



The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.B. 67-45

The Student Senate
67th Session
Texas A&M University

Authored By: Senator J. Cary Cheshire, College of Liberal Arts

Sponsored By: Legislative Affairs Chair Austin Springer, College of Engineering
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Senator Austin Luce, Off Campus Residencies
Senator Austin Aguirre, College of Liberal Arts
Senator Hannah Parks, Off Campus Residencies
Senator Samuel Marinov, College of Engineering
Senator Garrett Hendrix, Transitional Academic Programs
Senator Colton French, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
Senator Tate Baker, Southside Residencies
Senator Shane Roddicker, College of Science
Senator Forest Allen, Corps of Cadets
Senator Alex Rose, Freshman Caucus
Senator Abby Hutton, Freshman Caucus
Senator Charles Giles, Off Campus Residencies
Senator Brian Brown, Off Campus Residencies

Action Taken



Certified By:

Hannah Weger '15
Hannah Weger
Speaker of the Senate

Duly Approved:

Kyle Kelly '14
Kyle Kelly
Student Body President

Texas A&M Personal Protection Act
Special Designation: Act of the Senate

"An act advocating for a change in student rules to enhance the security and safety of students."



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Hannah Weger '15

Hannah Weger
Speaker of the Senate

- Whereas(1):** Texas A&M University is a gun-free zone as mandated by state law and university policy; and,
- Whereas(2):** Many of the most horrifying mass shootings of innocent citizens in the United States of America have occurred in inappropriately labeled gun-free zones; and,
- Whereas(3):** Designating an area gun-free does not deter an individual with the intent to commit criminal activity from illegally carrying a firearm onto campus; and,
- Whereas(4):** Criminals are given a governmental and university guarantee that any potential victims are unarmed and that they may prey upon the student body, faculty, staff and guests completely unopposed; and,
- Whereas(5):** Texas A&M University professors and staff, who teach and work on campus on a daily basis, are forced to be unarmed and defenseless under current university policy; and,
- Whereas(6):** The college police departments are by necessity reactive, not proactive entities and cannot effectively safeguard all within the university at all times as proven by the numerous crimes that occur on and around campus every semester; and,
- Whereas(7):** Texas A&M University written policy seeks disciplinary action against students, faculty, and staff who are in accordance with state weapons laws; and,
- Whereas(8):** In accordance with Texas Penal Code §46.03 subsection 1, individual universities may adopt their own written policies to allow persons with a valid concealed handgun license to carry within the buildings and on the grounds of their respective campus; and,
- Whereas(9):** Texas concealed handgun license holders undergo an extensive screening process, including: State and Federal background checks for both criminal and psychiatric records, must have attended a ten to fifteen hour training course dealing with topics such as conflict resolution and handgun safety; must pass a fifty question exam on the course material, must pass a fifty rounds firearm qualification test almost identical to that of Texas peace officers, and must be over twenty-one years of age, among many other requirements; and,



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Whereas(10): Because of such standards, Texas concealed handgun license holders are the most law-abiding Texans in the state, with a crime rate more than seven times lower than the general public according to the Texas Department of Public Safety; and,

Whereas(11): Assault and Sexual Assault incidents are increasingly occurring at institutions across the United States and strongly at Texas A&M; and,

Whereas(12): Seeing a need for self-preservation against criminals, rapists, and mentally unstable persons, we seek change in state law and Texas A&M University policy.

Therefore

Let it be

Enacted(1): That the Student Government Association, on behalf of the students of Texas A&M University, calls for a written policy of Texas A&M University to allow students, faculty, staff and guests with a valid concealed handgun license the right to self-defense, in the form of carrying a concealed handgun, on all University premises; and,

Let it be

Further

Enacted(2): That the Student Government Association, on behalf of the students of Texas A&M University, calls upon the legislature of the State of Texas to change current law to allow students, faculty, staff and guests with a valid concealed handgun license the right to self-defense on all University property, including buildings and residence halls, and to prevent public universities from creating policies seeking disciplinary action against students, faculty and staff who are in accordance with state law; and,



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Let it be

Further

Enacted(3): That copies of this legislation shall be presented to members of the Texas Legislature, the leadership of the Texas A&M University System, and the Texas A&M Faculty Senate.

Let it be

Further

Enacted(4): That the following shall be added to Chapter 904 of the Code, creating Article IV:

ARTICLE IV. THE PERSONAL PROTECTION ACT

SECTION I. Legislative Intent of this Particular Article

(a) The Student Senate intends this Act to set forth guidelines for establishing advocacy for efforts of the State of Texas to change current law to allow students, faculty, staff and guests with a valid concealed handgun license the right to self-defense on all University property, including buildings and residence halls, and to prevent public universities from creating policies seeking disciplinary action against students, faculty and staff who are in accordance with state law; and,

SECTION II. Definitions

- (a) For the purposes of this Article, the following words shall be ascribed the following meanings:
- (1) "Concealed Handgun License" shall be defined as a legal license accepted by the State of Texas allowing an individual to carry a concealed handgun.
 - (2) "Concealed Handgun" shall be defined as a handgun, the presence of which is not openly discernible to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person.
 - (3) "Campus" shall be defined as university property including, but not limited to spaces, buildings, laboratories, and residence halls.

SECTION III. The Personal Protection Policy and Proposal

- (a) It shall be the official policy of the Student Government Association, on behalf of the student body of Texas A&M University, that the university should adopt a written policy to allow students, faculty, staff and guests with a valid concealed handgun license the right to self-defense not just outside the campus building walls, but within those confines as well.
- (b) It shall be the official policy of the Student Government Association, on behalf of the student body of Texas A&M University, to advocate at the State level for legislation that requires public universities in the State to adopt



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procedures to allow students, faculty, staff, and guests with a valid concealed handgun licenses the right of self-defense on all areas of campus.

SECTION IV. Execution of this Particular Article

- (a) The Student Body President, or a designee on his behalf, shall advocate at relevant meetings with administrators for a change in university policy concerning concealed carry.
- (b) The Student Body President, Cabinet member in charge of legislative relations, or a designee on behalf of the Executive Branch shall advocate, endorse, and lobby for efforts to change current law through the State Legislature.
- (c) The Student Body President shall report on the progress of his execution of this statute at monthly intervals to the Rules and Regulations Chair of the Student Senate, Legislative Affairs Chair of the Student Senate, and the Senate body.