By: Gámez H.B. No. 712

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of a municipality or county to regulate or prohibit the carrying of a firearm on the premises of certain libraries.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 229.001, Local Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (d-2) to read as follows:

(b) Subsection (a) does not affect the authority a municipality has under another law to:

(1) require residents or public employees to be armed for personal or national defense, law enforcement, or another lawful purpose;

(2) regulate the discharge of firearms, air guns, or archery equipment within the limits of the municipality, other than at a sport shooting range;

(3) except as provided by Subsection (b-1), adopt or enforce a generally applicable zoning ordinance, land use regulation, fire code, or business ordinance;

(4) regulate the storage or transportation of explosives to protect public health and safety, except that 25 pounds or less of black powder for each private residence and 50 pounds or less of black powder for each retail dealer are not subject to regulation;

(5) regulate the carrying of an air gun, archery equipment, or firearm, other than a handgun carried by a person not otherwise prohibited by law from carrying a handgun, at a:

(A) public park;

(B) public meeting of a municipality, county, or other governmental body;

(C) political rally, parade, or official political meeting; or

(D) nonfirearms-related school, college, or professional athletic event;

(6) regulate the carrying of a firearm by a person licensed to carry a handgun under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, in accordance with Section 411.209, Government Code;

(7) regulate the hours of operation of a sport shooting range, except that the hours of operation may not be more limited than the least limited hours of operation of any other business in the municipality other than a business permitted or licensed to sell or serve alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption;

(8) regulate the carrying of an air gun by a minor on:

(A) public property; or

(B) private property without consent of the property owner; [~~or~~]

(9) except as provided by Subsection (d-1), regulate or prohibit an employee's carrying or possession of a firearm, firearm accessory, or ammunition in the course of the employee's

official duties; or

(10) except as provided by Subsection (d-2), regulate or prohibit the carrying of a firearm on the premises of a library established and operated by the municipality.

(d-2) Subsection (b)(10) does not authorize a municipality to regulate or prohibit the carrying of a firearm by a person described by Section 46.15(a)(1) or (b)(1), Penal Code, or by a person who is otherwise authorized to carry a firearm under a license or commission issued under Chapter 1702, Occupations Code.

SECTION 2. Section 236.002, Local Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (e-1) to read as follows:

(c) Subsection (a) does not affect the authority of a county to:

(1) require a resident or public employee to be armed for personal or national defense, law enforcement, or other purpose under other law;

(2) regulate the discharge of firearms or air guns in accordance with Section 235.022;

(3) regulate the carrying of a firearm by a person licensed to carry a handgun under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, in accordance with Section 411.209, Government Code;

(4) except as provided by Subsection (d), adopt or enforce a generally applicable land use regulation, fire code, or business regulation; [~~or~~]

(5) except as provided by Subsection (e), regulate or

prohibit an employee's carrying or possession of a firearm, firearm accessory, or ammunition in the course of the employee's official duties; or

(6) except as provided by Subsection (e-1), regulate or prohibit the carrying of a firearm on the premises of a library established and operated by the county.

(e-1) Subsection (c)(6) does not authorize a county to regulate or prohibit the carrying of a firearm by a person described by Section 46.15(a)(1) or (b)(1), Penal Code, or by a person who is otherwise authorized to carry a firearm under a license or commission issued under Chapter 1702, Occupations Code.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2027.