

# **TEXAS LOCKSMITH'S ADVISOR**

**August 2005**

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# President's Message

Dear Members,

This will be kind of short this month. Lot of things going on and I am getting ready to go to ALOA. I hope to see some of you there.

Just got back from a nice trip to Amarillo, Texas where I put on an Automotive Class and open forum on the license law. Had about 25 students from as far as Oklahoma and New Mexico. We had a very good time and I had to promise them to go back and do a two day class next year.

The purpose of the class was to raise funds for the new Texas Panhandle Locksmith Association (TPLN). They now have over 25 members and growing. Good group of folks who have realized the importance of working together for the benefit of all. Kind of strange but I don't remember anyone from Lubbock being there? They must have some really good auto smith's?

They should have raised several hundred dollars to help get TPLN off the ground and going forward. I thank them for the invitations. That Big Tex sure had some good steaks. A special thanks to Jimmy Castilleja of Slim Jim's Lock and Key, for all his hard work (well most of it cause his son Raymond seemed to be doing it all). I know Jimmy is doing really well because his service van is a 2005 Hummer H2. You know you have made it when you can do that!!!

Well for the most part all the legislation is done. We now have further rules we have to live with. You will have an increase in the yearly license fee and two year registration fee. That is another reason why it is so important for us to raise our membership. Have you asked anyone to join lately????? You need to!

*Jim Hetchler, President*

**Subscribe to TLA's eMailing List** to receive this publication [Texas Locksmiths Advisor] by email/download instead of regular mail. Go to [www.texaslocksmiths.org/advisor](http://www.texaslocksmiths.org/advisor) and Subscribe to the eMailing List for User Name / Password to Members Area . Or, send an email to [tla\\_advisor@texaslocksmiths.org](mailto:tla_advisor@texaslocksmiths.org) with SUBSCRIBE in the Subject line. You must supply your Last Name, First Name, TLA Member # and send from a valid email address. Note: AOL has a bulk email blocking system; Please use an alternate email account/address.

*I encourage you to Subscribe to TLA's eMailing List to receive important announcements and the most up-to-date information as it is posted. By subscribing, you will also save the Association printing and mailing costs.*

*Thanks in advance, TLA Webmaster*

**TEXAS LEGISLATIVE FUND**

The Texas Locksmiths Association monitors legislation, licensing, and regulation to look after the interests of locksmiths in Texas. A portion of the membership dues helps maintain this program, but additional contributions are needed. Those wishing to support this effort with a donation or donate items for auction, please contact a member of the board or call 1-877-TLA-INFO.

**UP COMING EVENTS**

<b>AUGUST</b>		<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
8	ALNT MEETS	5	LABOR DAY
9	GHLA MEETS	8	LASA MEETS
11	LASA MEETS	12	ALNT MEETS
15	GDLA MEETS	13	GHLA MEETS
27	L.B.J. DAY (TEXAS)	19	GDLA MEETS

**Visit TLA's Website at [www.texaslocksmiths.org](http://www.texaslocksmiths.org)**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The following persons have applied for membership in the Texas Locksmiths Association.

Applicants will be listed in the Advisor for a period of 90 days to allow members the opportunity to identify any applicant that may be deemed "not suitable" for membership and allow proper notification of the Membership Chairman, Steve Morse at 512-353-8615 or email [aaaakey@grandecom.net](mailto:aaaakey@grandecom.net), of such applicant.

### **30 Days**

Bonnie Morse, San Marcos, TX  
David Nellis, Austin, TX

### **60 Days**

Gonzalo Alvarez, Houston, TX  
Annette Johnson, Porter, TX

### **90 Days**

Christopher Grounds, Hillsboro, TX  
Norman Nost, Houston, TX  
Stanley Person, Euless, TX  
Rusty Coker, Amarillo, TX  
Steve Cothron, Austin, TX

## Texas License Verification

If you are curious as to whether an individual or company is licensed through the Department of Public Safety, it is simple to research on the DPS web site. To do so, just follow these steps:

1. Go to the Texas DPS Private Security Board Web Page at <http://www.tcps.state.tx.us>
2. On the Bottom Left, Select Search Individual or Search Company.
3. Enter Known Information
4. Press Enter, or Select Search

# LockPAC Pledge Card

## *One for One*

*(One service call fee for One year)*

The Texas Locksmith Association needs your help! The future of OUR industry is in our hands. If you want the laws of this state to reflect your wishes, and be passed into law in a way that benefits all locksmiths of our great state, then TLA is asking for two things of you.

1. Would you pledge one service call fee a month for one year?
2. Would you make an honest attempt to sign up a non –member. The leaders of our state must see that the TLA represents the majority.

**If each one of the companies currently a member of TLA pledge the above, we would double our membership to about 1000 in a year! And provide OUR lobbyist the tools to work on our behalf. Invest in your future. The license laws are new, and will change! Let's make sure they change in our favor! Please sign up today!**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ will pledge one service call fee per month for one year to support our lobbyist efforts, and I will contact one non-member and ask him to join TLA.

**It's that simple! You my mail in your pledge monthly, quarterly, or yearly. Thank you in advance for being responsible with our future, together.**

***TLA Board of Directors.....***

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

TLA Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_, State: \_\_\_\_\_

# ICE....A Cool Idea

Paramedics will turn to a victim's cell phone for clues to that person's identity. You can make their job much easier with a simple idea that they are trying to get everyone to adopt: ICE.

ICE stands for In Case of Emergency. If you add an entry in the contacts list in your cell phone under ICE, with the name and phone no. of the person that the emergency services should call on your behalf, you can save them a lot of time and have your loved ones contacted quickly. It only takes a few moments of your time to do.

Paramedics know what ICE means and they look for it immediately. ICE your cell phone NOW!

You might not want to stop at just ICE. Go ahead and enter an ICE2, ICE3, etc just in case no one! is home at ICE.

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## Win TLA Membership

The TLA Board of Directors, at its November meeting, approved a plan to award free membership dues quarterly to TLA members. Surely there's a catch! It's really simple, though. The *ADVISOR*, the TLA publication is soliciting member article submissions. In each quarter, the article judged as the best will be awarded a free year's renewal for its author. The presentation of the first award will take place at the TLA Convention in March. Articles should pertain to the locksmith community. Articles should be submitted (preferably by e-mail) to the Editor at the address shown inside the front cover of the *Advisor*. Should you have any questions about articles, submission, or the award, feel free to contact the Editor. Articles will be judged by the TLA Board of Directors to award the membership renewal.

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***FOR LOCKSMITHS NEEDING INFORMATION ON LICENSING, CONTACT TLA PRESIDENT JIM HETCHLER AT:***

**TEXASLOCKSMITHS@AOL.COM**

# New Texas Laws

*Reprinted  
By  
Request*

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of and rights of private security personnel.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 1702, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1702.047 to read as follows:

Sec. 1702.047. ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF. The department shall designate a department employee who shall report directly to the board. The employee designated under this section shall assist the board in the administration of the board's duties. The salary for an employee designated under this section may not exceed the salary specified in the General Appropriations Act for an employee subject to salary group A10.

SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 1702, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1702.0611 to read as follows:

Sec. 1702.0611. RULEMAKING PROCEDURES. (a) The board may only adopt rules under this chapter on the approval of the Public Safety Commission as provided by this section.

(b) Before adopting a rule under this chapter, the board must:

- (1) determine the need for the proposed rule;
- (2) work with persons who will be affected by the rule to ensure consideration of all relevant issues regarding the proposed rule;
- (3) consult with an attorney in the department's regulatory licensing service to draft the rule and ensure that the proposed rule complies with statutory requirements regarding administrative rules; and
- (4) submit the proposed rule to the department's general counsel, director, and chief accountant for consideration of the proposed rule's impact on the department and to ensure that the proposed rule is within the board's authority.

(c) On the completion of the required publication and comment periods under Chapter 2001, Government Code, the Public Safety Commission shall:

- (1) return the proposed rule to the board if:
  - (A) the commission identifies a problem with the rule that must be resolved before the rule is approved; or
  - (B) a comment requiring resolution is received during the comment period; or
- (2) place the rule on the commission's agenda for final approval during the commission's next regularly scheduled meeting.

(d) On approval of the proposed rule by the Public Safety Commission, the department shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 2001, Government Code, for final adoption of the rule.

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SECTION 3. Section 1702.062(a), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The commission by rule shall establish reasonable and necessary fees that produce sufficient revenue to administer this chapter. The fees may not produce unnecessary fund balances and may not exceed the following amounts:

Class A license	\$350 [\$250] (original and renewal)
Class B license	\$400 [\$300] (original and renewal)
Class C license	\$540 [\$440] (original and renewal)
Class D license	\$400 (original and renewal)
Reinstate suspended license	\$150
Assignment of license	\$150
Change name of license	\$ 75
Delinquency fee	_____
Branch office certificate and renewal	\$300 [\$200]
Registration fee for private investigator, manager, branch office manager, locksmith, electronic access control device installer, and alarm systems installer	\$ 30 [\$ 20] (original and renewal)
Registration fee for noncommissioned security officer	\$ 30 [\$ 25] (original and renewal)
Registration fee for security salesperson	\$ 30 [\$ 20]
Registration fee for alarm systems monitor	\$ 30 [\$ 20]
Registration fee for dog trainer	\$ 30 [\$ 20]
Registration fee for owner, officer, partner, or shareholder of a license holder	\$ 50
Registration fee for security consultant	\$300 [\$ 55]
Registration fee for employee of license holder	\$ 30
Security officer commission fee	\$ 50 (original and renewal)
School instructor fee	\$100 (original and renewal)
School approval fee	\$350 [\$250] (original and renewal)
Letter of authority fee for private business and political subdivision	\$400 [\$300]
Letter of authority renewal fee for private business and political subdivision	\$225
Letter of authority fee for commissioned officer, noncommissioned officer, or personal protection officer for political subdivision	\$ 10
FBI fingerprint check	\$ 25
Duplicate pocket card	\$ 10
Employee information update fee	\$ 15
Burglar alarm sellers renewal fee	\$ 30 [\$ 25]
Personal protection officer authorization	\$ 50

*Continued next page*

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SECTION 4. Section 1702.163(a), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The board [commission] may not issue a security officer commission to an applicant employed by a license holder unless the applicant submits evidence satisfactory to the board [commission] that the applicant has:

- (1) completed the basic training course at a school or under an instructor approved by the board [commission];
- (2) met each qualification established by this chapter and board [commission] rule;
- (3) achieved the score required by the board [commission] on the examination under Section 1702.1685; and
- (4) demonstrated to the satisfaction of the firearm training instructor that the applicant has complied with other board [commission] standards for minimum marksmanship competency with a handgun [shotgun].

SECTION 5. Section 1702.182, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1702.182. SECURITY DEPARTMENT OF PRIVATE BUSINESS.

(a) A security department acts as the security department of a private business if it:

- (1) has as its general purpose the protection and security of its own property and grounds; and
  - (2) does not offer or provide security services to another person.
- (b) For purposes of this subchapter, a hospital licensed under Chapter 241 or 577, Health and Safety Code, may provide security services to:
- (1) buildings, grounds, and tenants located on the hospital's property or campus, regardless of who owns the building; and
  - (2) a parent entity or member entity of the hospital or hospital corporation, or an affiliated entity or business with whom the hospital shares common ownership or control.

SECTION 6. Section 1702.282, Occupations Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(a) The board [commission] shall conduct a criminal history check, including a check of any criminal history record information maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in the manner provided by Subchapter F, Chapter 411, Government Code, on each applicant for a license, registration, security officer commission, letter of approval, permit, or certification. An applicant is not eligible for a license, registration, commission, letter of approval, permit, or certification if the check reveals that the applicant has committed an act that constitutes grounds for the denial of the license, registration, commission, letter of approval, permit, or certification. Except as provided by

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Subsection (d), each [Each] applicant shall include in the application two complete sets of fingerprints on forms prescribed by the board [commission] accompanied by the fee set by the board [commission].

(d) An applicant who is a peace officer is not required to submit fingerprints with the applicant's application. On request, the law enforcement agency or other entity that employs the peace officer or the entity that maintains the peace officer's fingerprints shall provide the fingerprints for the peace officer to the board. The applicant shall provide sufficient information to the board to enable the board to obtain the fingerprints under this subsection.

SECTION 7. Section 46.05, Penal Code, is amended by amending Subsection (f) and adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(f) It is a defense to prosecution under this section for the possession of a chemical dispensing device that the actor is [holds] a security officer [commission issued by the Texas Commission on Private Security] and has received training on the use of the chemical dispensing device by a training program that is:

(1) provided by the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education; or

(2) approved for the purposes described by this subsection by the Texas [Commission on] Private Security Board of the Department of Public Safety.

(g) In Subsection (f), "security officer" means a commissioned security officer as defined by Section 1702.002, Occupations Code, or a noncommissioned security officer registered under Section 1702.221, Occupations Code.

SECTION 8. Section 1702.062(a), Occupations Code, as amended by Section 3 of this Act, takes effect only if the provision of the General Appropriations Act to increase appropriations to the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas to increase the department's full time employee (FTE) count by 39 employees for implementation of Chapter 1702, Occupations Code, is enacted and becomes law. If that provision is not enacted, Section 1702.062(a), Occupations Code, as amended by Section 3 of this Act, is void and of no effect.

SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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**SUBMISSIONS TO TEXAS LOCKSMITHS ADVISOR**

**Send your Comments, Questions, Suggestions, Articles, Letters,  
Tips & Tricks, News & Class/Event Information to the Editor by:**

**Email to: TLA\_Newsletter@hotmail.com      Regular Mail to:**

**Steve Sandlin**

**63A Summer Pl.**

**Huntsville, TX 77340**

***Submissions for inclusion in this publication must be received by the 10th of the month prior to the publication date. E.g., Submissions for the September issue must be received by August 10.***

# NEWS RELEASE

## NEW TEXAS LAW AIDS BUSINESS AND HOME SECURITY

A new Texas law went into effect on January 1, 2005 that can directly affect you.

For the first time in Texas history, anyone who charges a fee to work on customer's locks or other security devices, unlocks vehicles or unlocks buildings, or who advertises that they do so anywhere in Texas must be officially licensed. Licenses are being issued through the State of Texas, Department of Public Safety (DPS), Private Security Bureau (PSB) and include all locksmiths, security guards, road-service vendors, tow truck drivers, and anyone sub-contracted by road-service companies, home or commercial building contractors, etc., to perform locksmith-related work.

This means the person you call on to make a replacement set of keys for your car, to repair your locks, get you into your locked building, house, or apartment when you lose your keys, or who a roadside service company sends to get you into your vehicle has had a background check by the State of Texas and the FBI to assure he/she is not a convicted felon or child-molester. He's proven himself to be knowledgeable in locksmithing, and he has the required amount of liability insurance, in case he damages something.

An exception is, if a tow truck driver who is not licensed under this law must unlock a vehicle in order to actually hook up the vehicle and tow it someplace else, he may do so. However, this is permitted only when such unlocking is directly relevant to the towing operation. The only other time he may unlock a vehicle is when it's necessary to free a person or animal from a locked vehicle in a life or death emergency situation. *Continued page 11*

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To stay in business under this law, insurance, fees, and license must be kept current. Among other things, this includes taking continuing-education classes every year. Also, whenever they are on the job, they must carry their official photo-ID card, issued by the State of Texas, which bears their license number.

The next time you're locked out of your vehicle, home, or business, be sure the person who comes to help you is properly licensed. Ask about this when you call them, and make them show you their official photo-ID card when they arrive. Their official license number must also be printed on their invoices, their business cards, and must appear in all paid advertising, including yellow-page telephone listings.

If they're not licensed, don't use them. IT'S THE LAW! And it's enforced by the Texas DPS.

For more information about SB1252, or to report someone operating in violation of this law, contact Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) at 512-424-7711, or at their on-line web site at [www.txdps.state.tx.us/psb](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/psb).

*This article was approved for release to local newspapers and radio stations throughout Texas by Jim Hetchler, President, Texas Locksmith Association.*

# How to Pick an Inverter or Generator For Service Truck

I'm frequently asked to help other locksmiths with the electrical needs in their service vehicles. The majority of the equipment that we install requires 120 volts of 60 cycle alternating current, but most of our vehicle electrical systems operate at a nominal voltage of 12 volts DC, though with the engines running, it is normally about 13.5 volts.

For a small duplicator, it is sometimes more practical to change the motor out to a 12 volt universal motor. I've seen heater blower motors, wiper motors, and the like all adapted, and several manufacturers, such as Keedex, provide general-purpose replacement 12 volt motors. In addition, the manufacturer of your key machine may offer a 12 volt motor for your specific model.

Assuming you wish to keep your 120 volt AC motor on your machines, we must find a way to get the proper power from our vehicle electrical systems. There are generally 2 ways to accomplish this feat, either with the use of an inverter or a generator. With modern electronics, the inverters are becoming less costly and more widely used. They operate by generating a 60 Hz modified-sine-wave signal, then amplifying it to 120V. There are circuits in the inverter to stabilize the frequency and voltage. The generators work by using a 12 volt motor to turn an alternator. It will also have proper frequency and voltage-regulating circuitry.

To get the correct inverter or generator, we must know the wattage that is required for the equipment that will be operating simultaneously. Be sure to include lights, fans, chargers, etc. in your calculations. If the wattage of the equipment isn't known,

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You can multiply the current draw in amps by 120. If you have a clamp-on ammeter, you can directly measure the draw. Be sure to remember that we need enough power to operate the machine while starting, which is sometimes several times more wattage than is used for just running.

After adding up the wattage, size the inverter or generator a bit bigger to handle any extra draw while starting. In my case, I needed about 625 watts, so I used an 800 watt inverter. It will supply even more for short pulses, which helps on equipment starting. I use a small duplicator, and my code machine is dual-voltage, so it is wired to operate directly from the battery.

To power the inverter (or generator) we must remember that the load to the battery will be high, so a second battery is recommended. It should be isolated from the main battery with either a relay or isolator, which will charge it while the vehicle is running, but prevent the main battery from being discharged while using the equipment. The second battery should be mounted as close as possible to the inverter or generator, and the power lead must be fused as close to the battery as possible.

To keep a charge on the second battery, the isolator or relay must be connected to the vehicle's main battery. I used a cable capable of 50 amps, and fused it at both ends. That way a short in the cable will open the cable totally, and prevent a back-feed from either battery from continuing to operate into a short. Other people have used other schemes to charge, including an isolation diode from the tail light circuit, or just plugging in a trickle charger daily. All have their advantages and disadvantages.

There is nothing magical about supplying the necessary line-voltage in our vans. Both inverters and generators have their places, and generally both work quite well. Using power formulas and Ohm's Law, it's not difficult to figure fuses, inverter size, and other things involved in the projects. Just remember to protect all wiring with fuses, as we're dealing with hefty current capability in these cases. Be careful and thorough, and you'll install a system that will work easily and well, and supply everything you need to power in your vehicle.

*Steve Sandlin*

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Complete and Mail to Secretary  
Or email information to [advancedlock@yahoo.com](mailto:advancedlock@yahoo.com)

**OLD:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Effective Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ FOLD HERE \_\_\_\_\_

**PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE**

**RETURN TO TLA SECRETARY:**

**TROY MAYNARD, TLA SECRETARY  
P.O. BOX 342  
DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX 78620**