



# The Briefing

The official newsletter of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement

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## Upcoming Events

Commission Meetings:  
December 2nd, 2021  
March 3rd, 2022

## The Future of TCLEDDS

Many of you have heard the news that TCOLE will be acquiring the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Data Distribution System (TCLEDDS). What does this mean for the future of TCLEDDS?

We are currently in the process of working through the contract and procurement requirements for this acquisition, and appreciate your patience as we do. The legislation allows for this to be completed before the biennium, but our intention is transition the system as soon as possible.

### What does this mean for your subscription fee?

Once TCOLE takes ownership of TCLEDDS there will be no subscription fees. Until that time, Productivity Center, Inc. still owns the system and subscription fees are still due to them. As soon as a contract is agreed upon by all parties involved, a transition date will be assigned and you will be notified of that transition date immediately.

### What is the transition timeline?

The transition date will likely be 15-45 days after the contract is signed.

### What should you expect upon transition?

1. Subscription fees will no longer be collected.
2. TCOLE will begin providing support for passwords & account assistance.
3. Use of TCLEDDS will be mandatory for all agencies. Paper forms such as L1s, F5s, F7s, L1-Ts, and rosters will no longer be accepted.

### What is TCOLE doing to prepare?

We are currently in the process of hiring a new team to support the development of the system and the support for the system. This new team will be critical for prioritizing upcoming feature releases of TCLEDDS. We will be establishing a regular form of communication to keep you up to date on the changes to expect.

We will be publishing a survey on our website and social media in the coming weeks. Your feedback will be invaluable in helping us prioritize future upgrades. Stay tuned!

# Commission Meeting Highlights

## ***Executive Director's Report:***

The 87th Legislature provided TCOLE the funds for 14 new full-time employees, as well as various other projects new to TCOLE. We have already begun hiring for the Education Services Division, as well as hiring staff for the IT Division. Much of the new IT staff is needed to support the TCLEDDS database, which we are hoping to soon be able to purchase with funds from the Legislature. With the addition of several new staff members, TCOLE will be expanding our office footprint on the floor we currently lease.

TCOLE will be offering service award certificates as requested by many people in the law enforcement community. These certificates will be awarded in five-year increments.

TCOLE staff has proposed a rule change that would shift the process of when a person will receive their peace officer license. This change would allow a person to receive a license after successfully completing a licensing course and the state licensing exam, as opposed to receiving a license after a first appointment.

## ***Enforcement and Special Services Director's Report:***

The Enforcement Division will be handling non-compliance beginning October 1st, as training providers, agencies, and licensees have 30 days to get rosters turned in.

TCOLE has begun the first steps in implementing the peer-to-peer network that was passed in the 87th Legislative Session. We are working with the Caruth Police Institute at the University of North Texas Dallas to figure out the details of that partnership and the implementation of the peer-to-peer program, including an app and hotline.

IT will be hiring two staff members dedicated to the new file transfer system that was also directed by the legislature through SB 24 as the new background check program (*See June newsletter for more information*). Agencies will be able to securely transfer personnel files to other agencies through this new system. We will be purchasing a service where MyTCOLE users can opt in to email notifications that will allow TCOLE to better communicate directly with our regulated community.

## ***Credentialing and Field Services Director's Report:***

At the beginning of June, TCOLE was asked to assist in Operation Lone Star, the ongoing state-led border security operation, and have a presence at the State Operations Center. This will continue for the foreseeable future. We have worked with the Board of Criminal Justice to issue county jail licenses to some of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice employees. Furthermore, Texas has received assistance from other states including Florida, Ohio, Nebraska, and Iowa; these peace officers are given a temporary appointment as authorized by the governor.

The second round of compliance letters have gone out and we are pleased to report a significant decrease in numbers since the first letter. These numbers will continue to decrease as rosters get turned in to report training.

### ***Credentialing and Field Services Director's Report (continued):***

Through the funds granted from the Legislature, TCOLE will be reinstating the curriculum portion of the agency, now called Education Services. This group will be responsible for the reviews, revisions, and development for all the state objectives for licensing courses and all the courses that we are obligated to maintain. This group will be made of up seven individuals committed to law enforcement education. Furthermore, the state licensing exam has been reviewed and reflects the added course objectives by legislative mandates. Materials for the newest Legislative Update, 3187, is up on the website. TCOLE will now be mandating up to 16 hours of the 40 hours that a peace officer is required to have for continuing education. We are working on the Mental Health Officer curriculum and will be meeting with committee members to make needed updates to the course. The Mental Health Officer course is not the same as CIT, as there are many subjects within the mental health training that are not in the CIT course. Another item from the legislature that we will be working to implement is the new CPR course for telecommunicators to assist civilians in administering CPR before emergency services can arrive.

Lastly, Field Services has conducted two New Training Coordinator classes, and our hope is to continue to do this new training spread across the state.

### ***Government Relations Director's Report:***

TCOLE will be undergoing a limited scope review by the Sunset Advisory Commission that will be discussed again in the next legislative session. We have turned in our self-evaluation report, which is the first step in this process. TCOLE will be assigned mostly to the same Sunset staff team that we had in the last review, and we will start the second portion of the review in April. We hope that this will identify any improvements that need to be made to the agency.

We are beginning preparations for the Peace Officer Memorial ceremony, which will be back on the Capitol grounds next year. Agencies that have lost law enforcement personnel are asked to submit nominations to [recognitions@tcole.texas.gov](mailto:recognitions@tcole.texas.gov).

## **New Law Spotlight: Disabled Veteran License Plates**

Senate Bill 792, pertaining to chapters 502 and 504 of the Transportation Code, requires that Disabled Veteran license plates must also bear the International Symbol of Access (pictured to the right) or display a disabled parking placard when parking in a disabled parking spot. Though the statute is on the books starting September 1, 2021, the requirement for a license plate displaying the International Symbol of Access or parking placard **will not take effect until January 1, 2022**. For further information, please refer to the press release provided by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles:

[https://www.txdmv.gov/sites/default/files/body-files/08\\_26\\_21-Disabled-Veteran-Plates.pdf](https://www.txdmv.gov/sites/default/files/body-files/08_26_21-Disabled-Veteran-Plates.pdf)



DISABLED VETERAN U.S. ARMED FORCES

## **The New Continuing Education Unit has Begun!**

This unit runs from September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2023.

Peace Officers –

- ALL Officers need 40 hours to include #3187 – State and Federal Law Update
  - Up to 16 of these hours will be specified by TCOLE (Courses TBD)
- Get a head start on the cycle requirements if you are an officer holding a Basic certificate or no certificate-
  - Cultural Diversity
  - Crisis Intervention Training
  - Special Investigative Topics
  - De-escalation Techniques

Do not wait until the last minute to get your training! The classroom setting courses get harder to find the closer we get to the end of the unit/cycle.

Jailers –

- Cultural Diversity by 8/31/2025
  - The ONLY EXCEPTION is if you have an Intermediate Peace Officer certificate or higher. If you do, you do not have to complete Cultural Diversity.
- Mental Health for Jailers

Telecommunicators –

- 20 hours of continuing education to include a TCOLE-approved Telecommunicator CPR course.

Officers who are not appointed –

- Will have to complete training through one of our many providers throughout the state. They will submit the training for you. We will not accept any training that was completed outside of our providers.
- For a list of providers please see the following links:
  - <http://www.tcole.texas.gov/contract-training-providers>
  - <http://www.tcole.texas.gov/law-enforcement-academies>

Non-compliance for the 17-21 cycle and the 19-21 unit:

- Letters will be sent out shortly for those individuals who did not meet the required training by the end of the unit/cycle.
- The first letter will be sent to the department requesting a response on why the training was not completed.
- The next letter will go to the individual requesting the training be completed to mitigate their suspension. Once the training has been completed, the individual will receive a reprimand on their record. The reprimand is given because the individual did not complete training in the required time. If the training is not completed within the required 60 days, the license will be suspended for a period of 90 days.

## **New Unit (Continued)**

FAQs

Q: What happens if my license is suspended for lack of training?

A: You are unable to work in a licensed capacity for 90 days. At the end of the 90 days, you must reinstate the license through our Legal Division.

Q: How can I verify the accreditation of a college/university?

A: The University website will always have the accreditation. That is usually listed under school information. Another site that is helpful is [www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org). Remember that TCOLE will only accept those universities that are REGIONALLY accredited.

Q: My L1 was rejected because I have not completed one or more of the mandated courses – 3270, 4065, 7887, or 1850. What happens now?

A: You will need to complete the course(s) prior to the department resubmitting the L1. An emailed certificate of completion is not sufficient. The course will need to be posted to your record before we will accept the L1.

# **TCOLE ONLINE TRAINING**



Our new Online Training system limits course completions to once per unit for each course. We have reset all the courses so students may retake them during the new 2021 – 2023 unit.

We're excited to announce that we will be adding two new courses to our catalog in the near future, as well as some courses to assist with the TCLEDDS transition. Additionally, we expect our online training catalog to continue to grow as our internal Education Services team also grows.

In anticipation of this growth, we have decided to reconfigure the layout of our online training catalog on the home page of our site. You'll notice a new category called "Active Courses". These are the courses that are currently available to any licensee to take. We also have a category specifically for TDD/TTY courses. There are currently variations of TDD/TTY to satisfy telecommunicators' requirement for a TDD/TTY refresher every 6 months, while maintaining our limitation of one completion per unit. These courses are grouped together to make them easy to find and remove them from the main list for all other licensees that may not specifically need them.

Watch for new courses and new categories, coming soon!

# Proposed Rule Changes

Rules proposed for amendment during the September 2021 meeting are currently open for public comment. Please send your feedback to [public\\_comment@tcole.texas.gov](mailto:public_comment@tcole.texas.gov).

## *§211.27 Reporting Responsibilities of Individuals.*

Updates language related to military discharges for consistency.

## *§217.1 Minimum Standards for Enrollment and Initial Licensure.*

Updates requirements for background investigations in response to the passage of Senate Bill 24 (87R).

## *§218.3 Legislatively Required Continuing Education for Licensees.*

Adds CPR training to continuing education requirements for telecommunicators in response to the passage of House Bill 786 (87R).

## *§219.1 Eligibility to Take State Examinations.*

Changes the issuance of a license to be upon passage of the state exam rather than upon first appointment, with a license going inactive absent an appointment in two years.

## *§219.11 Reactivation of a License.*

Sets forth the reactivation process for those who do not receive an appointment within two years of licensure.

## *§221.31 Retired Peace Officer and Federal Law Enforcement Officer Firearms Proficiency.*

Repeals the firearms proficiency rule in response to the passage of Senate Bill 198, which places this process in statute.

## *§223.19 License Reactivation.*

Updates language related to military discharges for consistency.

## *§227.7 School Marshal Renewals.*

Standardizes the expiration of school marshal licenses in response to the passage of Senate Bill 785 (87R).

## License Actions

The following proceedings for revocation, suspension and other disciplinary actions took place at the September 2021 Commission Meeting. For a complete listing of these license actions, including names and departments, see the meeting agenda found on our website under Who We Are/The Commission/Meeting Minutes at [www.tcole.texas.gov/commission-meeting-minutes](http://www.tcole.texas.gov/commission-meeting-minutes).

Type of Action	Number of Licenses
Default Suspension Order	1
Agreed Suspension Waiver	1
Agreed Suspension Order	1
Proposal for Decision	1
Statutory Suspension	1
Statutory Revocations	2
Permanent Surrenders	15
Reprimands for Administrative Violations	6

## 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 2022 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>.

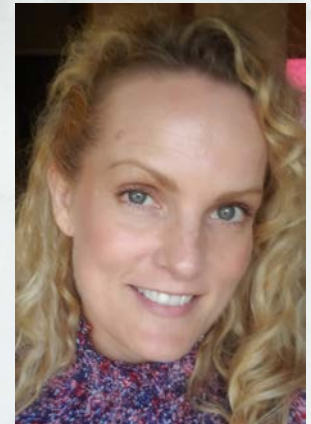
## Non-Refundable Fees

For those submitting any applications from the TCOLE website, please keep in mind that all fees are non-refundable. We are happy to help in any way that we can, if you are not sure if you are qualified for something, please call TCOLE at 512-936-7700 or email us at [credentialing.help@tcole.texas.gov](mailto:credentialing.help@tcole.texas.gov).

## Staff Changes

### New staff:

Rachel Rinehart is the new Education Services Supervisor with TCOLE. She will be leading the curriculum team in creating and developing our educational platform. Prior to TCOLE, she was the Academic Program Supervisor with the Texas Department of Public Safety. She worked at the Training Academy and managed the academic program for all incoming trainees. Before DPS, she was an instructor in higher education. She taught first-year writing to incoming freshman. She has been in education for the last ten years as a student, educator, and mentor.



Rachel received her Master's degree in Liberal Arts with a Humanities concentration from St. Edward's University. She focused on literature and writing during her studies. She also has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Texas A&M-Corpus Christi with an emphasis in Marketing and a minor in Public Relations.

### Other moves:

- Legislative Coordinator/*Briefing* Editor Kaitlyn Tonkin has joined the Education Services team.
- Customer Service Representative Rainee Treviño will be joining the Legal Division.

TCOLE is hiring several positions across the agency. Check out the postings at <https://www.tcole.texas.gov/content/employment-opportunities>.

## Submit your Achievement Award Nominations!

We need your help! Each year TCOLE hosts an annual achievement award 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, but without a nomination we may never hear about them.

The awards are issued in the categories of valor, public service, and professional achievement. Nominations can be submitted until December 31, 2021 for the 2022 Achievement Awards Ceremony. For the nomination form and additional information, please visit <http://www.tcole.texas.gov/content/state-texas-achievement-awards>





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