



10 Reasons HB 1911, Unlicensed Carry, is Bad Policy, by Emma Thomson

Since the Texas House Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee has passed HB 1911, an unlicensed carry bill, we've decided to give you another installment of information on this dangerous bill. Please spread the word and speak up!

1. **HB 1911 requires individuals to screen themselves** and know if they are eligible to carry, with no application or regulatory oversight. *This will cause confusion for Texans, and undue burden for law enforcement.*
2. **HB 1911 would allow people to carry without any firearm training or background checks**, despite the fact that most Texans support the state's requirement to be licensed to carry a handgun.
3. The National Rifle Association's website states, "At the NRA, firearm training and education is paramount." *If the industry believes this is important for gun owners, why is a law being pursued to remove it?*
4. **Many law enforcement organizations are opposed to unlicensed carry.** "What is being called 'constitutional carry' is bad public policy, is bad for public safety, and would make the jobs of our law enforcement officers more difficult and exponentially more dangerous." -- Kevin Lawrence, Executive Director of the Texas Municipal Police Association and Texas Gun Sense board member.
5. If the license to carry becomes optional, **over 3,000 applicants and former licensees that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) has denied, revoked or suspended** will be able to walk about openly in Texas communities with weapons because there will be no state screening process.
6. **Criminals could easily use unlicensed carry to their advantage.** Under current Texas law, felons can acquire a handgun through private sellers on the Internet or at gun shows without a background check.
7. Licensees currently take pride in their conviction rates and tout their records as law-abiding citizens. *If the program becomes optional, the statistics will no longer exist*, and gun owners will have little means to distinguish themselves from criminals.
8. **Unlicensed Carry will hurt small businesses.** Hundreds of Texas firearms trainers' businesses would be impacted by this policy, and may even lead to closing their doors if the legislature concludes that knowing the law and training is optional when carrying firearms in public.
9. **Eliminating the License to Carry will cost the state millions of dollars.** The State will lose up to \$25 million annually if the program were eliminated. Our state can't afford that.
10. **The Second Amendment calls for a well-regulated environment, so "constitutional carry" is a misnomer.** Basic protections and oversight designed to keep guns out of the wrong hands and calling for a minimum level of training and knowledge of gun laws are consistent with the "well regulated" environment referred to in the Second Amendment.

Texas Gun Sense is a statewide nonprofit and nonpartisan organization advocating for common sense, evidence-based policies to reduce gun injuries and deaths.