



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 28, 2021

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Texas Senate Approves "Lie & Try" Firearm Safety Legislation By Senator César Blanco

Austin, Texas - Today, the Senate approved Senate Bill 162 by Senator César J. Blanco. Senate Bill 162 will make it a crime in Texas to lie on a background check form in an attempt to illegally purchase a firearm.

After the shooting in El Paso on August 3, 2019, Governor Abbott appointed the Texas Safety Commission to make recommendations on addressing mass violence & keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals. After a series of stakeholder roundtables, Governor Abbott released the Texas Safety Action Report with several legislative recommendations. Senate Bill 162 codifies a recommendation from the Texas Safety action report to crack down on criminals who try to illegally buy or possess guns.

It is estimated over 100,000 people lie on a firearm background check every year. Those caught lying on firearm background checks are more likely to be looking to harm others and have no business obtaining a dangerous weapon. The Texas Department of Public Safety has also recognized that Texas lacks a law which allows state or local law enforcement to charge someone with illegally attempting to purchase a firearm.

Senator Blanco issued the following statement:

"This is for El Paso and the 23 lives we lost on August 3, 2019.

"While no bill can bring back the 23 lives we lost in El Paso on August 3, 2019, we look for solutions to help us heal. This is one small way to honor the lives we lost by keeping firearms out of dangerous hands to prevent future tragedies.

"This is a common-sense solution to ensure criminals who are prohibited from purchasing firearms cannot skirt the law, while protecting the rights of law abiding citizens.

"I thank my Senate colleagues for supporting this common-sense approach to keep Texans safe. This is a big deal for Texas."