

- SUBJECT:** Prohibiting certain restrictions on off-duty officers to carry weapons
- COMMITTEE:** Homeland Security and Public Safety — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Phillips, Nevárez, Burns, Dale, Johnson, Metcalf, Moody, M. White, Wray
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Chris Jones, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT); Eric Inman; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Frederick Frazier, Dallas Police Association; Ray Hunt, Houston Police Officers Union; Bill Elkin, Houston Police Retired Officers Association; Lon Craft, Texas Municipal Police Association)
- Against — Frances Schenkan, Texas Gun Sense
- BACKGROUND:** Various public venues currently prohibit off-duty police officers and special investigators from carrying weapons onto their premises. Some of these venues also require people entering the venue to be screened for weapons. Therefore, off-duty officers may be denied entry to these venues if they are carrying a weapon.
- DIGEST:** HB 2298 would prohibit a public establishment from barring or otherwise restricting a peace officer or special investigator from carrying on its premises a weapon that the officer or investigator was otherwise authorized to carry, regardless of whether the peace officer or special investigator was on duty while carrying the weapon.
- The bill would define an establishment serving the public to mean:
- a hotel, motel, or place of lodging;
 - a restaurant or place where food was sold to the public;
 - a commercial establishment or office building that was open to the public;

- a sports venue, including an arena or stadium where tickets were sold for sporting or athletic events; and
- any other place of public accommodation, amusement, convenience, or resort to which the general public was normally invited.

The bill would take effect on September 1, 2015, and would apply only to conduct that occurred on or after that date.