

DPS Chaparral



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August 2005

New laws get top billing

The 79th session of the Texas Legislature passed several bills of interest to DPS. All of the bills listed below go into effect September 1, unless otherwise noted.

HB 183 states that all children younger than 5 years of age (old law was younger than 4) and less than 36 inches tall are required to be in a child safety seat system. It also classifies safety seat infractions as moving violations for the first time.

SB 1257 prohibits use of wireless communications devices (including cell phones) for the first six months after teenagers get their driver licenses. The bill also prohibits passenger bus drivers transporting minors from using wireless communications devices, except in emergencies or when the bus is stopped.

HB 1357 creates a six-month driver license (DL) suspension for a person convicted of providing alcohol to a minor (one year for second offense), and increases the DL suspension to one year for minors who are convicted of a second alcohol offense.

HB 1481 makes it a Class B misdemeanor if a person drives around a barricade where a warning sign or barricade has been placed because water is over any portion of a road, street or highway. It also specifically creates a traffic violation for driving around a barricade put in the roadway because of dangerous conditions.

SB 1005 provides that if a driver younger than 25 years of age commits a traffic offense classified as a moving violation, the judge must require the driver to complete a driving safety course—and, if the driver holds a provisional driver license (under 18 years of age), submit to a DPS road test.



see New laws on page 3

Dear Fellow Employee,

On August 5, the members of Recruit Class A-05 will graduate from the DPS Training Academy. When they report to their new duty stations, please join me in welcoming them home. The graduates have worked hard; they and their families should be proud.

These new troopers will fill our Highway Patrol vacancies for the first time in many years. I know they will contribute to the proud tradition of DPS.

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We still have employees who are on military deployment. Please keep them—and their families—in your thoughts. The Public Information Office is seeking e-mail addresses for our employees who are deployed, so that those of us who remain here in Texas can drop them an encouraging note. If you know of e-mail addresses for any of our employees who are deployed, please send that employee's name and e-mail address to: pio@txdps.state.tx.us. In a later issue, we'll have information on how to participate in this program.

Thomas A. Davis Jr.

Short Shots

Sick Leave Pool forms due

The Sick Leave Pool continues to benefit employees of the Department who have experienced the adversity of catastrophic illness or injury and have exhausted all accrued entitlements. Employees are again asked to contribute to this worthwhile cause.

Donations are accepted at any time and will be good for a period of one year from date of donation. Donations must be received **before** the discovery of the need for leave.

For additional information, refer to the insert in your August pay packet or General Manual, Chapter 7, Section 06.04. Also enclosed in your August pay packet you will find an HR-36, Sick Leave Pool donation form.

If you wish to contribute, please send the completed form to the Human Resources Bureau, attention Sick Leave Pool Administrator, P.O. Box 4087, Austin, Texas 78773-0251.

The HR-36 form can also be found in Outlook under Public Folders, All Public Folders, DPS Forms, HR Forms. You may e-mail this form to **Cindy Torres** in Human Resources.

Anyone for golf?

A golf tournament benefiting the family of deceased DPS Recruit **Jimmy Carty Jr.** is scheduled for Aug. 27 at Blackhawk Golf Course in Pflugerville. The cost is \$75 per person, which includes green fees and cart rental. The post-game meal

will be donated by Nuevo Leon Restaurant.

All proceeds from the tournament will go to Recruit Carty's family. For more information on entering the tournament, please contact **Kari Raesz** in Headquarters Security at 512-424-2783 or via e-mail at kari.raesz@txdps.state.tx.us.

Speir Scholarship deadline

Wilson E. Speir Scholarship applications will be accepted through Aug. 15. Students must be classified as full-time criminal justice majors and enrolled in Texas universities. Two scholarships will be awarded for \$500 per semester for up to two semesters.

Applicants should submit resumes and transcripts of completed college work to: Director's Office, c/o DPS, P.O. Box 4087, Austin TX 78773-0110.

Vetter Scholarship awarded

Eagle Pass native Gladys Carrillo has received the latest scholarship named for Tr. **Randall Vetter**, who was killed in the line of duty August 2000. This is the fourth year that the scholarship has been awarded.

FBI Academy

Capt. **Steven Alan Carlborg**, DL Hurst, is the latest DPS graduate from the FBI National Academy.

Safety Education awards

Sen. Tr. **Gerald Bryant**, HP Victoria, won first place in the 2005 Uniformed Safety Education Officers Workshop in Council Bluffs, Iowa, with his presentation "Safety Quiz." DPS and TxDOT also received

second place in the Public Safety Announcement competition for the "singing officers" ad called "Put Your Seat belt On."

Region 6 Retirees Association

The Region 6 Retirees Association annual meeting will be held Sept. 17 in Knox Hall at the Texas Ranger Museum and Hall of Fame in Waco. All DPS retirees are invited to attend. Gathering and visiting will begin at 10 a.m. with a meal served at noon. The meal is \$10. To make reservations, please call retired Maj. **Danny Smith** at 254-666-7084 or **Judy Faulkner** at 254-799-8963.

New education opportunity

Huston-Tillotson University in Austin is now offering reduced tuition rates for DPS employees working toward a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Depending on the number of credit hours, the savings could be a discount of up to 50 percent. The university also offers night and weekend classes and credit for experience.

For more information on the fee reduction schedule, go to Outlook and access Public Folders, All Public Folders, Human Resources. You can call Huston-Tillotson at 512-505-3028 or e-mail them at enrollment@htu.edu.

Swat team tryouts

The SWAT team has openings for interested troopers. Troopers who live or work within two contiguous counties of Travis or Williamson county are eligible. For more details, contact Lt. **Ronnie Tacquard** at 512-424-2339.

New laws continued from page 1

HB 1484 specifies that a person commits a traffic offense if they are involved in a crash on the main lane, ramp, shoulder, median or adjacent area of a freeway and don't move their vehicle to an area that minimizes interference with freeway traffic (assuming the vehicle is drivable.)

HB 51 requires an ignition interlock device if a driver's blood alcohol level is determined to be .15 or more (upon conviction).

HB 1596 clarifies the definition of neighborhood electric vehicles and motor assisted scooters and allows municipalities to regulate the use of motor assisted scooters on roadways and sidewalks.

SB 1257 disqualifies a person from operating a commercial motor vehicle if the person's driving is determined to constitute an imminent hazard.

HB 754 increases the maximum fine to \$500 for violating laws related to transporting loose material.

SB 1258 specifies that an original commercial driver license or commercial driver learner's permit expires in five years instead of six years.

HB 87 allows cities to lower residential speed limits from 30 mph to 25 mph in certain instances. This bill took effect immediately.

HB 2257 allows the TxDOT commission to establish a daytime speed limit of 80 miles per hour on I-10 or I-20 in Crockett, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Kerr, Kimble, Pecos, Reeves, Sutton or Ward counties. This bill took effect immediately.

If established, this speed does not apply to truck tractors, trailers, semi trailers, or trucks, other than light trucks and light trucks pulling a trailer. This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 1670 requires TxDOT, in conjunction with Department of Insurance, to establish a verification program for vehicle insurance in order to try and reduce the number of uninsured drivers.

HB 120 creates an organ donor education and registry program. Eventually, Texans will be able to indicate their wish to become an organ donor when they are issued or renew their driver license or ID card.

SB 122 requires peace officers to report notification of ID theft to their employing agency. It provides penalties for the unauthorized use of personal information.

HB 699 increases the penalty for using someone else's DL or ID card to a Class A misdemeanor. It also clarifies that use of a false ID by someone under 21 for purchase of alcohol is a Class C misdemeanor.

HB 1239 makes DPS more involved with drug task forces operating in Texas, including any "multi-county" drug task forces. (Effective August 1.)

HB 164 places restrictions on the sale of pseudoephedrine products and allows children exposed to meth production to be removed from the home.

HB 867 eliminates mandatory newspaper notification for sex offenders. Another provision deals with postcard notification for high-risk sex offenders. DPS is now required to

send the postcards to all addresses within the distribution area, except post office boxes. Prior law specified residential addresses only.

HB 1068 creates an independent commission with investigational oversight involving complaints against DNA crime labs in the state. It also requires DNA sampling from some 60,000 current Texas prison inmates who do not have DNA profiles in the CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) database.

HB 823 describes the conditions under which a person will be presumed to be "traveling" for the first time. It applies to people who have a handgun in their vehicle but do not have a concealed handgun license (CHL). It also places the burden of proof on prosecutors to prove the driver was "not traveling."

HB 225 extends the renewal time for a CHL from four to five years, which will reduce the average annual cost of a license.

HB 322 lowers the age requirement for active duty or retired members of the military applying for a CHL from 21 years of age to 18, and reduces the original license fee and any renewal fees for active duty members of the armed forces by 50 percent.

HB 1038 reduces CHL renewal fees by 50 percent for anyone over 60 years of age.

If you are aware of any new laws that will generate interest from the public, e-mail us at pio@txdps.state.tx.us or call 512-424-2080.

Mile Markers

Promotions

HP

James A. Connally, Tech. II, VI Svc. Denton to Field Supervisor VI Svc. Garland.

DL

Robert Burroughs, Major, HP Austin HQ to Asst. Chief, DL Austin HQ; **Tomas H. Valdez**, Lt., DL Lubbock to Capt., DL Lubbock.

Retirements

Stephen Andrew Miller, Sen. Tr., CVE Refugio, 27 yrs., 5 mos., 24 days; **Larry M. Ornelas**, Contract Spec. IV, Fleet Austin HQ, 26 yrs., 6 mos., 17 days;

Michael D. Gassiot, Criminalist V, BAT San Angelo, 26 yrs., 3 mos.; **Robert O. Browder**, Criminalist V, BAT Cleburne, 15 yrs., 8 mos.;

Donna Rae Caviness, DL Tech., DL Kermit, 14 yrs., 8 mos., 14 days; **Charlotte Sue Welch**, DL

Tech., DL Arlington, 7 yrs., 1 mo.; **Willie Earl Thomas**, Sen. Cpl., CVE Hurst, 28 yrs., 22 days; **Curtis Ray Borland**, Capt., DL Lubbock, 26 yrs., 17 days;

Mary Kathleen Blanck, Admin. Asst. III, Spec. Crimes Svc. Garland, 25 yrs., 11 mos., 29 days; **William Francis Rogillio, Jr.**, Sen. Cpl., CVE Buffalo, 25 yrs., 19 days;

Gary Don Davis, Sen. Tr., HP Groom, 24 yrs., 5 mos., 16 days; **Marjorie Kalinec**, Data Entry Operator III, MCB Austin HQ, 20 yrs., 1 mo., 10 days;

Cheryl E. Page, Admin. Asst. III, Crime Records Austin HQ, 30 yrs., 11 mos., 15 days; **Brenda Barnes Morrow**, Program Spec. III, Narcotics Svc. Austin, 28 yrs., 29 days; **Travis Corry Hall**, Sen. Tr., CVE Kerrville, 27 yrs., 6 mos., 23 days;

William Thomas Wilson, Sen. Tr., HP Vernon, 27 yrs., 5 mos., 24 days; **Bonita A. Dearing**, Admin. Asst. II, Crime Records Austin HQ, 20 yrs., 8 mos., 20 days.

Deaths

Joan Barber, ret. Secretary, L&W Waco (Nov. 1975 – May 1994) died June 17, 2005; **Richard Wayne Jordan**, Security Officer II, HP Austin Capitol (Nov. 2003 – June 2005) died June 19, 2005; **David Coffee**, ret. Tr. III, HP Stephenville (April 1959 – Dec. 1983) died June 23, 2005;

John McVean, ret. Sgt., HP Dallas (Dec. 1946 – Dec. 1983) died June 24, 2005; **Joseph Grona**, ret. Machinist II, Fleet Austin HQ (Oct. 1958 – Aug. 1995) died June 27, 2005; **Frances Edward Boyd**, ret. Sgt., HP San Angelo (Jan. 1947 – Aug. 1982) died June 30, 2005.

Lawrence Fite, ret. Inspector, OAI Austin HQ (May 1978 – Feb. 1998) died July 12, 2005.



On the mend...

Best wishes for a speedy recovery from line-of-duty injuries go to:

Tr. **John H. Henley**, HP Nacogdoches, injured in a vehicle crash;

Tr. **Wilton White**, HP Hempstead, struck by a drunk driver while directing traffic;

Good news! Returning to full duty are Tr. **Darrell C. Matthews**, CVE Hereford, injured in traffic crash; and Tr. **Robert Mendez**, shot in arm during traffic stop.

To Our DPS Friends and Family,

Trey and I would like to thank our DPS family for all the support and help generously and lovingly given during and after Frank's battle with cancer. Your love, strength and prayers have touched us more than words can express. I best knew Frank: his love, personality and character. We were moved and overwhelmed to know the love of the many people he touched and affected. He loved life and enjoyed people, making friends easily. May you continue to have and share fond memories with us, friends and each other. It is love, support and shared memories that will give all of us the strength to live life to the fullest as Frank would have wanted all of us to do. Please keep in touch. If we can assist anyone of you, please do not hesitate to let us know. May God bless you.

Kathy and Trey Elder