House Bill 910: Open Carry & Trespass Signage for Private Property Owners

DPS has received numerous inquiries regarding the interpretation of <u>House Bill 910</u> (84th Legislative Session), and specifically its amendments to the provisions on trespass by license holders, Texas Penal Code §30.06 and §30.07. The questions include whether the signs can be combined, whether the signs must be posted in a particular manner or at specific locations on the property, and whether they must be posted in both English and Spanish in order to be effective.

The determining factor is whether the license holder received notice that possession of a handgun on the property was forbidden. Whether notice was received is a legal question dependent on the specific factual circumstances and the legal judgment of a court of law, and cannot be addressed by DPS.

However, HB 910 does provide the following, effective January 1, 2016:

The "30.06" sign is used to prohibit the possession by a license holder of a *concealed* handgun on private property. This sign must include the language below in both English and Spanish; appear in contrasting colors with block letters at least one inch in height; and be displayed in a conspicuous manner clearly visible to the public.

"Pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with a concealed handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a concealed handgun."

The "30.07" sign is used to prohibit the possession by a license holder of an openly carried handgun. This sign must include the language below in both English and Spanish; appear in contrasting colors with block letters at least one inch in height; and be displayed in a conspicuous manner clearly visible to the public at each entrance to the property.

"Pursuant to Section 30.07, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with an openly carried handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a handgun that is carried openly".