal in America: A Survey of Incarcerated Felons* by James D. Wright & Peter H. Rossi, July 1985 (<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/Photocopy/97099NCJRS.pdf>).
5. *Duncan v. Becerra*, August 2020, page 40 (<https://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2020/08/14/19-55376.pdf>)
6. *Pulse is Not Alone: A Brief History of Attacks on Gay Clubs*, June 2016 (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2016/06/12/attacks-on-gay-clubs/85786224/>); see also *How a night out turned into a night of horror at a bar in California*, November 2018, <https://www.cnn.com/2018/11/09/us/california-thousand-oaks-shooting-how-it-unfolded/index.html>
7. State-by-state analysis of school carry: <https://crimeresearch.org/2018/03/states-allow-teachers-staff-carry-guns/>

Bills



SB 546 by Sen. Springer repeals "gun-free" zones (from Penal Code 46.03 and 46.035) for those who can lawfully carry handguns in public. As worded, the bill applies to LTC holders.



SB 514 by Sen. Hall allows those with a License to Carry (LTC) to carry concealed handguns inside taxpayer-funded K-12 schools. Prohibits those schools from banning carry by school employees.

See our updated bill list at txqoa.us/87r.

SUPPORT

Use-of-Force Protections

When our lives are threatened, we should be free to defend ourselves

Current Law

Deadly Force

In Texas, “deadly force” is defined as more than just an action that results in another person’s death. A weapon of deadly force can include a gun, a knife, a hammer, or even a person’s fists, particularly if the person is trained in fighting techniques. If the person using force intends to cause death or serious bodily injury or knows that the force could cause death or serious bodily injury, that counts as deadly force. Or, if the way that the person is using the force is capable of causing death or serious bodily injury, that also counts as deadly force. (See Texas Penal Code 9.01 (3)).

Texas law allows a person to use deadly force against another when and to the degree the person reasonably believes the deadly force is immediately necessary to protect against the other’s use or attempted use of unlawful deadly force. (See Texas Penal Code 9.32.) In other words, if someone is using unlawful deadly force against you, you are generally justified in using deadly force against that person if you must do so to protect yourself or a 3rd person – but you may only use as much force as you need to stop the threat.

A common way to think about this is to understand that, before you use deadly force, there must be ability, opportunity, and jeopardy. The attacker must have the physical ability to cause serious bodily injury or death (due to a weapon, special training, large size, or the number of companions). The attacker must have the opportunity to attack you – he must be close enough that you are in immediate danger. And you must be in jeopardy, which means that the attacker must be intent on causing you harm.

Also, a person is justified in using deadly force against another when and to the degree the person reasonably believes the deadly force is immediately necessary to protect against aggravated kidnapping, murder, sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, robbery, or aggravated robbery.

Texas law presumes that a person is justified in using deadly force if the attacker is forcibly entering the person’s occupied home, vehicle, or place of business.

Stand Your Ground & Castle Doctrine

Texas recognizes **Stand Your Ground**, which means that as long as you are in a place you have a right to be, you did not provoke the person against whom the deadly force is used, and are not engaged in criminal activity, you have no duty to retreat. (See Texas Penal Code 9.32 (e).) In fact, if you use deadly force and your case goes to court, a jury will be instructed to not consider whether you could or should have retreated for any reason. Stand Your Ground is a much stronger protection than states which recognize merely the **Castle Doctrine**. On top of some powerful legal presumptions, the Castle Doctrine laws say that you have no duty to retreat if you are in your own home (or sometimes on your own property), but do not apply when you are somewhere else.

Deadly Force to Protect Property

Texas allows the use of deadly force to protect your property in limited circumstances, including when and to the degree a person reasonably believes that deadly force is immediately necessary to prevent someone else's imminent commission of arson, burglary, robbery, aggravated robbery, theft during the nighttime, or criminal mischief during the nighttime – and only if the land or property cannot be protected or recovered by any other means, or the use of force other than deadly force to protect or recover the land or property would expose the person acting in defense or another to a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury.

GOA's Position

We support the existing provisions that allow Texans to use deadly force to defend themselves. We also support an expansion of use of force laws to ensure that Texans always are legally able to protect themselves, their families, and their property – including with a gun if necessary – if any attackers are intent on destroying them.

How We Talk About This

- Recently, the United States has seen significant rioting, arson, looting, and mob violence.
- Law enforcement is often blocked from responding or is stretched very thin and unable to respond in a timely manner to these situations.
- Often, a situation in which a burglar or violent mob starts with attacking property can spiral into murderous attacks on the lives of the people on that property.
- Families, businesses, and property owners have effectively used guns to stop criminals who were intent on destroying them, and to protect themselves.
- Texans should never have to worry about facing a criminal conviction and jail time simply for the choice to protect themselves, their families, their livelihoods, and their property with whatever level of force is necessary to stop a threat.

Bills



HB 796 by Rep. Phil King & SB 544 by Sen. Springer would add that deadly force is justifiable to protect against imminent commission of arson in an occupied home, building, or vehicle. It would also say that a threat to cause death or serious bodily injury by the exhibition of a weapon does not constitute deadly force, as long as the person exhibiting the weapon only intends to show that he will use deadly force if necessary. (Current law says “production” instead of “exhibition.”)



HB 196 by Rep. Meza would repeal “Stand Your Ground” Law, so that if you were anywhere except inside of your own home, you would have to try to retreat if possible before you could use deadly force to save your life.

See our updated bill list at txgoa.us/87r.

SUPPORT

Reducing Carry Regulations

Although our mission is to repeal the license requirement and end government-mandated “gun-free” zones for all honest Texans, we also support partial measures as a step in the right direction. For current law, GOA positions, and points on how to talk about these issues, please see the sections above on “Constitutional Carry” and “Ending ‘Gun-Free’ Zones.”

Bills



HB 55 by Rep. Swanson would authorize all school marshals to carry their handguns concealed on their person. **HB 781 by Rep. Sanford** does this for marshals at junior colleges. Currently, those who interact regularly with students must store their guns in locked containers.

- This is a positive step that will help protect students a little bit more.
- The safest place for the marshals to keep their guns is on their person, not locked away.
- For maximum safety and protection, we also must repeal the general ban on armed citizens in schools. See “Ending ‘Gun-Free’ Zone” and “How we talk about School Carry.”



HB 530 by Rep. Patterson would allow election judges who have an LTC to carry handguns in polling places. This lines up with Attorney General Paxton’s opinion KP-0212.



HB 821 by Rep. White would allow anyone who is 21 (or 18 if military) to obtain a License to Carry provided they can legally possess a firearm and they do not lie on their application. It would strike all the excessive additional requirements in Texas Government Code 411.172.

- Currently, those who are behind on taxes or child support, or clapped with a false arrest or bogus charge of disorderly conduct, are not allowed to apply for a license. If they already had a license, that license can be suspended or revoked. This bill fixes that problem.
- This bill helps more Texans stay safe, but we still want to repeal the license requirement.




HB 825 by Rep. Geren would eliminate the fee for an LTC. Currently, the fee is \$40. Although we still want to eliminate the license requirement, this bill will help more people be able to carry.





HB 854 by Rep. Burns would reduce the penalty for carrying a firearm into a hospital, nursing home, amusement park, or government meeting posted with a 30.06 or 30.07 sign. Currently, the penalty is a Class A. Under this bill, the penalty would be a Class C misdemeanor with a maximum fine of \$200, unless the person received oral notice to leave and refused to leave.





HB 918 by Rep. Leman would allow 18-20-year-olds to obtain a License to Carry if they are protected under a restraining order and meet all other requirements (besides age) to receive an LTC. Generally, those who are protected by such an order are already victims of family violence. We support the right to carry a handgun for all 18-year-olds who can legally own firearms. Those who are already victims are even more likely to need a gun to defend themselves.


-  **HB 956 by Rep. Dutton** would repeal the knife carry restrictions that currently prohibit knives with a blade over 5.5” from being carried into in 51% establishments, amusement parks, and churches or other places of worship.


-  **HB 1069 by Rep. Harris & HB 1499 by Rep. White** would create a First Responder Carry program. Currently, *volunteer* firefighter and EMS personnel who have an LTC can carry handguns while on the job, including in “gun-free” zones while carrying out their duties. These bills create a 20-hour training program that all firefighter and EMS personnel with an LTC could choose to attend.
 - Those who complete the training could carry handguns while on the job, solely for self-defense, including in “gun-free” zones. Employers could not prohibit carry at work.
 - HB 1069 also gives a defense to prosecution for carrying past 30.06 and 30.07 signs.
 - We support all honest Texans’ ability to defend themselves – including EMS personnel.


-  **HB 1407 by Rep. Schaefer** would clarify that a license holder does not need to conceal or wear her handgun in a motor vehicle if the handgun is in a holster.

-  **HB 1378 by Rep. Patterson** would repeal the “gun-free” zone carry ban for LTC holders in 51% locations *if* the establishment holds a food & beverage certificate from TABC, while **HB 1379 by Rep. Patterson & SB 549 by Sen. Springer** would allow carry in places that get under 60% of their income from sale or service of alcohol for on-premises consumption.
 - A 51% location is an establishment that makes 51% or more of its income from sale or service of alcohol for on-premises consumption – i.e., a bar.
 - LTC holders currently face a 3rd-degree felony for carrying in 51% locations.

-  **HB 1548 by Rep. Cecil Bell** would declare that a private business owner cannot be held liable merely because he or she allows carry or does not prohibit carry on the property.

-  **HB 1788 by Rep. Hefner & SB 534 by Sen. Hughes** would release schools from liability for damages resulting from their decision to allow armed security or armed citizens on campus or from the reasonable actions of those armed people. It would release security personnel and legally armed citizens from liability for damages resulting from their reasonable actions involving the use of a firearm. This bill may encourage more school districts to choose to allow carry.

-  **HB 1856 by Rep. Hefner & SB 637 by Sen. Hughes** would stop hotels from prohibiting guests with an LTC from carrying firearms and ammunition between their hotel rooms and vehicles or storing firearms and ammunition in their rooms or vehicles on hotel property. Hotels could still require that handguns be carried concealed, or that firearms and ammunition be carried in a case or bag.

-  **SB 550 by Sen. Springer** would remove the "belt or shoulder" holster requirement for open carry, allowing LTC holders to carry openly (visibly) in any holster.

See our updated bill list at txqoa.us/87r.

OPPOSE

Further Infringing on the Right to Carry

Adding “Gun-Free” Zones

See “Ending ‘Gun-Free’ Zones” section, above, for current law and points on how to talk about this issue.



HB 127 by Rep. Ortega & HB 213 by Rep. Bernal would prohibit open carry of long guns except on your property or property under your control, in or en route to your vehicle or boat. HB 127 allows carry on another’s property with consent; HB 213 gives only a defense to prosecution.



HB 201 by Rep. Meza & HB 1769 by Rep. Anchia would effectively repeal campus carry by allowing public universities and colleges to fully opt-out of concealed carry on campuses.



HB 791 by Rep. Goodwin & HB 311 by Sen. Eckhardt would ban display of any firearm at a public demonstration. A “demonstration” would include one person making a speech, marching, or otherwise expressing his or her views in a way that could attract onlookers.



HB 1768 by Rep. Anchia would ban carry on the grounds of schools, colleges and small amusement parks.



HB 1857 by Rep. Anchia would ban carry in any indoor or outdoor arena, stadium, golf course, automobile racetrack, amphitheater, auditorium, theater, museum, zoo, botanical garden, civic center, or convention center.

Increasing Carry Regulations



HB 236 by Rep. Bernal would require 30.06 and 30.07 signs to be 8.5" x 11" or smaller, repealing the requirement of 1" lettering.



HB 603 by Rep. Meza would keep Texas from honoring any other state’s carry license.



HB 1772 by Rep. Anchia would ban carry in private businesses who post a “gunbuster” sign with a short sentence (instead of the full 30.06 / 30.07 language and large sign currently required).

Repealing Preemption

Our statewide preemption laws prohibit state and local entities from regulating firearm possession, transfer, transportation, or carry more than state law does. (For details, see Local Government Code Sections 229 & 336.)



HB 238 by Rep. Meza would repeal statewide preemption laws.



HB 1770 by Rep. Anchia would allow 10% of voters in municipalities with a population over 750,000 to force an election for voters to decide whether to ban open carry of handguns.



HB 1776 by Rep. Anchia would allow governmental entities to ban carry in government-owned buildings while the buildings are leased or occupied by others.

See our updated bill list at txgoa.us/87r.

Section Two

Our Right to Keep Arms

We Support:

- Protection Against Federal Infringements
 - 2nd Amendment Sanctuary
 - "Made in Texas"
 - Anti-"Red Flag" Law
- Repeal of Emergency Powers
- Suppressor Freedom
- Curtailing "No-Knock" Raids

We Oppose:

- "Red Flag" Gun Confiscation
- Universal Background Checks
- Gun Show Restrictions
- Storage & Access Regulations
- Bans on Commonly-Used Firearms & Normal-Capacity Magazines
- Restrictions on Transfer & Possession



SUPPORT

Protection Against Federal Infringements

General Discussion

It's no secret that the Federal government has been steadily eroding our ability to legally keep and bear arms through Congressional legislation, agency regulation, and executive overreach. Although Gun Owners of America fights back hard against these infringements and works to restore our liberties at the Federal level, GOA also supports states taking measures to push back against Federal infringement.

We acknowledge that many of these measures may face legal challenges, and we recognize that part of our battle for our rights must be fought in the courts. Our legal arm, Gun Owners Foundation, has supported litigation to protect our constitutional right to keep and bear arms for decades and will continue to do so.

Even with a favorable judicial decision, none of these laws can be counted on to fully protect our rights. Ultimately, no words on paper can give such protection. The Second Amendment itself states that “the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed,” and yet that right still has been infringed throughout the history of our country.

Most Texas bills state that Texas will not participate in or enforce a particular category of Federal laws or rules, enacted within a certain timeframe and/or applying to a certain subject matter. Some legislation from other states allow state leadership to decide what constitutes an infringement. No bills give an individual gun owner executive power to declare that he is not legally obligated to follow a particular regulation.

So, it should be clear that the success of this type of legislation depends on application and enforcement. The battle for our rights does not end when we pass any of these bills. Still, we believe that these measures are a helpful and beneficial path to protecting our rights, and we strongly support passage of these bills.

How We Talk About This

- With the Federal government declaring war on gun owners, the time for Texas to stand and protect our rights is NOW.
- Even though these bills may be challenged in court, the Texas legislature, as a co-equal branch of government, must demonstrate its resolve to protect the constitutional rights of all Texans from federal infringement.
- The Interstate Commerce Clause of the Constitution– the clause that Congress uses to regulate virtually anything, including guns, on the basis that they affect interstate commerce – has been read too broadly for far too long. It's time to turn the tide and push back on Congress' attempts to regulate everything.
- In the 1997 case of *Printz v. United States*, the Supreme Court held that the Federal government could *not* compel states to enforce their laws for them. They could give a carrot or stick but couldn't force states to enforce federal laws.

Second Amendment Sanctuary Legislation

These bills prohibit Texas from using its personnel or resources to enforce Federal gun-grab regulations.



HB 112 by Rep. Toth & SB 513 by Sen. Hall would prohibit state & local government entities from enforcing or adopting a policy allowing the enforcement of any Federal statute, rule, order, or regulation enacted on or after January 1, 2021 that regulates a firearm, accessory, or ammunition and does not exist in Texas law.

- The bill would apply to any agency, department, commission, bureau, board, office, council, court, or other entity that is in any branch of state government and that is created by the Constitution or a statute of this state, including a university system or a system of higher education; the governing body of a municipality, county, or special district or authority; an officer, employee, or other body that is part of a municipality, county, or special district or authority, including a sheriff, municipal police department, municipal attorney, or county attorney; and a district attorneys or criminal district attorney.
- Any department or agency that violates this provision shall not receive state grant funds.
- Texans could petition the Attorney General to force the department or agency to stop.
- Individual officers or other personnel could face a Class A Misdemeanor for violation.



HB 635 by Rep. Krause & SB 541 by Sen. Springer would prohibit state & local agencies and law enforcement from assisting Federal agencies or officials in enforcing any Federal statute, order, rule, or regulation on firearms, accessories, or ammunition that does not also exist in Texas law.

- Any department or agency that violates this provision shall not receive state grant funds.
- Texans could petition the Attorney General to force the department or agency to stop.
- If the Federal government sued any state or local agency because it complied with this law, the Attorney General would be required to defend that agency.
- SB 541 applies only to laws & regulations enacted on or after January 19, 2021.
- HB 635 applies to all laws & regulations, past and present, except state agreements to help Federal agents enforce border security laws or regulations that are in effect on August 31, 2021.



HB 919 by Rep. Leman & SB 499 by Sen. Kolkhorst are nearly identical to HB 112 by Rep. Toth, above, except that they:

- Apply to statutes, rules, orders, or regulations enacted after September 1, 2021
- Do not include a Class A Misdemeanor penalty for personnel who violate the law

“Made in Texas” Legislation



HB 915 by Rep. Krause & SB 542 by Sen. Springer would declare that firearms and ammunition manufactured in Texas from Texas parts, and sold in Texas, are not subject to Federal regulations. A person who wishes to manufacture “Made in Texas” items can let the Texas Attorney General know his or her intentions, and then the AG must seek a declaratory judgment on the Constitutionality of this law.

- Because we are in Texas, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals would hear an appeal on the declaratory judgment, and then the parties could ask the United States Supreme Court to hear a further appeal.
- The Fifth Circuit has not yet issued a ruling on a case like this. Other cases have come through the more liberal Ninth and Tenth circuit courts, which have repeatedly failed to uphold 2nd Amendment rights.
- The last time the Supreme Court had the opportunity to hear a similar case, it refused to hear the case – as it has with many Second Amendment cases. However, the Supreme Court makeup has changed since that time and now includes additional justices who are more likely to uphold gun rights and general liberties.
- This bill is distinct from laws in other states (*e.g.*, Kansas, Montana) because it gives a way for someone to secure a court judgment that upholds this law *before* the person manufactures such items.

Anti-Red Flag Law Legislation



HB 336 by Rep. Cain & SB 548 by Sen. Springer would keep Texas out of any Federal Red Flag scheme and would prohibit any entity in this state from enforcing a "Red Flag" gun confiscation law not enacted by our state legislature.

- It says that state and municipal agencies, commissions, and entities may not implement orders that prohibit possession of firearms based on something other than someone's criminal conduct.
- It nullifies any Federal law or regulation to implement a red flag law that violates due process, right to keep and bear arms, or free speech.
- It prohibits Texas from accepting any Federal grant money intended to incentivize such implementation.
- Note that no legislature can prohibit a subsequent legislature from passing a piece of legislation. So, the Texas Legislature cannot pass a bill prohibiting the Texas Legislature from ever passing a “red flag” law. However, we can prohibit local entities from trying to implement it on their own, and we can keep Texas out of a “red flag” law passed by Congress.

Suppressor Freedom Legislation

See “Suppressor Freedom” section, below.

See our updated bill list at txqoa.us/87r.

PRIORITY SUPPORT

Repeal of Emergency Powers

Current Law

Texas law says that, during a declared disaster or state of emergency, the Governor of Texas may suspend or limit sales or transportation of firearms and ammunition. The Governor may issue a directive that controls the sale, transportation, and use of weapons and ammunition, and that controls the storage, use, and transportation of explosives or flammable materials “considered dangerous to public safety.”

GOA’s Position


We must repeal the governor’s ability to regulate and restrict our gun rights during an emergency. Also, we should pass a Constitutional Amendment to the Texas Constitution to ensure that a future legislature can’t simply change its mind.


Note: To amend the Texas Constitution, the House and Senate must each approve the measure with a 2/3 vote. Then, Texas voters must approve it by a majority vote at the following November election.


How We Talk About This


- Although we’re glad the current governor did not use his available power to restrict our ability to use and carry firearms during the recent disaster declarations, we shouldn’t have to rely on a governor’s goodwill.
- A governor should not have the power to take away such an essential liberty.
- During the time of a disaster, it is especially critical for Texans to be able to defend themselves.
- *(See also previous topics showing how important it is for us to be able to use firearms to stay safe.)*

Bills

 **HB 1500 by Rep. Hefner & SB 18 by Sen. Creighton** repeal the Governor’s ability to regulate or control firearms during a disaster or state of emergency as mentioned above in “Current Law;” repeal municipalities’ ability to regulate the use of firearms, air guns, or knives in the case of an insurrection, riot, or natural disaster; and prohibit the Governor from using an emergency directive to prohibit or restrict the business or operations of a firearms or ammunition manufacturer, distributor, wholesaler, supplier, or retailer or a sport shooting range.

 **HB 26 by Rep. Swanson & SB 547 by Sen. Springer** repeal all the Governor’s powers to regulate or control firearms during a disaster or state of emergency as mentioned above in “Current Law.”

 **HB 340 by Rep. Cain, HB 629 by Rep. White, & HB 1690 by Rep. Tinderholt** repeal the Governor’s ability to issue a directive during a disaster or state of emergency as mentioned above in “Current Law.”

 **HJR 40 by Rep. White** proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to remove a Governor’s power to suspend or limit the sale or transportation of firearms.

See our updated bill list at txgoa.us/87r.

PRIORITY SUPPORT

Suppressor Freedom

Current Law

Currently, to own a suppressor, you must comply with an onerous set of Federal rules and regulations that include a \$200 tax stamp and a lengthy wait – sometimes over a year. Also, separately, the State of Texas criminalizes owning a suppressor outside of those regulations.

GOA's Position

Texans should be able to manufacture, sell, possess, and use firearm suppressors without having to jump through government registration hoops and pay a tax. Although we are fighting at the Federal level to ultimately repeal the burdensome regulations on suppressors, in the meantime, Texas can act. Texas should repeal the state law that requires suppressor owners and manufacturers to comply with all Federal laws. Instead, the state should statutorily exempt suppressors that are manufactured in Texas and remain within Texas from all Federal laws and regulations. The state should also defend any Texan who falls under the exemption in Texas law.

How We Talk About This

What is a suppressor?

- A traditional firearm suppressor fits onto the end of a firearm and functions a lot like a muffler on a car or a dirt bike.
- Suppressors are a safety tool. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) even *recommends* that people use a suppressor for safety reasons.
(See www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2013-0124-3208.pdf.)

How loud is a suppressed gunshot?

- A suppressor does not silence a gun. It merely muffles the sound of a gun enough to reduce the risk of permanent hearing damage.
- Without a suppressor, an average gunshot is around 160 decibels, and even one shot can cause permanent hearing damage. Adding a suppressor brings the decibel level down to the mid-130's, which is just under the occupational hazard limit of 140 decibels set by the CDC.
- Internationally, even in countries with severe regulations on gun ownership, suppressors are not regulated. In fact, many of them consider it rude to shoot without a suppressor.

Who uses suppressors?

- We don't see much evidence of criminals using suppressors. Why would a criminal want to go to the trouble of adding something to a gun that's makes it bigger, heavier, less concealable, and only reduces the sound about 30 decibels?
- So, who does use suppressors? People who shoot guns and don't want to end up with hearing loss. Hunters, so they can communicate more easily with others around them. Recreational shooters, to avoid being a nuisance for the surrounding area.

- Suppressors particularly help children to shoot more safely by protecting their hearing, reducing the recoil, and making the firearm overall easier to control.

Can Texas legally do this?

Under the bills listed below, a Texas individual or business who wanted to create “Made in Texas” suppressors would not have to risk prosecution to pursue a court judgment upholding this law.

- This bill is distinct from similar laws in other states (*e.g.*, Kansas, Montana) because it gives a way for someone to secure a declaratory judgment – that is, a court judgment *before* the person manufactures such items – upholding this law.
- Because we are in Texas, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals would hear an appeal on the declaratory judgment, and then the parties could ask the United States Supreme Court to hear a further appeal.
- The Fifth Circuit has not yet issued a ruling on a case like this. Other cases have come through the more liberal Ninth and Tenth circuit courts, which have repeatedly failed to uphold 2nd Amendment rights.
- The last time the Supreme Court had the opportunity to hear a similar case, it refused to hear the case – as it has with many Second Amendment cases. However, the Supreme Court makeup has changed since that time and now includes additional justices who are more likely to uphold gun rights and general liberties.

This bill is distinct from laws in other states (*e.g.*, Kansas, Montana) because it gives a way for someone to secure a court judgment that upholds this law *before* the person manufactures such items.

See also the section on *Protection from Federal Infringement*, above.

Bills



HB 957 by Rep. Oliverson & SB 543 by Sen. Springer would declare that firearm suppressors manufactured in Texas from Texas parts, and sold in Texas (“Made in Texas” suppressors), are not subject to Federal regulations.

- The bills would repeal the Texas law requirement to follow Federal law on suppressors and prohibit state entities and personnel from enforcing Federal suppressor regulations.
- A person who wishes to manufacture “Made in Texas” suppressors can let the Texas Attorney General know his or her intentions, and then the AG must seek a declaratory judgment from a court on the Constitutionality of this law. (*See “Can Texas legally do this?”, above.*)

See our updated bill list at txqoa.us/87r.

SUPPORT

Curtailing “No-Knock” Raids

General Discussion

4th Amendment: Knock & Announce

It is a foundational Fourth Amendment principle that, when executing a warrant, the police must knock and announce their presence and purpose, and allow a homeowner the time to let them in. This principle is designed to preserve a person’s life (so he is not accidentally shot), his property (his front door), and his dignity (if, for example, he is in the shower). Only if the police have “exigent circumstances” has the Supreme Court permitted entry without knocking.

GOA history: Quinn v. Texas

Long-time gun rights activists may remember GOA and Gun Owners Foundation’s amicus brief in *Quinn v. Texas*, where we challenged police for justifying their use of a “no-knock” home invasion simply on the basis that the occupant owned a firearm.

In *Quinn v. Texas*, John Quinn was asleep in his bed when Texas police broke down his door in the middle of the night, and shot him when he reached for a weapon, thinking his home was being invaded. The police were there to serve a search warrant for his son, Brian, who they knew was not at home at the time, but whom they suspected of dealing drugs.

The only justification for the “no-knock” raid that police gave was that John Quinn owned a firearm. The police claimed that firearms ownership was enough to present a danger to law enforcement, even though they knew John Quinn had a concealed carry permit — meaning the state of Texas had pronounced him to be a safe, law-abiding citizen.

Our amicus brief pointed out that the police dispensed with the Fourth Amendment and executed a no-knock raid for the sole reason that Quinn had chosen to exercise his Second Amendment rights to keep a firearm in his home for self-defense.

View GOA’s amicus brief from [Quinn v. Texas](https://bit.ly/quinntx) at bit.ly/quinntx

GOA’s Position

“No-knock” warrants were promised to be a rare exception to the common law requirement that police serving a warrant “knock and announce” themselves. However, over the years, the exception has swallowed the rule. Texans should not have to live in constant apprehension that the police may decide to batter down their door in the middle of the night to serve warrants for relatively minor offenses, or simply because the police got the wrong address. We will continue to fight against the normalization and regular use of ‘no-knock’ raids for nonviolent offenses that can jeopardize innocent life.

How We Talk About This

- “No-knock” warrants have been known to needlessly put both law enforcement and honest citizens in harm’s way.
- Our society is one where no-knock raids — supposedly the exception — have become the rule, due to aggressive, militaristic policing and permissive courts. Often, innocent people and even family pets defending their homes are caught up in the crossfire when police make mistakes.
- Having a rule where the police can break down a person’s front door simply because he may keep a firearm inside is simply intolerable.
- The fact that police have probable cause to obtain a search warrant does not mean a person’s 4th Amendment rights against unreasonable searches and seizures are void.

Bills



HB 492 by Rep. Wu, HB 1272 by Rep. Crockett, and SB 175 by Sen. Miles would prohibit a magistrate from issuing a warrant authorizing no-knock entry. This would require officers to give notice of the officer’s authority or purpose before entering.



HB 579 by Rep. Dutton would establish uniform procedures for SWAT teams, limit their use to imminent threats, and specify that “the existence of a legally owned firearm in the home of an individual does not in itself constitute evidence of an imminent threat,” thus limiting the use of SWAT in raids on gun owners.

See our updated bill list at txqoa.us/87r.

**"THE PHRASE 'GUN VIOLENCE' MAY
NOT BE INVOKED AS A TALISMANIC
INCANTATION TO JUSTIFY ANY
EXERCISE OF STATE POWER."**

**HON. ROGER T. BENITEZ IN DUNCAN V. BECERRA,
JUNE 2017, ORDER AFFIRMED BY THE
9TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS**

OPPOSE

“Red Flag” Gun Confiscation

Government must not terminate gun rights based on “thought crime.”

Note: “Red Flag” laws are also sometimes called “Extreme Risk Protective Orders,” or “ERPOs.”

General Discussion

Existing Texas law provides a variety of potential judicial orders intended to restrain dangerous actors from violent or harmful behavior. These include Magistrate’s Temporary Protective Orders, Family Violence Protective Orders, and Mental Health Commitments. These orders generally require a finding of criminal conduct such as domestic violence – or at least an allegation and evidence of a criminal act.

In the past several years, multiple other states have adopted a new type of order: the “red flag” law, also called an Extreme Risk Protective Order: (ERPO). These “red flag” gun confiscation orders provide for government to prohibit someone from owning guns before they have committed a crime, and without an allegation of a criminal act. A judge can slap on a “red flag” order and suspend a person’s gun rights simply based on someone’s allegations that the person has mental health issues, owns guns, and is a danger to herself or others.

In other words, a “red flag” law allows the government to take away your guns before you’ve committed a crime—on the basis of “thought crime.”

A “red flag” law has two poison pills. First, it lowers the threshold for removing a person’s gun rights. It allows someone’s guns to be removed without convicting or even charging them with any crime, and without proper and full adjudication of being mentally incompetent. Second, it removes procedural protections. Typically, “red flag” laws allow an *ex parte* hearing – which means a judge can issue a gun confiscation order against someone without that person being present or even knowing about the allegations. It also dispenses with traditional protections such as the right to have an attorney, cross-examine the accuser, and appeal.

Bills that simply make it easier for someone to accuse a gun owner of being dangerous are not actually “red flag” laws because they do not have a provision to allow the government to take away gun rights based on those accusations. The same goes for legislation that makes it easier for government to pull information on gun owners from social media or other sources for “threat assessment.” However, these bills *would* make it much easier to implement a “red flag” law.

GOA’s Position

Texans should not have to worry that their ability to legally possess a firearm could be taken away based on allegations that they may be a danger to themselves or others or that they are mentally unfit. The state cannot properly force a person to forfeit his or her gun rights unless the person has committed a violent crime and been duly convicted of that crime or has been properly adjudicated as mentally incompetent with full due process.

How We Talk About This

- "Red Flag" gun confiscation laws would result in decreased freedom without increasing safety.
- Courts could order firearm confiscation without even probable cause of a crime being committed. Gun owners would then be forced to defend themselves in court, spending thousands of dollars in legal fees, to get their rights back. Orr, worse, they could be unaware of any proceedings until law enforcement shows up at their door to take away their guns.
- Texas police officers already have tools at their disposal to detain dangerous individuals not otherwise engaged in criminal activity and seize firearms while still preserving due process. See Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 573.
- The standard of "risk" or "potential danger" is too low for a person's Constitutional right to keep and bear arms to be hampered. It sets a dangerous precedent for lowering the threshold to strip people of other Constitutional rights.
- Our justice system is supposed to prosecute and punish people who have broken an actual law, not those who are thought to be likely to commit a crime in the future. Wading into predictive judicial action is very dangerous.
- If a person is demonstrably dangerous enough to rightfully warrant stripping of Constitutional rights, that person should be removed from society. It does not solve the problem of public safety to merely remove one particular weapon that the person might own.
- There is high potential for abuse under Red Flag type concepts – either by those who want to cause trouble for someone, or by those who are irrationally afraid of gun ownership.
- Many other states have rejected Red Flag type proposals – and with good reason. At the time of writing, the list of failed Red Flag proposals included Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Utah.
- This idea builds on the false premise that we can stop evil, and it seeks to improve safety by removing one tool. But our judicial system is supposed to err on the side of not punishing those who may be innocent – there is a high standard for denial of rights.
- Considering that hundreds or thousands of Americans use firearms every single day to defend themselves and protect their lives, this type of move to ban firearms based on suspicions is likely to wrongly remove firearms, leaving us less safe and more vulnerable.
- Instead of looking only at law enforcement-based solutions, look at reducing barriers for everyday Texans who are teachers and volunteers in schools to be able to carry a firearm if they choose. Let's find solutions that increase safety without reducing freedom.

Bills



HB 164 by Rep. Meza, HB 395 by Rep. Moody, & SB 110 by Sen. West would enact a full-fledged "red flag" law based on model legislation from the most egregious gun confiscation organizations, including everything described in the "*General Discussion*" section above.

See our updated bill list at txqoa.us/87r.

OPPOSE

Expanded or Universal Background Checks

Government should not hinder us from buying or selling personal property

General Discussion

Federal Law

Currently, Federal law requires that someone with a Federal Firearms License (FFL) must conduct a background check before transferring a gun to someone. A transfer can include selling, loaning, giving, etc. So, if you buy a gun from a gun store, pawn shop, or other similar establishment, you must submit to a background check.

In Texas (and many states), these background checks are run by the FBI. In some states, called *point of contact states*, a state agency will collaborate with the FBI to help run the check.

State Law

Texas does not currently require a background check on private gun sales. You can freely transfer your own property as you wish. However, you may not sell or transfer a gun to someone who is prohibited from possessing a firearm, if you are aware that the person who intends to use it unlawfully, is intoxicated, is restrained by a protective order, or has been convicted of a felony (with time limitations). (See full listing at Texas Penal Code 46.06.)

However, some states require background checks for any private gun sale or transfer – for example, if you wanted to sell a gun to a friend, you would have to go to a gun store (or an FFL holder) and pay for them to run a background check on the buyer. This policy is known as **Universal Background Checks**, or, if it requires checks on only some private gun sales, **Expanded Background Checks**.

GOA's Position

Gun Owners of America opposes background checks because they are unconstitutional infringements of the rights protected by the Second Amendment. Background checks do not stop criminals from getting guns, but they do cost innocent civilians their lives.

While the Federal government continues to mandate background checks, we oppose a state becoming a “point of contact state,” in which that state gains access to all the information of those who are receiving background checks and can add to the bureaucratic nightmare of delays. We also oppose any state law expansion of background checks – for example, mandating checks on private gun sales.

How We Talk About This

Background checks are inherently infringements.

It's wrong for the government to require a background check before any gun purchase – it's like considering someone guilty before proven innocent and making them prove that they're worthy to exercise their right.

Background checks accidentally keep the good guys from buying guns.

Most background check denials are mistakes. (See bit.ly/334ZXIk.) The National Instant Criminal Background Check system is already a mess; nearly 95% of denials are false positives. So, expanded checks are more likely to keep guns away from the law-abiding than from criminals.

The global pandemic showed huge weakness in the system. The FBI's work was delayed, and checks -- that are supposed to be instant -- suddenly took days, weeks, or even over a month to process. Meanwhile, honest Texans were waiting for their guns – during a time of increased rioting and violence, when we most needed to be able to purchase guns for our protection.

Background checks hurt minorities.

Minorities are wrongly denied disproportionately to others. People are often denied because their names sound or look similar to the names of the actual criminals who are banned from guns.

*“These mistakes affect certain racial groups more than others. Hispanics are more likely to share names with other Hispanics; the same is true of blacks. Because 30 percent of black males have criminal records that prevent them from buying guns, **law-abiding African-American men more often have their names confused with those of prohibited people.**” (John Lott, bit.ly/2QdUj21)*

Background checks hurt veterans.

Over 250,000 veterans who need help handling their finances were added to NICS even though their disabilities likely shouldn't preclude gun ownership.

Background checks create a gun registry.

Requiring background checks for private sales cannot effectively be accomplished without creating a gun registry. Gun owners stand strong against any move toward a gun registry.

Background checks don't stop criminals.

Evil hearts are the problem, not gun ownership. Criminals will still find ways to get guns: straw purchases, other illegal purchases, stealing, even stealing from police — or they'll use other weapons for their crimes.

*“In my book, [The War on Guns](http://TheWarOnGuns.com), I find **states with these background checks experienced an increase of 15 percent in per capita rates of mass public shooting fatalities.** They also saw a **38 percent increase in the injury rate.** Nor is there evidence that expanded background checks reduce rates of any type of violent crime, including mass public shootings, suicide, the murder of police officers and domestic violence against women.” (John Lott, bit.ly/2QdUj21)*

Bills

The following bills would require background checks for all private gun sales and transfers, with very limited exceptions for transfers to relatives. Class A or Class B misdemeanor for each offense.



HB 118 by Rep. Ortega



HB 218 by Rep. Meza*



HB 606 by Rep. Goodwin / SB 242 by Sen. Eckhardt



SB 163 by Sen. Blanco

*In addition, **HB 218** would:

- prohibit selling more than 5 firearms a year if you don't have an FFL (Class C misdemeanor for violation; exceptions for relatives)
- require firearm owners to keep documentation of every single private sale or transfer; documentation includes the name, DL# or other ID#, serial number, and contact info of buyer and seller (or transferor & transferee)



HCR 16 by Reynolds would urge the United States Congress to pass a federal law requiring universal background checks for all firearm sales. This is a resolution, which would have no force of law but can be used to sway Congress.

See our updated bill list at txqoa.us/87r.

**NO DECENT CITIZEN SHOULD EVER
HAVE THEIR RIGHTS PUT ON HOLD.**

**IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE VERSUS
DEATH.**

**ERICH PRATT, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF
GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA**

(See <https://gunowners.org/news06032016/>.)

OPPOSE

Gun Show Restrictions

General Discussion

Due to existing Federal regulations, if you are purchasing a gun from a gun dealer (including at a gun show), you must submit to a background check. However – at gun shows or anywhere else – a private individual can sell a privately-owned firearm without requiring the buyer to undergo a background check.

Gun confiscation radicals have often used the term "gun show loophole" to demonize gun shows and insinuate that gun sales at gun shows create a more dangerous society. They want to end your ability to freely buy and sell personal property in this manner, and they want to place extreme limitations and bureaucratic nightmare regulations on gun shows.

See section on "Background Checks," above, for additional discussion and points on how to talk about this issue.

GOA's Position

Texans should enjoy the ability to freely transfer their personal property – including firearms – at the location of their choice, including at a gun show. Background checks and regulatory burdens on gun shows do not keep weapons out of the hands of criminals; they only make it more difficult for the vulnerable to defend themselves.

Bills

Each of these bills would ban private sales of guns at gun shows, in addition to adding severe regulations to gun shows. Specifically, they would:

- Define "gun show" as any place besides a retail store where 3 or more people assemble to show or sell guns or gun parts to the public
- Require a 30-day notice to be given to authorities before such an event can occur, with a Class A misdemeanor for violation
- Require background checks for all gun sales that happen in those settings, including private sales.



HB 52 by Rep. Reynolds



HB 245 by Rep. Bernal



HB 760 by Rep. Goodwin



HB 1765 by Rep. Anchia

See our updated bill list at txgoa.us/87r.

OPPOSE

Storage & Access Regulations

General Discussion

Texas law generally criminalizes allowing a child to access a readily dischargeable firearm. Specifically, this penalty would apply if a child – defined as anyone under 17 years old – gains access to a readily dischargeable firearm, and the person failed to secure the firearm (for example, in a safe or with a trigger lock) or left the firearm in a place to which the person knew or should have known the child would gain access. A readily dischargeable firearm is any firearm that is loaded with ammunition, regardless of whether there is a round in the chamber. (See Texas Penal Code 46.13.)

If a child does gain access to a person’s gun, that person could face a Class C misdemeanor; however, if the child actually used the gun to cause serious bodily injury or death to herself or someone else, the gun owner could face a Class A misdemeanor.

There are a few exceptions – for example, if a child is at a shooting range under the supervision of an adult. However, the exceptions are listed as “defenses to prosecution.” So, you could still be charged and go to jail, and it would be your responsibility to show (at trial) that you qualify for one of these defenses. (See Texas Penal Code 46.13).

Currently, Texas law does not mandate firearm storage other than through these child access laws. However, in 2019, the Texas Legislature did pass a budget rider that appropriated one million taxpayer dollars to DPS for a public awareness campaign. DPS has used the money to run ads insinuating that gun owners must always keep their guns locked up, and that any other storage is irresponsible. These ads are being used to change public opinion about guns and to stigmatize gun ownership.

GOA’s Position

Texans’ lives depend on their ability to have ready access to their firearms. Texans must take responsibility to be well-trained and able to use their firearms safely and accurately if needed. It is up to an individual gun owner to decide how to store firearms, and it is up to parents to decide how and when to allow their children access to firearms. The government has no place in regulating firearm storage or child access to firearms, and any attempt to do so – or to turn public opinion against firearms – could cost lives.

How We Talk About This

Gun storage is an individual responsibility – not a “one-size-fits-all” legislative bill.

- Gun storage is important, but it’s not simply about locking up your guns. The principle is to control access to your gun — make sure you have access when you need it, and make sure unauthorized people never have access.
- It’s the place of parents – not government – to decide when children are ready to learn to use firearms, and there is not a one-size-fits-all-solution.
- Storage laws or regulations beg the question of whether our homes are subject to being searched based on a tip that our firearms are not stored in a safe.

Gun storage laws and regulations are dangerous.

- “Safe storage” laws don’t reduce rates of crime, suicide, or accidental death. The National Research Council found that some gun control policies may reduce suicide by gun, but do not reduce overall suicides. These policies don’t save lives. (nap.edu/read/10881/chapter/9#192)
- John Lott and John Whitley found no support that safe-storage laws reduce juvenile gun deaths or suicides. Instead, they prevent people from defending themselves and increase violent and property crimes against law-abiding citizens. (bit.ly/37vusfb)
- Trigger locks are especially dangerous as they are very difficult to take off quickly if you need ready access to your firearm to save your life. Attackers won’t wait. Attackers don’t show up with locks on their guns, they show up ready to attack.
- Guns are a valuable tool to save your life, and Americans use guns to defend themselves hundreds to thousands of times every single day. (bit.ly/3k4Xc3i, page 40)
- Don’t discourage Texans from having access to a gun they might need to save their lives, and don’t mislead Texans about what will actually keep them safe.

See also “Constitutional Carry” and “Ending ‘Gun-Free’ Zones” sections.

Texans of all ages successfully use guns to save lives.

- In 2020, a 13-year-old boy in Brownwood saved his grandma’s life when he shot an attacker who was actively assaulting her. (bit.ly/3k39N7d)
- Two teenagers near saved their mom’s life because they were able to retrieve a gun and shoot her boyfriend who was choking her. (bit.ly/2M9BWNm)
- But unfortunately, 14-year-old Jessica Carpenter had to watch her two younger siblings get stabbed to death by a madman with a pitchfork. She was well trained in firearms, but she couldn’t access her family’s guns because they were locked up due to California’s “safe storage” laws. (gunowners.org/op0132/)

Bills



HB 693 by Rep. Moody deals with children’s access to firearms (see discussion above on Texas Penal Code 46.13). It raises the penalty to a Third Degree felony if someone allows a child to gain access (as described in Penal Code 46.13) and the child causes serious bodily injury or death to someone who does not live with the child.

It also:

- Raises the child access age from 17 to 18. **We OPPOSE this.**
- Adds an exception to the child access ban if the parent or guardian authorized the firearm use and it was for hunting, sporting, or other lawful purposes. An exception is a much stronger protection than the current defense to prosecution. **We SUPPORT this language.**

OPPOSE

Bans on Commonly-Used Firearms or Normal-Capacity Magazines

See also discussion and points for how to talk about this issue under *Constitutional Carry and Ending “Gun-Free” Zones*, showing how important it is for us to be able to use firearms to stay safe.

GOA’s Position

Commonly owned firearms such as AR-15s and semi-automatic shotguns and magazines that hold more than 10 rounds are extremely common and highly practical for normal civilian shooting, hunting, and defense. More importantly, they are also protected by the Second Amendment under the history/text test upheld by the Supreme Court in *D.C. v. Heller* (2008). Ultimately, our right to keep and bear arms is not simply about what guns people enjoy shooting; it is about protecting our lives from danger and defending against a tyrannical government. If Texas were to ban these firearms and magazines, Texans would lose their safety and their freedom.

Bills

Each of these bills would ban many standard centerfire rifles, shotguns, and pistols by defining them as “Assault Weapons” based on characteristics such as an adjustable stock, fixed magazines that hold more than 10 rounds, grips, and overall length.



HB 172 by Rep. Meza (*exceptions for military, law enforcement, and those who owned these firearms before August 31, 2021*)



HB 231 by Rep. Ortega (*bans these firearms only for those under age 21*)



HB 241 by Rep. Ortega (*exceptions for military, law enforcement, and those who owned these firearms before August 31, 2021*)

Each of these bills would ban magazines that hold over 10 rounds.



HB 178 by Rep. Meza



HB 234 by Rep. Ortega

See our updated bill list at txqoa.us/87r.

OPPOSE

Additional Restrictions on Transfer & Possession








See also discussion and points for how to talk about this issue under *Constitutional Carry and Ending “Gun-Free” Zones*, showing how important it is for us to be able to use firearms to stay safe.

GOA’s Position

The individual right to own firearms is fundamental. This right enables us to defend our lives against criminals and ultimately equips us to defend our liberties against a tyrannical government. Because this right is of utmost importance, the state must exercise extreme care before legally terminating or suspending a person’s ability to possess firearms – and must not adopt policies or regulations that could be used to discourage, delay, or deny honest Texans from exercising their right to purchase firearms.

Under no circumstances can the state properly force a person to forfeit his or her gun rights unless the person has committed a violent crime and been duly convicted of that crime or has been properly adjudicated as mentally incompetent with full due process.

Bills

-  **HB 227 by Rep. Meza, HB 880 by Rep. Hinojosa, & SB 556 by Sen. Blanco** would require gun dealers to report to DPS whenever someone attempts to buy a firearm and is denied on the background check and would require DPS to investigate for possible prosecution. (Note that 95% of background check denials are false positives; see *“Expanded Background Checks.”*)
-  **HB 347 by Rep. Geren & SB 162 by Sen. Blanco** would create a felony state crime for lying on a Form 4473 (Federally required form for purchasing gun from gun dealers).
-  **HB 521 by Rep. Fierro** would create a registry of those who waive their gun rights voluntarily due to mental health concerns. This could be used in plea deals to coerce people into giving up gun rights.
-  **HB 882 by Rep. Hinojosa** would prohibit anyone from knowingly receiving a firearm if the person is the subject of an outstanding arrest warrant, Federally or from another state, for an offense corresponding to a Class B misdemeanor or higher. This is already a Federal crime; we oppose double criminalization.
-  **HB 883 by Rep. Hinojosa** would combine HB 880 & HB 882 (see above).
-  **HB 1040 by Rep. Goodwin** would prohibit someone who has been ordered by a court to receive chemical dependency treatment from possessing a firearm enter him/her on the prohibited persons list.
-  **SB 555 by Sen. Blanco** would prohibit a person from ever have his rights restored to possess a firearm if the person has committed certain violent crimes or committed any offense involving bias or prejudice.

See our updated bill list at txgoa.us/87r.

Section Three

How YOU can Protect Your Rights



You are your own best advocate for your gun rights. But we know it can be confusing. That's why we're here to help you stand strong for firearms freedom at every step of the way.

Start with these three action items:

1. Join Gun Owners of America.

It's the best \$25/year you'll spend for your gun rights. Go to gunowners.org/texas.

Note: If you cannot afford \$25/year at this time, please still be sure to join our FREE email alerts. Go to gunowners.org/texas and scroll all the way down.

2. Opt-in for our text alerts.

Text your zip code to this number: 833-922-1212

We know you're busy and it's hard to keep track of emails, so we'll shoot you a quick text whenever it's urgent for you to make a phone call or attend a hearing.

3. Plan now to give input at committee hearings.

Come to Austin in person if you can; otherwise, submit a concise personal statement in support of good bills or opposing bad bills. We'll give you details in text and email alerts.

Attending committee hearings will be a sacrifice. The dates and times probably won't be announced until a few days in advance. But it's one of the very best things you can do to help move forward our freedoms and stop gun confiscation. See you there!

Learn the Secrets of the Texas Legislature

GOA Texas has released video trainings to show you how to most effectively advocate for your rights in the Texas Legislature. The three-part series is at txgoa.us/txlege.



Part 1: Bill Survival 101

It's very difficult to pass a bill in Texas – or even to get it to the floor for a vote. There are so many chokepoints where a bill can die simply because the right person refused to act. Learn the inside details of the legislative process in Texas. We'll tell you who is responsible for killing bills, and what you can do at each step in the process to keep the flame of freedom moving forward.



Part 2: Your Lifeline – the TLO website

The best-kept secret of the Texas Legislature is its comprehensive website, Texas Legislature Online (capitol.texas.gov). From this website, you can track bills, sign up for bill alerts, compare bill language, watch committee hearings past and present, read reports about what happened on the floor last week or last decade – and so much more. But it's not all intuitive. This video gives you a screenshare tutorial on how to navigate the website to find all the information you need to stay in-the-know.



Part 3: Interacting with Legislators

From phone calls and emails to meetings and committee hearings – what is the best way to get your message across to legislators? Where can you easily find their contact information? How do you figure out what to say – and how do you tell when they're bluffing? We'll tell you all that and more in this informative video.

View our video training series: txgoa.us/txlege

Present Effective Committee Testimony

Why should I give input at committee hearings?

A committee hearing is the Texas Legislature’s invitation to everyone in the state of Texas to give their opinion on a bill. Very few people show up; that’s why when you show up, you have great power.

The most common place for a bill to die is in committee. A single committee chairman can kill a bill in committee by refusing to schedule it for a committee hearing or for a vote. Five committee members (a simple majority in most committees) can kill a bill in committee by refusing to vote in favor – regardless of how much support it has from other legislators.

Usually, when bills die in committee, few people notice. It’s easy for legislators to quietly kill bills.

But when you show up and pay attention – and spread the word to your voting friends – the legislators are held accountable. Bills are much more likely to move forward. That’s why it’s critical to give input at committee hearings. And YOU are the one most qualified to give your own opinion.

When are the committee hearings and how do I participate?

Committee hearings are usually announced 5 days in advance. Watch for our text and email alerts – we’ll give you details, talking points, and specifics for how to show up or submit your written statement. You can also see hearing notices on the TLO website (capitol.texas.gov).

Your testimony (oral or written) should be . . .

- **Clear**
 - Start with your main point.
 - Avoid vague questions: “Maybe we could...” or “couldn’t we...?” or “What about...?”
 - Instead, use “We should...” “Texas needs...” and “I know...”
- **Specific**
 - Give them a specific proposal. (*Read the hearing agenda & bill and stay on topic.*)
 - Not “I support gun rights,” but “Stop requiring a license to carry a handgun.”
 - Not “Please do whatever you can,” but “Please amend this bill to get rid of the license requirement for all honest Texans and vote it out of this committee.”
- **Personal**
 - Tell them a story, from your heart, about your experiences.
 - Share your beliefs or feelings.
 - Show why you believe gun rights policies helps your family and makes you safer.
- **True**
 - Include data or statistics to prove what you are telling them.
 - Fact-check all the facts.
 - You don’t have to be the world’s expert on the subject, but you must personally believe what you are presenting as your opinion.

You can use the talking points in this book to develop your own statement.

Here's what to say for oral testimony:

1. **"My name is _____, I am representing myself, and I am speaking in favor of HB 1238."**

Give your name, who you're representing, your position (in favor, on, or against), and the bill number. You can represent an organization ONLY if they have given you specific authority to do so. You may wish to speak "on" a bill if you like some but not all of it, or if it doesn't go far enough.

2. **Give them one sentence about yourself to add credibility.** Keep it brief.

Example: "I'm a mother, a teacher, and a member of Gun Owners of America."

3. **Tell them your main point.**

Example: "I want the committee to pass Constitutional Carry so honest Texans can carry a gun to protect themselves without jumping through hoops."

4. **Share a short personal story that explains why you want this policy.** Tell them about your life and how this would make you safer and help you protect your family. Be specific to the bill.

Example (for a bill repealing "gun-free" zones in 51% places): "I work at a bar and have to walk back to my car at 2AM – I can't carry a handgun because of the 51% prohibition, and I often am afraid of being attacked. I want a chance at saving my own life."

5. **Give them facts and data that support your point and your story.**

Example (for a bill on School Carry or ending "gun-free" zones): "Over 94% of mass attacks with guns happen in gun-free zones because the victims can't adequately defend themselves."

6. **If you gave them a handout, remind them to look at it.**

Example: "Please see my handout for [the source for these statistics, for more data, for more reasons why we are safer when we end gun-free zones]."

7. **End with your main point again and stop on time.** Most hearings allow 2-3 minutes.

Hint: Watch the timer; skip to the end of your testimony if you need to.

Here's how to prepare a written statement:

Follow the same general guidelines for content but make it user-friendly. Use headings and bullet points to organize. Use short sentences and short paragraphs for readability.

If you are submitting a written statement online, follow the committee's directions (see hearing notices at capitol.texas.gov, or watch for our alerts). Remember that what you submit will be posted online publicly. Committees may limit on-the-record written statements to 3,000 characters.

If you plan to show up in person, it's still helpful to prepare a written handout. Hand it to the clerk after you register or when you go to the front to testify. Don't simply print up your script; include extra information – charts, links, or points you don't have time to cover in your oral statement. Also include your name and contact information. If you must leave before you get a chance to speak, your written handout allows you to still be on record for that bill.

Committee Contact Information

The committees listed below typically hear most of the gun-related bills. Committee chairs have authority to decide when and if bills receive a hearing and a vote. Committee members can vote on whether to move the bill forward.

For details on specific hearing times, agendas, and how to provide public input, see texas.capitol.gov.

House Homeland Security & Public Safety Committee

This committee typically receives over 50% of the gun-related bills including those on Constitutional Carry and handgun carry, "Red Flag" laws, and background checks.

Normal Schedule: Thursdays after the legislature adjourns (time varies), Room E2.030

Chair: James White	R	512-463-0490	James.White@house.texas.gov
V. Chair: Rhetta Bowers	D	512-463-0464	Rhetta.Bowers@house.texas.gov
Rep. Vikki Goodwin	D	512-463-0652	Vikki.Goodwin@house.texas.gov
Re. Sam Harless	R	512-463-0496	Sam.Harless@house.texas.gov
Rep. Cole Hefner	R	512-463-0271	Cole.Hefner@house.texas.gov
Rep. Eddie Morales	D	512-463-0566	Eddie.Morales@house.texas.gov
Rep. Jared Patterson	R	512-463-0694	Jared.Patterson@house.texas.gov
Rep. Matt Schaefer	R	512-463-0584	Matt.Schaefer@house.texas.gov
Rep. Tony Tinderholt	R	512-463-0624	Tony.Tinderholt@house.texas.gov

House State Affairs Committee

This committee receives gun-related bills including those on Second Amendment Sanctuary, suppressor freedom, and repealing emergency powers.

Normal Schedule: Thursdays at 8am, Room E1.004 (Auditorium) / JHR 140; committee will generally break for legislative session at 10am and then return after the legislature returns (time varies).

Chair: Chris Paddie	R	512-463-0556	Chris.Paddie@house.texas.gov
V. Ch.: Ana Hernandez	D	512-463-0614	Ana.Hernandez@house.texas.gov
Rep. Joe Deshotel	D	512-463-0662	Joe.Deshotel@house.texas.gov
Rep. Sam Harless	R	512-463-0496	Sam.Harless@house.texas.gov
Rep. Donna Howard	D	512-463-0631	Donna.Howard@house.texas.gov
Rep. Todd Hunter	R	512-463-0672	Todd.Hunter@house.texas.gov
Rep. Phil King	R	512-463-0738	Phil.King@house.texas.gov
Rep. Eddie Lucio III	D	512-463-0606	Eddie.Lucio_iii@house.texas.gov
Rep. Will Metcalf	R	512-463-0726	Will.Metcalf@house.texas.gov
Rep. Richard Raymond	D	512-463-0558	Richard.Raymond@house.texas.gov
Rep. Matt Shaheen	R	512-463-0594	Matt.Shaheen@house.texas.gov
Rep. Shelby Slawson	R	512-463-0628	Shelby.Slawson@house.texas.gov
Rep. John T. Smithee	R	512-463-0702	John.Smithee@house.texas.gov

House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee

This committee receives gun-related bills including those on use of force and additional gun-related penalties.

Normal Schedule: Mondays at 2pm or after the legislature adjourns, Room E2.010

Chair: Nicole Collier	D	512-463-0716	Nicole.Collier@house.texas.gov
Vice Chair: Keith Bell	R	512-463-0458	Keith.Bell@house.texas.gov
Rep. Jeff Cason	R	512-463-0522	Jeff.Cason@house.texas.gov
Rep. David Cook	R	512-463-0374	David.Cook@house.texas.gov
Rep. Jasmine Crockett	D	512-463-0586	Jasmine.Crockett@house.texas.gov
Rep. Gina Hinojosa	D	512-463-0668	Gina.Hinojosa@house.texas.gov
Rep. Ann Johnson	D	512-463-0389	Ann.Johnson@house.texas.gov
Rep. Andrew S. Murr	R	512-463-0536	Andrew.Murr@house.texas.gov
Rep. Cody Vasut	R	512-463-0564	Dennis.Bonnen@house.texas.gov

House Calendars Committee

This committee receives bills from the other House committees and serves as a gatekeeper to decide what bills will go to the floor. It meets various times throughout session but does not take public testimony.

Chair: Dustin Burrows	R	512-463-0542	Dustin.Burrows@house.texas.gov
Vice Chair: Joe Moody	D	512-463-0728	Joe.Moody@house.texas.gov
Rep. Tom Craddick	R	512-463-0500	Tom.Craddick@house.texas.gov
Rep. Cody Harris	R	512-463-0730	Cody.Harris@house.texas.gov
Rep. Cole Hefner	R	512-463-0271	Cole.Hefner@house.texas.gov
Rep. Ana Hernandez	D	512-463-0614	Ana.Hernandez@house.texas.gov
Rep. Ben Leman	R	512-463-0600	Ben.Leman@house.texas.gov
Rep. Jared Patterson	R	512-463-0694	Jared.Patterson@house.texas.gov
Rep. Toni Rose	D	512-463-0664	Toni.Rose@house.texas.gov
Rep. Shelby Slawson	R	512-463-0628	Shelby.Slawson@house.texas.gov
Rep. James Talarico	D	512-463-0670	James.Talarico@house.texas.gov

Senate State Affairs Committee

This committee receives most gun-related bills in the Senate.

Normal meeting time: Mondays at 9am in the Senate Chamber

Chair: Bryan Hughes	R	512-463-0101	Bryan.Hughes@senate.texas.gov
V. Chair: Brian Birdwell	R	512-463-0122	Brian.Birdwell@senate.texas.gov
Sen. Donna Campbell	R	512-463-0125	Donna.Campbell@senate.texas.gov
Sen. Bob Hall	R	512-463-0102	Bob.Hall@senate.texas.gov
Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr.	D	512-463-0127	Eddie.Lucio@senate.texas.gov
Sen. Jane Nelson	R	512-463-0112	Jane.Nelson@senate.texas.gov
Sen. Beverly Powell	D	512-463-0110	Beverly.Powell@senate.texas.gov
Sen. Charles Schwertner	R	512-463-0105	Charles.Schwertner@senate.texas.gov
Sen. Judith Zaffirini	D	512-463-0121	Judith.Zaffirini@senate.texas.gov

Your GOA Texas team is here to help!

See our website for many resources: gunowners.org/texas

Here are shortlinks to specific pages:

- Legislator contact info: bit.ly/contact87r
- Legislative Training videos: txgoa.us/txlege
- Testimony examples: txgoa.us/resources
- Gun bill tracker (good & bad bills): txgoa.us/87r
- GOA priority legislation handout: txgoa.us/priority
- Constitutional Carry handout: txgoa.us/cc
- 2A Sanctuary handout: txgoa.us/2AS

Stay up-to-date

- Sign up for text alerts: **Text your zip code to 833-922-1212**
- Join our Zoom updates, Monday evenings @8pm: txgoa.us/zoom
- Read our monthly newsletter – then pass out copies to spread the word:
Gunowners.org/texas --> Alerts (menu item) --> Newsletter (submenu item)

Connect with us for help

GOA Texas Director

Rachel Malone

Rachel.Malone@gunowners.org

512-937-3006 (text only)

Meet with me to discuss your district and how you can be involved:

calendly.com/goa-texas/rachel

GOA Texas Deputy Director

Felisha Bull

FBull@gunowners.org

832-622-8781 (text only)

GOA Texas Regional Coordinators:

Alexie Swirsky, Southeast Texas

SETX@gunowners.org

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Stacey Roberts, West Texas

WestTX@gunowners.org

Wes Virdell, Texas Hill Country

TXHillCountry@gunowners.org

