



October 29, 2015

TO: Texas A&M AgriLife
SUBJECT: Draft Rule 34.06.02.A1/X1 – Carrying Concealed Handguns

The following notice and attached draft Rules are being sent to all Resident Directors and District Extension Administrators for them to pass to all their employees at AgriLife Research and Extension Centers for comment. On campus units will follow the TAMU rule that is being developed.

“Effective August 1, 2016, Senate Bill (SB) 11 authorizes a handgun license holder to carry a concealed handgun on the campus of an institution of higher education, subject to an institution's rules adopted in accordance with the Act. The term "institution of higher education" in the Act has the meaning supplied by section 61.003 of the Education Code, and this includes all A&M System universities, agencies and System Offices. "Campus" as used in the Act means all land and buildings owned or leased by the institution. Within the A&M System, "campus" means land and buildings held in the name of the A&M System Board of Regents and assigned to the member, or real property and buildings leased by the System for the use of the member.

Each System member is required to adopt a rule to address how it will enact the requirements of SB11. The rule will have to be approved by the A&M System staff and the Board of Regents, and reported to the Texas Legislature. Each System member is also required to consult with its students, staff and faculty. Since AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension have employees located at AgriLife Research and Extension Centers throughout the state, the agencies are sending the draft rules to all employees at these Centers to enable all who wish, the opportunity to provide input.

Prior to preparing these draft rules, representatives from AgriLife met with an A&M System attorney and the A&M police chief. A few points from this meeting for you to consider:

- Concealed handguns are already legally carried elsewhere in public; this law will extend where they can be legally carried.
- To completely restrict concealed weapons at an off-campus AgriLife Research and Extension facility or activity will require strong justification and it will have to be something greater than simply trying to avoid someone getting hurt.

Please pass on these draft rules to your employees for comment. Please summarize any input you receive from them and send this summary to Bob Hensz, r-hensz@tamu.edu by November 16, 2015. All input received will be considered by agency leadership prior to finalizing the rule. Thanks for your assistance in this matter.”

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