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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: **DPS Special Ranger, DPS Special Texas Ranger, TPW Special Warden, TABC Special Investigator, and Retired State Officer Training Requirements**
Date: September 6, 2019

SB 1397 from the 86th Legislature made changes to the existing statute in Occupations Code (OC) 1701.356, regarding training exemptions for certain retired State Police Officers, effective August 26, 2019. To understand those changes, let's first define who they apply to:

Special Ranger- a peace officer who retired from service with DPS and is then reappointed under Government Code (GC) 411.023. Per DPS, this person must surrender the Special Ranger designation if subsequently appointed at another agency.

Special Texas Ranger- a peace officer who retired from service with the Texas Rangers and is then reappointed under GC 411.024. Per DPS, this person must surrender the Special Ranger designation if subsequently appointed at another agency.

Special Game Warden- a peace officer who retired from service with Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) and is then reappointed under Section 11.0201 Parks and Wildlife Code. Per TPW, this person need not surrender the Special Ranger designation if subsequently appointed at another agency.

Special Investigator- a peace officer who retired from service with The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) and is then reappointed under Section 5.142, Alcoholic Beverage Code. Per TABC, this person must surrender the Special Ranger designation if subsequently appointed at another agency.

Retired State Officer (RSO)- a peace officer appointed prior to 01/01/1981 and still currently licensed on 01/01/1995, who retired from State service. This person retains RSO status regardless of whether or not they are subsequently appointed at another agency. *Note- an RSO must be commissioned to carry peace officer authority.*

It is possible for a person to be included in more than one of the above definitions. For example, a DPS Special Ranger may also be an RSO, if his dates of service match the RSO requirements.

Beginning on 08/26/2019, the first 4 "Special" categories above are exempt from all Training Unit and all Training Cycle Mandates (OC 1701.351 and 1701.352). They are also exempt from any training required under OC 1701.253, which includes Asset Forfeiture (3255), Racial Profiling (3256), Identity Theft (3277), Crisis Intervention Training (1850- 40hrs), Canine Encounters (4065), Interacting with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Drivers (7887), and the Civilian Interaction Training Program (CITP- 30418).

Licensees qualifying as RSO's are exempt from the Training Unit requirements, only (OC 1701.351).