



Kim Vickers
Executive Director

TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Technical Assistance Bulletin

To: All Texas Law Enforcement Agencies/Contract Training Providers/Licensees
From: Kenny Merchant/Director, Credentialing and Field Services
Regarding: **Jailer Firearm Certification**
Date: November 4, 2019

In House Bills 1552 and 3503 the 86th Texas Legislature created statutory requirements for County Jailers licensed by the Commission in order to carry firearms while on duty. The statutes extend to all County Jailers who carry a firearm, whether they began carrying the firearm prior to the effective date or not. The bills do not affect jailers who do not carry firearms. The bills are codified under Occupations Code 1701.2561 and 1701.355 and went into effect on June 18, 2019.

In short, the statute requires the jailer to complete a course of training as approved by the Commission and receive a certification from the Commission. The jailer may then carry a firearm "during the course of performing duties as a county jailer, including while transporting persons confined in the county jail...and while traveling to and from the jailer's place of assignment. Once certified, the jailer is subject to the same yearly firearms qualification requirements as a peace officer. Firearms carry does not allow a County Jailer to act in any capacity as a peace officer, including working security under Occupations Code 1702.

The Commission has approved the existing Jail Firearms Course (3599), even if taken prior to the effective date of the statute, as meeting the requirements of the statute. In addition, for those jailers who also have successfully completed a Texas Basic Peace Officer Course at any time in their history, the 3599 course is waived. Exceptions are not approved for any other firearms training courses, including License to Carry, Out-of-State courses, Federal courses, military courses, etc. To receive the certification from the Commission, the applicant must be currently appointed as a County Jailer, have completed the required course, and have a current firearms qualification for the type of weapon to be carried.

The Jailer Firearm Certification Application is located on the Commission website-
<http://www.tcole.texas.gov/sites/default/files/FormsAppsPubs/CRT%2015.002%20Jailer%20Firearms%20Certificate%209.20.2019.pdf>.



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