

JANUARY 2026

THE BRIEFING

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT



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THE UVALDE STRONG ACT

House Bill 33, also known as the Uvalde Strong Act, was introduced during the 89th legislative session. This bill brings several requirements for law enforcement agencies in response to the May 24, 2022, tragedy at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde. At the time of the tragedy, the bill's author, Rep. Don McLaughlin, was the mayor of Uvalde. While the requirements listed are not exhaustive, they are items over which TCOLE has an oversight component that may affect your training requirements or standards related to your law enforcement agency.

[Continued on Page 2](#)

UVALDE STRONG ACT

Under the provisions of the bill, certain law enforcement agencies are required to have a designated public information officer (PIO) (Texas Government Code Section 411.3735).

Those agencies subject to this requirement are:

- A municipal police department,
- A sheriff's office,
- A county constable's office,
- A school district police department, and
- The Texas Department of Public Safety.

The PIO may be the chief administrator but is not required to be a peace officer. An agency is only required to have one certified PIO. The PIO, if not directly employed by the chief administrator, should be clearly designated to the role through policy or written agreement. For example, a county PIO may, by written policy, act as the PIO for the sheriff's office and the constables in the county. A school district PIO may, by written policy, be designated as the PIO for the school district police department. A small agency could obtain a Memorandum of Understanding where a PIO from a larger agency agrees to act as the PIO for both agencies.

The PIO must complete training and obtain a certification from the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) within one year of appointment to this position, and complete continuing education annually. Individuals designated as a PIO currently have until September 1, 2026, to complete this requirement. The law enforcement agency is to submit a record of compliance to TDEM.

The list of approved courses to meet this requirement can be found on our website or by clicking the button below. See next page on steps to upload course certificate.

**PIO CERTIFICATION
TRAINING**

Note: other courses may be added as they are identified.

Continued on Page 3

HOUSE BILL 33 CONTINUED

How to Complete Certification to TDEM:

1. Select and complete one approved course from the list above.
2. Save your completion certificate, ensuring your name and TCOLE PID are clearly displayed.
3. Upload your certificate to [Preparing Texas](#). Please see [TCOLE's website](#) for further instructions.

Another component of HB 33 is the requirement that a peace officer whose duties involve the supervision of officers in an incident response to complete an advanced incident response and command course every continuing education unit.

This requirement may be fulfilled by completing any of the following courses:

- ALERRT Active Attack Incident Management (Course #3366, 3367, or 3369);
- ALERRT Active Shooter Response Incident Management (#3607);
- ALERRT Incident Response and Command (#3608);
- ALERRT Command and Control (#33111);
- LEMIT Chief Continuing Education (#3740);
- LEMIT Command Staff Leadership Series (#3709)
- LEMIT Constable Continuing Education (#3743);
- Course #66300– FEMA ICS 300 (18–21 hours), or
- Course #66400– FEMA ICS 400 (12–16 hours)

The bill adds specific equipment and policy requirements for law enforcement agencies. The list of agency standards that TCOLE Field Service Agents will be reviewing will now include confirmation of access to at least one breaching tool and one ballistic shield. Agencies must also have a detailed active shooter policy on incidents at K-12 schools that includes a recommendation for the frequency of drills.

At the TCOLE Commission meeting in February, you can expect to see several proposed rules. These will include the addition of the equipment and policies mentioned above to the minimum standards for law enforcement agencies (37 TAC 211.16) and training requirements listed above to the continuing education rule (37 TAC 218.1).

ANNUAL REPORTING

TCLEDDS

Welcome | Log Out | Switch Profiles | Go Back to IAM

(Statewide)

Annual Reporting

Each law enforcement agency must complete an online report annually and provide evidence that they meet the requirements outlined from January 1 to March 1, each year. **Each agency must complete Part 1 then Part 2.**

PART 1: LEA MINIMUM STANDARDS | Last Submission Date: 01/13/2025

REQUIRED Each Law Enforcement Agency must complete an online report annually. This year's report requires that you review [TAC §211.16](#) and acknowledge the agency standards that will take effect September 1, 2025.

PART 2: RACIAL PROFILING REPORTING | Last Submission Date: 01/13/2025

REQUIRED Each law enforcement agency must file a full report or exemption online annually.

[Texas Occupations Code §1701.164](#) specifies that TCOLE collect incident-based data in accordance with the [Code of Criminal Procedure Articles §2.131 – §2.138](#). Chief administrators of law enforcement agencies that meet the criteria must submit racial profiling reports to their governing body, as well as TCOLE.

BODY WORN CAMERA

Reporting required under [§1701.653](#), only for law enforcement agencies receiving grant funds from the Office of the Governor for body worn cameras or body worn camera storage.

Reporting for the 2025 annual racial profiling report opened Jan. 1 and will be available until March 1, 2026 for motor vehicle stops conducted in 2025. All agencies are **REQUIRED** to submit both the TCOLE fill form report and the Comparative Analysis report, unless filing **EXEMPT**.

Reports can be filed online through TCLEDDS.

More information about reporting options and additional resources can be found [HERE](#). For any additional questions, please contact your Field Service Agent.

Motor Vehicle Stop Data Advisory Committee

To watch the first Motor Vehicle Stop Data Advisory Committee meeting, visit our [YouTube page](#). The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 4.

TCOLE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COMMISSION MEETINGS:

February 12, 2026

Austin, Texas

April 16, 2026

San Antonio, Texas

June 25, 2026

Austin, Texas

September 3, 2026

Dallas, Texas

November 19, 2026

Austin, Texas

All commission meeting's can be viewed live on TCOLE's [YouTube page](#). You can read more about the TCOLE Commission on our [website](#).

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Texas Peace Officers' Memorial

201 E 14th Street, Austin, Texas

April 26, 2026

Law Enforcement Achievement Awards

Austin, Texas

June 26, 2026

TCOLE Training Conference

Waco, Texas

August 11-13, 2026

TEXAS PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL

Join us for the
2026
TEXAS PEACE
OFFICERS' MEMORIAL
CEREMONY

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026

SUNSET

THE MEMORIAL MONUMENT | CAPITOL GROUNDS

More details to be updated soon on the
[TPOM Website](#).

2026 TCOLE TRAINING CONFERENCE

TCOLE Training Conference Exhibitor Show

at the

Waco Convention Center



SAVE THE DATE

August 10th – 12th 2026

Reservations open Mid-March

Booth spaces start at \$1200

*Instructions on how to reserve yours will be available
at tcole.texas.gov/trainingconference in March 2026!*

Exhibitor booth reservations for the 2026 TCOLE Training Conference open soon. Attendee registration is set to open sometime around May. More details will be announced soon on our website.

TCOLE BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS COURSE

TCOLE will be offering several FREE Background Investigations courses over the next few months. This course is designed to provide the participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct thorough and effective background investigations, including: impact of failures and legislation, identifying red flags, best practices, interviewing references, the final report, and ensuring compliance with rules and statute.

By the end of this course, the participant will have a structured approach to conducting investigations that uphold your agency's mission, maintain public trust, and help their agency make informed hiring decisions.



Texas Commission on Law Enforcement
In Partnership with TEEX
Presents:

**FEBRUARY 11-12
BACKGROUND
INVESTIGATIONS COURSE**

Hosted by
Austin Police Department

UPCOMING DATES:

Feb. 11-12: Austin (hosted by Austin PD)

March 17-18: Galveston (hosted by Galveston Co. Sheriff's Office)

April 9-10: Edinburg (hosted by Hidalgo Co. Sheriff's Office)

May 19-20: Abilene (hosted by West Central Texas Regional LEA)

June 16-17: Austin (TCOLE Headquarters)

Other dates TBD

COURSE SIGNUP

TASK FORCE UPDATES

House Bill 47 Provision

The recent passage of House Bill 47, which was the Governor's Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force (SASTF) Omnibus bill, went into effect Sept. 1, 2025.

The bill included a provision to prohibit registered sex offenders from being employed by a rideshare company, defined in statute as a "digitally prearranged ride." Since sex offenders are required to register with some law enforcement agencies, it's important to be aware of this new prohibited employment.

More information can be found on [SASTF's website](#).

Smyth appointed to Family Violence Criminal Homicide Prevention Task Force

Last month, Sergeant Investigator Chris Smyth with our Enforcement division was one of 21 members appointed to the Family Violence Criminal Homicide Prevention Task Force.

The Task Force shall analyze the top risk factors that may lead to family violence criminal homicide, advise and provide resources to state agencies and nonprofit organizations to develop and improve training for professionals who interact with survivors of family violence; collect, analyze, and make publicly available information that is not privileged, confidential, or otherwise prohibited from disclosure by law, organized by region, and develop policy recommendations to assist the state.



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL NOMINATIONS

If your agency has lost an officer or jailer in the line of duty, please be sure to send in nominations for the 2026 Peace Officers' Memorial Monument. We want to honor any fallen officers and make sure they receive the recognition they deserve.

Please be aware that inclusions on the Peace Officers' Memorial Monument for medical deaths, including those related to COVID-19-related, are based on determination for benefits eligibility by the Employees' Retirement System of Texas.

The nomination form can be found on the TCOLE website at <http://www.tcole.texas.gov/content/texas-peace-officers-memorial>.



GET FORM

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATIONS

Each year TCOLE hosts an annual achievement awards ceremony to recognize peace officers, jailers, and telecommunicators that have gone above and beyond in their service to their community. We know there are many worthy candidates out there. The awards are issued in the categories of valor, public service, and professional achievement.

Nominations may be submitted at any time throughout the year. Nominations received after January 15th will be submitted for the following year.

For the award nomination form, and additional information, please visit:

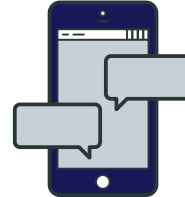
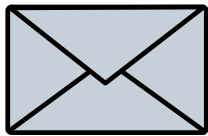
<http://www.tcole.texas.gov/content/state-texas-achievement-awards>



GET FORM

STAY UP TO DATE WITH TCOLE

SUBSCRIBE TO TCOLE COMMUNICATIONS



Stay up to date on TCOLE news, events, and reminders! Click the button below to subscribe to TCOLE communications via GovDelivery. This service is provided to you at no charge by Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Be sure to allow emails from: TXCOLE@public.govdelivery.com.

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X

**CLICK OR SCAN QR CODE
FOR CURRENT TCOLE STATISTICS**



2026 IADLEST CONFERENCE

WE'RE READY, ARE YOU?

IADLEST 2026 Conference

Fort Worth, Texas
June 7-10, 2026



400+ Law Enforcement Executives, Training Managers, POST Directors & Academy Directors. 50 States. 16+ Countries. 3 days.
1 Keynote. 20 Training Tracks. Roundtable Discussions.
28 Exhibits. 2 Social Events.

IADLEST is committed to transforming policing by pursuing excellence in training and the development of professional standards; and each year, the annual conference showcases this commitment by focusing on the most pressing issues for training managers and executives.

Topics Include:

- Recruitment & Retention
- Officer Safety & Wellness
- Effective Curriculum Development
- Scenario-Based Training
- Training Innovation
- Instructional Design
- Leadership & Ethics

Omni Fort Worth Hotel
1300 Houston St
Fort Worth, TX 76102

REGISTER NOW AT

<https://www.iadlest.org/conference>



RULE UPDATES

PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENTS

THE RULE AMENDMENTS BELOW ARE OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

Proposed December 11, 2025

§211.29 - Responsibilities of Agency Chief Administrators

§211.30 - Chief Administrator Responsibilities for Misdemeanor Waivers

§218.30 - Legislatively Required Continuing Education for Licensees

PROPOSED RULES

ADOPTED MODEL POLICIES

Medical and Psychological Examination of a Licensee
Agency Adoption Date - September 1, 2024

Hiring Procedures
Agency Adoption Date - June 1, 2025

Misconduct Allegations
Agency Adoption Date - June 1, 2025

Personnel Files
Agency Adoption Date - June 1, 2025

Please visit the TCOLE website to view the most current versions of the model policies that have been finally adopted by the Commission. All law enforcement agencies shall adopt these model policies, or substantively similar policies, no later than the agency adoption date provided and submit the adopted policies to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.



MODEL POLICIES

EDUCATION SERVICES NEWS

New on MyTCOLE 3.0

Navigating Your Role as a Training Coordinator (course #7007)

- Tailored for appointed Training Coordinators over a basic licensing course
- This course must be completed within six (6) months of appointment.
- This course can only be delivered by TCOLE and is only available on MyTCOLE 3.0.

Interacting with Veterans in a Jail Setting (course #4902)

- It requires all licensed county jailers to be trained in interacting with veterans in a jail setting by August 2027.
- The instructor resource guide was published October 2025.
- Education Services is developing the online version.

Course Updates

Basic County Corrections (course #1121)

- There is a new course number. Any deliveries that begin on or after April 1, 2026, must use the new content with the new course reporting number.
- The course hours remain the same.
- Content from Interacting with Veterans in a Jail Setting (course #4902) is in Module 5.
- Suicide Detection and Prevention in a Jail Setting has been completely revised.

Peace Officer to Jailer (course #1109)

- There is a new course number. Any deliveries that begin on or after April 1, 2026, must use the new content with the new course reporting number.
- Interacting with Veterans in a Jail Setting (course #4902) has been added to the required curriculum, which have increased to minimum of 67 hours.

Training Advisory Board (course #3003)

- Training providers must implement the new content by April 1, 2026.

Suicide Detection and Prevention in Jails (course #3501)

- Training providers must implement the new content by April 1, 2026.

**COURSE CURRICULUM
MATERIALS AND UPDATES**

Finding Wellness (course #4202)

- Currently being revised – be on the lookout for the revised course this Spring!

Additional Course Updates

The following courses have been updated for law, grammar, and formatting.

- Body Worn Cameras (course #8158)
- HIV/AIDS and Viral Hepatitis in the Criminal Justice Profession (course #3804)
- Basic Investigative Hypnosis (course #1009)

Peace Officer Job Task Analysis

- In the Summer of 2024, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) appointed the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT) at Sam Houston State University to conduct a job task analysis (JTA) of Texas peace officers. The purpose of the JTA is to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the main tasks, responsibilities, and duties of peace officers in Texas, with the intention of using the study's findings to inform TCOLE's Basic Peace Officer Course (BPOC). TCOLE last conducted a JTA in 1997 making this project essential for ensuring that TCOLE's education, curriculum, and training standards are commensurate with the demands and challenges of contemporary policing.
- Education Services is currently reviewing the submitted report.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO IN YOUR MYTCOLE ACCOUNT

TCOLE may notify you through email, text message, or U.S. mail of changes or deficiencies impacting your license status. Make sure your phone number, email address, and mailing address are up to date so you receive these important notifications.

MyTCOLE Features:

Connect to
Free Online
Training

Order Your
Proficiency
Certificates &
Photo ID
Card

Print your
License

View Your
Personal
Status Report
(PSR)

Check
Training
Compliance

HOW-TO:

1. Log into your MyTCOLE account:
<https://tcledds.tcole.texas.gov/mytcole/Login>
 2. Click on 'My Information' along the top toolbar
- My Information
3. Scroll down to the Personal Tab
 4. Update your information
 5. Click the Save Changes button

The screenshot shows the 'My Information' form with the 'Personal' tab selected. The form contains various input fields for personal and contact information, including telephone, email, address, city, state, zip, height, weight, hair color, and eye color. There are also dropdown menus for gender, race, and driver's license state. A 'Save Changes' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

Personal	Education	Courses	Exams	Awards	Service
<p>High School: Yes G.E.D.: No Citizen: Yes Gender: Male Race: MultiCultural</p> <p>*Telephone: 512-936-7700 *City: Austin *Height (ft): 5 *Primary Email: Email@tcole.texas.gov *State: TX *Height (in): 9 *Alternate Email: fake-email@email.net *Zip: 78723 *Weight: 150 *Address 1: 123 ABC Street *Driver's License #: 55555 *Hair Color: Black Address 2: *Driver's License State: GA *Eye Color: Blue Save Changes</p>					

TCOLE STAFF UPDATES



Ashly James joined our IT team as a Budget Analyst. Her previous experience includes working for Travis County Healthcare District as a Contracts Manager and as an IT Project Manager for Texas Bluebonnet Girls State - a summer camp for high school women interested in government and leadership. Originally from Longview, Ashly is most excited to implement process improvements in her new role to make the daily lives of her co-workers and the public easier.



Diana Hernandez-Guerra joined our Education Services division as an Education Specialist. She has eight years of experience in public education, working as both an elementary and middle school teacher before moving into an instructional coaching position supporting teachers. These experiences strengthened her passion for developing eLearning, professional development content and creating meaningful learning opportunities which she'll bring into her new role.



Jason Brandes joined our Field Services division as a Sergeant Investigator. He began his career with the LA County Sheriff's Department in 2005 and has also worked for Round Rock and Liberty Hill ISD police departments. He's worked various assignments including Jail Emergency Response Team, Gang Enforcement Team and Community Based Policing Unit, among others. He also started the Junior Police Academy while a part of Round Rock PD.



Dwayne Gerber joined our Field Services division as a Sergeant Investigator. He comes to TCOLE after 33 years with the Lubbock Police Department where he worked in narcotics for 17 years and nine with the homicide unit. Dwayne considers himself as one of the lucky ones who followed a career path he was created for and is excited to learn how he can serve the State of Texas in a different capacity.



Scott Cheshire joined our Field Services division as a Sergeant Investigator. His career in law enforcement began in 1991 in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. He worked in dispatch, patrol and the investigations division, among others, before retiring in 2013. He started working for the Round Rock police department as the forensics manager until joining TCOLE in December.

TCOLE STAFF UPDATES



Abbie Tittizer joined our IT division as a Business Analyst. She started her career as a developer at IBM, then switched to businesses analysis and has worked for the Texas Medicaid vendor, working on systems to help Texas providers and Medicaid recipients. She comes to TCOLE excited to move her career in a new direction while still helping the people of Texas.



Xavier Casares joined our Special Services division as a Sergeant Investigator for Academies and Training Providers. He graduated from the City of McAllen police academy and has over 30 years of law enforcement experience in various roles such as a patrol officer, detective, DEA task force officer, sergeant, and training coordinator. He continued his career with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department and recently worked as a training director with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Xavier earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley and completed the Texas DPS Command College.



Over the last few weeks, TCOLE has been honored to swear in our newest Sergeant Investigators, who will be a part of our Field and Special Services divisions.

TCOLE has several current employment opportunities, with many more expected in the coming months. Check our employment page for additional information.

APPLY TODAY

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW STATEWIDE PEACE OFFICER VACANCIES.](#)



COMMISSION MEMBERS

Chief Kim Lemaux
Presiding Officer

Assistant Chief Jason D. Hester
Assistant Presiding Officer

Constable Justin West
Secretary

Janna Atkins
Justin Berry
Patricia Burruss
Sheriff Mike Griffis
Conor Harvey
Sergio Saenz

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Cade Andrews

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