A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT
relating to the carrying of concealed handguns on the campuses of and certain other locations associated with institutions of higher education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 411.2031 to read as follows:

Sec. 411.2031. CARRYING OF HANDGUNS BY LICENSE HOLDERS ON CERTAIN CAMPUSES. (a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Campus" means all land and buildings owned or leased by an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education.

(2) "Institution of higher education" and "private or independent institution of higher education" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

(3) "Premises" has the meaning assigned by Section 46.035, Penal Code.

(b) A license holder may carry a concealed handgun on or about the license holder's person while the license holder is on the campus of an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education in this state.

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (d) or (e), an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education in this state may not adopt any
rule, regulation, or other provision prohibiting license holders from carrying handguns on the campus of the institution.

(d) An institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education in this state may establish rules, regulations, or other provisions concerning the storage of handguns in dormitories or other residential facilities that are owned or leased and operated by the institution and located on the campus of the institution.

(e) A private or independent institution of higher education in this state, after consulting with students, staff, and faculty of the institution, may establish rules, regulations, or other provisions prohibiting license holders from carrying handguns on premises that are owned or leased and operated by the institution and located on the campus of the institution.

(f) This section does not permit a person to possess a concealed handgun, or go with a concealed handgun, on the premises of a hospital maintained or operated by an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education if the hospital gives effective notice under Section 30.06, Penal Code. In this subsection, "hospital" has the meaning assigned by Section 241.003, Health and Safety Code.

(g) This section does not permit a person to possess a concealed handgun, or go with a concealed handgun, on the premises of a preschool, elementary school, or secondary school that is located on the campus of an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education if the institution gives effective notice under Section 30.06, Penal Code.
SECTION 2. Section 411.208, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (d) and adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(a) A court may not hold the state, an agency or subdivision of the state, an officer or employee of the state, an institution of higher education, an officer or employee of an institution of higher education, a private or independent institution of higher education that has not adopted rules under Section 411.2031(e), an officer or employee of a private or independent institution of higher education that has not adopted rules under Section 411.2031(e), a peace officer, or a qualified handgun instructor liable for damages caused by:

(1) an action authorized under this subchapter or a failure to perform a duty imposed by this subchapter; or

(2) the actions of an applicant or license holder that occur after the applicant has received a license or been denied a license under this subchapter.

(b) A cause of action in damages may not be brought against the state, an agency or subdivision of the state, an officer or employee of the state, an institution of higher education, an officer or employee of an institution of higher education, a private or independent institution of higher education that has not adopted rules under Section 411.2031(e), an officer or employee of a private or independent institution of higher education that has not adopted rules under Section 411.2031(e), a peace officer, or a qualified handgun instructor for any damage caused by the actions of an applicant or license holder under this subchapter.
(d) The immunities granted under Subsections (a), (b), and (c) do not apply to:

(1) an act or a failure to act by the state, an agency or subdivision of the state, an officer of the state, an institution of higher education, an officer or employee of an institution of higher education, a private or independent institution of higher education that has not adopted rules under Section 411.2031(e), an officer or employee of a private or independent institution of higher education that has not adopted rules under Section 411.2031(e), or a peace officer if the act or failure to act was capricious or arbitrary; or

(2) any officer or employee of an institution of higher education or a private or independent institution of higher education who possesses a handgun on the campus of that institution and whose conduct with regard to the handgun is made the basis of a claim for personal injury or property damage.

(f) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Campus" has the meaning assigned by Section 411.2031.

(2) "Institution of higher education" and "private or independent institution of higher education" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

SECTION 3. Section 46.03, Penal Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsections (j) and (k) to read as follows:

(a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly possesses or goes with a firearm, illegal
knife, club, or prohibited weapon listed in Section 46.05(a):

(1) on the physical premises of a school or educational institution, any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by a school or educational institution is being conducted, or a passenger transportation vehicle of a school or educational institution, whether the school or educational institution is public or private, unless:

(A) pursuant to written regulations or written authorization of the institution; or

(B) the person possesses or goes with a concealed handgun that the person is licensed to carry under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, and no other weapon to which this section applies, on the premises of an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education, on any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by the institution is being conducted, or in a passenger transportation vehicle of the institution;

(2) on the premises of a polling place on the day of an election or while early voting is in progress;

(3) on the premises of any government court or offices utilized by the court, unless pursuant to written regulations or written authorization of the court;

(4) on the premises of a racetrack;

(5) in or into a secured area of an airport; or

(6) within 1,000 feet of premises the location of which is designated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as a place of execution under Article 43.19, Code of Criminal Procedure,
on a day that a sentence of death is set to be imposed on the
designated premises and the person received notice that:

(A) going within 1,000 feet of the premises with
a weapon listed under this subsection was prohibited; or

(B) possessing a weapon listed under this
subsection within 1,000 feet of the premises was prohibited.

(c) In this section:

(1) "Institution of higher education" and "private or
independent institution of higher education" have the meanings
assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

(2) "Premises" has the meaning assigned by Section
46.035.

(3) "Secured area" means an area of an airport
terminal building to which access is controlled by the inspection
of persons and property under federal law.

(j) Subsection (a)(1)(B) does not permit a person to possess
a concealed handgun, or go with a concealed handgun, on the premises
of a hospital maintained or operated by an institution of higher
education or private or independent institution of higher education
if the hospital gives effective notice under Section 30.06. In this
subsection, "hospital" has the meaning assigned by Section 241.003,
Health and Safety Code.

(k) Subsection (a)(1)(B) does not permit a person to possess
a concealed handgun, or go with a concealed handgun, on the premises
of a preschool, elementary school, or secondary school that is
located on the premises of an institution of higher education or
private or independent institution of higher education if the
in institution gives effective notice under Section 30.06.

SECTION 4. Section 46.035, Penal Code, is amended by adding
Subsection (1) to read as follows:

(1) Subsection (b)(2) does not apply on the premises where a
collegiate sporting event is taking place if the actor was not given
effective notice under Section 30.06.

SECTION 5. Section 411.208, Government Code, as amended by
this Act, applies only to a cause of action that accrues on or after
September 1, 2016. A cause of action that accrued before that date
is governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective
date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that
purpose.

SECTION 6. Sections 46.03(a) and (c), Penal Code, as
amended by this Act, and Sections 46.03(j) and (k) and 46.035(l),
Penal Code, as added by this Act, apply only to an offense committed
on or after September 1, 2016. An offense committed before
September 1, 2016, is governed by the law in effect when the offense
was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that
purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed
before September 1, 2016, if any element of the offense occurred
before that date.

SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.