



Pawnshop Advisory Bulletin: Handgun License as a Valid Form of ID

Starting September 1, 2015, pawnshops must accept a Texas concealed handgun license (CHL) as a valid form of identification for pawn and purchase transactions. During the most recent legislative session, the Texas Legislature passed HB 2739. This new law adds Section 506.001(a) to the Texas Business & Commerce Code stating:

A person may not deny the holder of a concealed handgun license issued under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code, access to goods, services, or facilities . . . because the holder has or presents a concealed handgun license rather than a driver's license or other acceptable form of personal identification.

This law goes into effect on September 1, 2015. Starting on that date, pawnshops must accept CHLs as a valid form of identification, in addition to the other forms of identification listed in Section 371.174 of the Texas Finance Code.

Under Title 7, Section 85.405(a)(1)(A) of the Texas Administrative Code, pawnshops must record the identification type and number on the front of the pawn ticket (or purchase ticket). Texas CHLs contain a unique 8-digit number on the front of the license, similar to a driver's license. Pawnshops must record this number on the pawn ticket, along with a statement of the type of license. For example, if the pledgor presents a CHL with number 12345678, the pawnshop may record it as "TX CHL #12345678."

The legislature also passed an open-carry law, HB 910. This law goes into effect on January 1, 2016. A license issued after that date will be called a "handgun license," rather than "concealed handgun license." If the pledgor has a license labeled as a "handgun license," then the pawnshop may precede the license number with "TX HL."