

SUBJECT: Use of concealed handgun license as valid proof of ID

COMMITTEE: Homeland Security and Public Safety — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — Pickett, Fletcher, Cortez, Dale, Flynn, Kleinschmidt, Lavender, Sheets, Simmons
0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Jerry Patterson, Texas General Land Office; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Brent Connett, Texas Conservative Coalition; Steven Tays, Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office; Alice Tripp, Texas State Rifle Association)
Against — None
On — RenEarl Bowie, Department of Public Safety; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Margaret Spinks, Texas Department of Public Safety)

DIGEST: CSHB 2665 would prohibit the denial of a concealed handgun license as proof of personal identification to gain access to goods, services, or facilities, except when renting a car or in regard to operating a motor vehicle.

This would not affect the current law requiring a license holder carrying a handgun to display a driver's license or personal identification card, as well as the concealed handgun license when a peace officer asked to see identification. It also would not affect the types of identification required under federal law to access airports or pass through airport security.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2013.

SUPPORTERS SAY: Currently, a concealed handgun license (CHL) is not considered a valid form of identification by some businesses for the purpose of accessing goods, services, or facilities. HB 2665 would prohibit denying a CHL holder access to goods, services, or facilities simply for presenting a CHL as identification rather than a driver's license.

Much like the driver's license, the most commonly accepted form of identification, the CHL has a color photo of the licensee, the license holder's full name, date of birth, eye color, height, signature, home address, and expiration date. A CHL even has the individual's driver's license number and includes an individual's hair color and weight.

To get a driver's license an individual must present proof the person has domicile in the state, present proof of identity satisfactory to the Department of Public Safety, provide a physical description of themselves, and provide a thumb and fingerprint.

The CHL is a far more secure form of identification than a typical driver's license. To receive a CHL an individual must be a resident of the state for at least 6 months, over 21 years old, have no felony or class A or B convictions, not be chemically dependent, pass a local, state and national criminal history record check, and have the individual's identity and background verified by fingerprint, among other obstacles.

If an individual presents a CHL as a form of ID, a provider of goods and services can be certain that the individual is in fact who the individual claims to be.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

Requiring the acceptance of a concealed handgun license as a form of identification to access good, services, or facilities could take away the individual discretion of private businesses when creating a policy for acceptable identification.