

- SUBJECT:** Method and amount of payment for a concealed handgun license
- COMMITTEE:** Law Enforcement — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Driver, Jackson, Hegar, Frost, Hupp, Veasey
0 nays
1 absent — Burnam
- WITNESSES:** For — Tara Reilly Mica, National Rifle Association; Jerry Patterson;
Alice Tripp, Texas State Rifle Association
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code, sec. 411.196 states that a person may pay a fee related to concealed handgun licensing by cashier's check, money order, or any other method approved by the Department of Public Safety (DPS).
Sec. 411.186 states the reasons a license may be revoked, and adds that a person who has had a license revoked may reapply as a new applicant two years from the date the license was revoked.
Under sec. 411.181, DPS must charge \$25 for a duplicate license. Sec. 411.184 states that DPS must charge \$25 to modify a license to allow a licensee to carry a handgun of a different category than allowed by the original license.
- DIGEST:** HB 1483 would allow a concealed handgun license applicant to pay any licensing fee by cash, check, or credit card, in addition to payment by money order or cashier's check.
The bill would allow DPS to revoke the license of any applicant whose fee was dishonored or reversed. It would allow a person who had a license revoked for this reason to reapply at any time, but would require payment of the application fee, plus a dishonored payment charge of \$25, by money order or cashier's check.

The bill would reduce the fee for a duplicate license from \$25 to \$10 and would reduce the fee for a modified license from \$25 to \$10.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2005, and would apply to an application submitted on or after that date.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 1483 would offer concealed handgun license applicants the same payment methods that are available to driver's license applicants. There is no reason for this inconsistency in payment methods for licenses issued by a single department.

The fees relating to concealed handgun licenses are considerably higher than the fees relating to driver's licenses. DPS issues both of these licenses and uses the same equipment to do so, so there is no reason that the fees for concealed handgun licenses should be so much higher.

An author's floor amendment is expected to address the fee-payment issues of sending cash through the mail and handling a dishonored check.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

While the bill would allow the payment of any concealed handgun license fee in cash, the only physical location a person can visit in order to pay is in Austin. Problems could arise if this bill encouraged people to send cash through the mail, because neither the person nor DPS could prove payment actually was sent or received. As a result, the bill should limit the use of cash to payments made in person at the Austin office.

The bill also should make it clear that a person whose payment for a modified or duplicate license was not honored could be charged a dishonored payment fee.

NOTES:

According to the fiscal note, the reduction in fees for modified and duplicate concealed handgun licenses would result in a loss to the state of \$180,000 per fiscal year.