



TEXAS LOCKSMITH ADVISOR

Serving Texas Professional Locksmiths Since 1964

AUGUST 2008 Volume 50 Number 8

STRENGTH Through UNITY

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WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESSES

E-Mail Address Update

Please **E-Mail** your **NAME, FIRM** name and **TLA NO.** to:
editor@texaslocksmiths.org

SOUTHWEST INTERNATIONAL SECURITY EXPO

April 23 - 26, 2009
San Antonio, TX

WATCH FOR EXCITING DETAILS

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AUGUST 2008

John Arnold, CML - TLA President

I have had even a little bit of time since my last letter. There is so much going on and so little time. My business is still busy as ever. We all have so much to do, but you have to make time for what's important. I guess it's better than the alternative! Our board will be complete soon. We have a new membership chair coming as of August 16, our next board meeting. You might want to find time to come down to the San Antonio Airport Hilton for that meeting. It will start at 8:30 AM Members and guests are welcome you may contact me for further info.

We will be doing a road show in Shreveport. I know that's not in Texas, but it is close and we had several members request this location. They have great hotels, restaurants and CASINOS. We have a lot of interests from locksmiths in LA because of the education we bring. We will be doing automotive free on Friday night and will do an electronic class on Saturday or an automotive class at the local auction with Stacy Hetchler A free lunch and ethics class will be included.. There is more info in this newsletter. The NMLA convention will be in El Paso (I know, El Paso is not in New Mexico) September 19-20. Contact Rick or Laura Milliorn for details. Lubbock will be in November again.

Our editor Laurie Simon has still been going through some challenging health issues. Please keep him in your prayers. He's is slowly getting back in the swing of things!

The state comptroller has sent us an opinion. You must charge sales tax on all of your services. This is not a new law, but when you became licensed it closed a few non taxed items from our list, specifically residential and automotive repair. Since these items require a license, you must charge tax. Yes handy men don't have to charge tax, but they are not allowed to sell, service, or install locks. This is not a bad situation. We only collect tax. It does not come out of our pockets. The state can use the revenue and it helps establish some precedence for those out there who are performing lock service without a license. By the way, there are unlicensed handy men going to Lowes every day to but plumbing and electrical supplies. They can buy the parts, but can't legally install them. Now the individual who perform lock work without a license, is breaking 2 laws if he does not collect (and Submit!) sales tax. I think this should help enforcement. The unlocking of automobiles (by Slim Jim or other such tool) is specifically exempted by licensing; therefore it is exempt from sales tax. Unlocking a house is taxable. Unlocking a car using a lock pick or impressing a key????????????????????????????????

We have a new Captain in charge of us at the PSB. Captain Bowie is a locksmith advocate and a man of action. He was responsible for a lot of the positive things that they had achieved in this area as lieutenant. We could not have asked for a better choice.

Don't miss The Road Shows coming up.

'Till next month,

John Arnold, CML

THANK YOU

It has been a few months since our membership received a full version of the Advisor. I spent close to two full months in and out of hospital(s). It all started out the beginning of May with a quadruple bypass. Then as per all the physicians involved stated, "everything possible that could happen after this kind of surgery did, and not just one time. To add to the story, two days before sending me home, a MRI showed another major blockage and at 11:00 PM, I was again down in surgery for a 8" stint in my leg.

I am home again thank G-d, and **to all of our members who were so thoughtful, with get well cards, calling, e-mail, etc.**, a great big **THANK YOU** from both my wife Helen and me. Little things mean a lot, and you folks out there did it right for me.

The one thing I really missed out on was ALOA's Convention. This year was the 4th ALOA convention that I missed. (1956 I was in the Army stationed in Heidelberg, 1982, 2007 and 2008).

I trust that many of you attended both classes and the show at the ALOA Convention. Locksmithing is not just repairing and servicing, but the ability to understand your customers needs and know what they require for security. Each year, many new products come and some old products go. Much of my knowledge has been and still is obtained attending and participating.

ALOA and DHI have always been important to me. Even small shows like TLA and OMLA add to my learning. All Locksmiths should take advantage of all these shows and learn as I have done.

Laurence (Laurie) Simon, RL
Editor

Comments? E-mail to: tla-editor@simon-says.net

2008 EAST TEXAS / LOUISIANA ROAD SHOW

**September 5th & 6th
MID-CITY PLAZA
1545 LINE AVE.
4TH FLOOR
SHREVEPORT, LA 71101**

FRIDAY EVENING, 9/5/2008:

Stacy Hetchler's Automotive Update. (No CEU) - Free Class

SATURDAY, 9/6/2008:

Stacy Hetchler's Hands On Auto (7 CEU)

TLA Members: \$ 75.00

NON Members: \$ 100.00

Access Control for Locksmiths (7 CEU)

TLA Members: \$ 75.00

NON Members: \$ 100.00

Ethics for Locksmiths (1 CEU)

Free with any paid class

Ethics only: \$ 20.00

Vendor Show and Buffet

Free with any class attendance

Prior Registration required to obtain approval by the Board of Directors to attend classes for the following:

1. UNLICENSED Locksmiths
2. INSTITUTIONAL Locksmiths
3. Out of Texas Locksmiths

CALL JOHN ARNOLD FOR INFORMATION - 972-978-8697

CALL JAMES FOR DIRECTIONS 318-658-2021

**REGISTRATION FORM ON NEXT PAGE
YOU MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND**

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT PLAINLY
AS IT SHOULD APPEAR ON BADGE AND CERTIFICATES**

NAME _____ TLA # _____

(AS IT SHOULD APPEAR ON CERTIFICATES) (IF APPLICABLE)

ADDRESS _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIPCODE: _____

PHONE (_____) _____ EMAIL _____

BUSINESS NAME _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIPCODE: _____

TX DPS#(IF APPLICABLE) _____

FRIDAY CLASS: 7PM-9PM (no CEU)

Stacy Hetchler's Automotive Update; Free Class (no CEU)

Number attending _____

SATURDAY CLASSES 8PM-5PM (7 CEU)

Stacy Hetchler's Hands On Auto;

75.00 members,

100.00 non members \$ _____

Access Control for Locksmiths;

75.00 members,

100.00 non members \$ _____

Ethics for Locksmiths

SATURDAY CLASS 5PM-6PM(1 CEU)

Free with paid class

20.00 ethics only: \$ _____

TOTAL DUE _____

Submit Check
or Credit Card

PLEASE MAIL FORM TO:

TLA PRESIDENT

1818 I-35E # 102

CARROLLTON, TX 75006

CREDIT CARD USERS

Name on card _____

Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Visa M/C

Signature _____

FUTURE PLANNED TLA EDUCATIONAL ROAD SHOWS

Plans have been confirmed for Lubbock on November 15th thru the 17th, 2008. Details as to classes and social events will be announced shortly.

Plans for either Corpus Christi or Harlingen tentatively have been set at the end of 2008 or the beginning of 2009. We will continue to keep our members up-dated.

ALNT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING DAVE McCOMIE'S PENETRATION PARTY



OCTOBER 25 AND OCTOBER 26, 2008

9:00a.m. TO 6:00p.m.
ROLLAND SAFE COMPANY
3104 TOWERWOOD
FARMERS BRANCH, TX 75234



ALNT MEMBERS -	\$ 185.00
MEMBERS OF	
OTHER RECOGNIZED ASSOC. -	\$ 235.00
NON-ASSOCIATION MEMBERS -	\$ 285.00

**FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION
SCOTT COOK
817-999-9029
northtexaslocksmiths@usa.net.**

GHLA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Saturday, October 18th, 2008
8:00AM – 5:00PM
FUNDAMENTALS OF MASTER KEYING
Instructor: Jim Hancock
Cost: \$75.00 – Member of any
recognized Assoc.
\$100.00 – Member of No Assoc.

Saturday, November 15th, 2008
8:00AM – 5:00PM
LARGE FORMAT IC CORE
Instructor: Jim Hancock
Cost: \$75.00 – Member of any
recognized Assoc.
\$100.00 – Member of no Assoc.

Sunday, October 19th, 2008
8:00AM – 5:00PM
SMALL FORMAT IC CORES
Instructor: Buddy Clifford, CML
Cost: \$75.00 – Member of any
recognized Assn.
\$100.00 – Member of no Assoc.

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
BILLY GARRETT
Education Chairman
bgarrett@sbcglobal.net
409-735-4424**

Lunch on your own

Each class will give
Texas licensed
Locksmith 8 hours of
CEU's



**ALL CLASSES TO BE HELD AT
H.L. FLAKE COMPANY
5005 Gulf Freeway
Houston, TX 77023**

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Don't forget that you are required to have a total of eight hours of continuing education credits for your renewal of license. One hour must be an approved ethics class. Several organizations are offering classes. Check with You' local associations, TLA, and national associations for class information.

LASA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

LASA along with Bonnie Morse (bonniemorse@grandecom.net) are working in behalf of the Locksmiths in Texas. She has had and is planning many educational programs, open to all licensed Texas Locksmiths. Uniquely, she is now preparing a CEU program for managers to start in 2009. We will keep TLA members abreast of her activities.



LASA SCHOOL OFFERS Education (CEU)

August 16 (includes Ethics-must pre-register)
2-hr Ethics (8am-10am)
2-hr Rules/Regs Update 2008 (10am-12am)
4-hr Adams Rite Exit Device (1pm-5pm)
wandajrobbins@sbcglobal.net



ALNM ANNUAL CONVENTION and EDUCATIONAL Programming



Associated Locksmiths of New Mexico

2008 Annual Convention
September 19th, . 20th. 21st

Holiday Inn Airport
6655 Gateway West
El Paso, TX

Details - Contact
Laura Milliorn, CRL
(915) 821 3212
laura@hasslefree locksmith.com



OPLA ANNUAL CONVENTION and EDUCATIONAL Programming



<http://www.ozarklocksmiths.org/education.html>
On Saturday September 13, 2008

Ozark Professional Locksmiths having their annual trade show & BBQ at the Best Western Inn of the Ozarks, in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.



OMLA Summer Meeting and EDUCATIONAL Programming



August 16th, 2008 - Biltmore Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK
Click Below for Full Details

<http://www.omla.com/Educational%20Opportunities/classes.html>

SALES TAX Security Services

Tax Code Section 151.0075 defines a taxable security service as a service for which a license is required under Section 1702.101 or 1702.102 of the Occupations Code. The Private Security Bureau (PSB) of the Department of Public Safety administers those sections of the Occupations Code and determines their meaning, as well as who must have a license under those provisions, effectively determining the taxability of certain types of work.

Charges for Opening Locked Vehicles: Lockout Services

The 2005 Legislature enacted HB 2243, which amended the definition of locksmith company in Occupations Code 1702.1056(a)(1), to include a person who services mechanical security devices, including deadbolts and locks. The 2007 Legislature enacted HB 2833 which amended Occupations Code 1702.102(a)(1) to state that a locksmith company is required to be licensed. This requirement becomes effective starting with new and renewal registrations filed on and after January 1, 2008.

Does this mean that a locksmith now needs to charge tax for unlocking a motor vehicle? What about a towing company that provides the service of unlocking a motor vehicle? The use of a slim-jim or similar tool to open a vehicle at the request of the owner or operator is frequently called "lockout service." Under Occupations Code 1702.1056(a)(1) "a person acts as a locksmith company...if the person sells, installs, services, or maintains mechanical security devices, including deadbolts, and locks." This provision does not include lockout service, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety's Private Security Bureau Web page in a discussion of HB 2243. Therefore, charges for lockout service are not taxable security services. And, since lockout services are not specifically identified in the list of taxable services under Tax Code Section 151.0101, they are not taxable services regardless of whether provided by a locksmith, towing company, roadside assistance, motor club or some other person

More Comments on the Sales Tax Subject

Tax Code Section 151.0075 defines a taxable security service as a service for which a license is required under Section 1702.101 or 1702.102 of the Occupations Code. The Private Security Bureau (PSB) of the Department of Public Safety administers those sections of the Occupations Code and determines their meaning, as well as

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Next page is a discussion of one service and whether they qualify as taxable security services.



Charges for Opening Locked Vehicles: Lockout Services

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FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO

<http://www.texaslocksmiths.org/Tax-Bulletin-Feb-2008.pdf>

QUESTIONS ASKED ???? ?

Hi. My name is John Smith. I have for some time ben wanting to get into locksmithing. I have had a long career as Radio Repairman but can no longer do some of tasks it requires. I am wanting some information that you might help with.

I have looked at several schools and received information from them. It seems that I can take the courses online. Will the completion of the courses make me eligible for licensing it the State of Texas. Or, do they only take certain graduates. I do hope you can help me with this. If not, could you suggest someone who could give me the answers.

Thanks

QUESTIONS ANSWERED !!!!!

You must work for a licensed company for 2 years to obtain a owner mansger license. There are several courses available, I do not hold a high opinion of most. It is a good way to determine if you have an aptitude for the business though.

QUESTIONS ASKED ?????

What is the Sunset ???

QUESTIONS ANSWERED !!!!!

SUNSET

Sunset Advisory Commission

Legislature of the continuing need for a state agency to exist. It works by setting a date on which an agency will be abolished unless legislation is passed to continue its functions, which creates an opportunity for the Legislature to examine each agency and make fundamental changes to its mission or operation. Agencies are typically reviewed every 12 years, and about 20-30 agencies go through the Sunset process each legislative session.

The Sunset process is guided by the Sunset Advisory Commission, a 12-member body of legislators and public members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Assisting the Commission is a staff whose reports provide an assessment of an agency's programs, giving the Legislature the information needed to draw conclusions about the agencies under review. During the 200708 interim, 27 state agencies are scheduled for review including:

- * Texas Department of Insurance
- * Texas Youth Commission
- * Texas Department of Transportation
- * Texas Department of Public Safety
- * Texas Residential Construction Commission
- * Texas Department of Agriculture

**Sunset Commission Meeting
Dates for DPS**

FYI regarding the dates for which the Sunset Advisory Commission has set to hear issues about the Department of Public Safety (24-25 June) and then to make its recommendations on potential changes to the agency's statutes (23-24 September). These recommendations will then be presented to the 81st Texas Legislature when it meets in regular session beginning in January 2009.

QUESTIONS ASKED ????

SPECIALITY LOCKSMITHS from OUT OF STATE, Cont'd

QUESTION: If a safe consultant were to come into Texas to open a bank vault, would he or she be in violation of Texas law? There are several national safemen that may come into Texas on emergency vault jobs. There may be no local company that

can do the job and a bank vault locked up is of utter emergency and time is of the essence. These guys are usually sent by the manufacturer. there are only a few safemen around the country that can do some of these openings.

What should I tell them?

QUESTIONS ANSWERED !!!!!

ANSWER From: Captain Ren Earl Bowie, TXDPS.

If I understand the scenario correctly, there is one other option. It appears that this is a company who has some type of specialized safe. I assume that the company has entered into a contract with a the locksmith out of state and the contract originated in that locksmith's state and he has to come to texas to complete this specialized request for service.

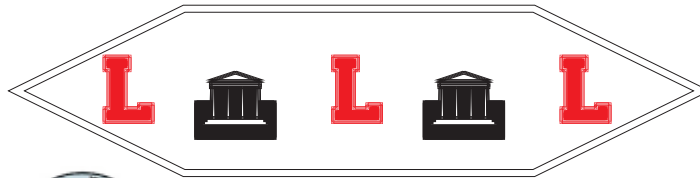
The out of state locksmith must do the following:

1. submit documentation that the contract originates out of state.
2. Show documentation that the locksmith has a valid license to do locksmith work in that state.
3. Indicate how long the work will take (14 day limit)
4. Submit all of the above to the PSB Captain for approval

Some issues that have to be considered is that many states do not require locksmith licensure. In such cases, I believe the statue would require a licensed locksmith to at least be present while the work is being performed unless the person doing the work is an actual employee of the company.

**YOU GOT A QUESTION?
WRITE US - WE WILL TRY TO HELP !**

alnt-editor@simon-says.net



Texas
Department of Public Safety

Information for the News Media

Public Information Office

(512) 424-2080

<http://www.txdps.state.tx>

Report from DPS/PSB Board Meeting (Quarterly) July 23, 2008

**By Bonnie Brown Morse, Editor
Locksmith Association of San Antonio
Texas Locksmiths Association, Member**

I was glad to see a number of the TLA Board members in attendance, as well as a few general members. There were 7 or 8 Locksmiths there!

Twelve of the Pending Administrative Rules were passed, two were tabled. (see below)

The new Capt. Bowie reported from the Investigations Section – (3/1/08-7/22/08):

Total violations investigated 2,046.

Unlicensed activity cases opened 873:
Operating with expired license – 51
Operating with suspended license – 573
Operating without a license – 249
Criminal cases presented to prosecutors -122

Capt. Bowie also introduced Lt. Jim Morgan, the new head of the Investigation Section.

Reginald Andrews reported from the Licensing Section – (3/6/08-7/21/08):

Applications processed:

Original Company License issued 283
Renewal Company License issued 1,787

LEGAL - LAW - LICENSE

Continued

Original Individual Registrations issued	14,070
Renewal Individual Registrations issued	10,557
Employee Information Updates issued	7,691
Active Company Licenses & Registrations:	
Active Company Licenses	4,926
Active Individual Registrations	112,992
Active School Licenses	192

The DPS/PSB Board discussed concerns regarding Alarm Company Sales/Installs by unlicensed companies/individuals (usually out-of-state folks), and heard public comments. About 1:30pm they began Administrative Hearings concerning proposals for decisions, motion for rehearing, stays of summary suspension, probationary compliance, and remand from District Court.

If we do not offer to 'help' with this amendment we may find ourselves with a rule that GREATLY affects our personal operations. These suggestion can be sent to the TLA President, your local association board, or to myself (editor@sanantoniolocksmiths.org).

DPS/PSB pending Administrative Rules that were tabled

Rule 35.311 Exemptions –

"the intent was to clarify individuals such as carpenters who place a customer-purchased lockset into a door as an incidental part of other carpentry services not to need to be licensed."

SUBCHAPTER V-PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS, Rule 35.321
Investigations Involving

Computer-Based Date –

"registration requested a policy in writing to answer questions from the general public

DPS/PSB pending Administrative Rules that were passed:

Rule 35.1 Definitions --

(15) Application and (16) Due Diligence. "New terms to clarify application include renewals & provide guidance in performing background checks."

Rules 35.14 Unlicensed General Contractor or Other Intermediaries –

"New rule to clarify existing policy concerning regulated services relating to consumer protection."

LEGAL - LAW - LICENSE

Continued

Rules 35.34 Standards of Conduct –

"Amended to clarify notification procedures for companies who become aware of licensee offenses through means other than notification by employee."

Rule 35.61 Written Examination –

"Amended to reflect changes requested from regulated industry to design examination targeted to managers, not certain industries."

Rule 35.?? Qualifications for Manager of Guard Company (title not certain)

"Added to reflect changes requested from the Guard Industry. To include age requirement, years experience in the field, and years experience in managerial or supervisory positions."

Rule 35.78 Evidence of Insurance –

"New rule to clarify requirements for proof of insurance."

"Rule 35.97 Entry of Appearance Required –

"New rule is authorized by SOAH's rules. This rule should provide greater efficiency in handling contested cases and allow SOAH to administratively dispose of default cases."

Rule 35.143 Drug-Free Workplace Policy Requirement

– "Amended to provide 'baseline' for regulated industries to meet drug testing requirements."

**SUBCHAPTER N – RECIPROCITY, Rule 35.221 General Reciprocity,
& Rule 35.222 Limited Reciprocity**

"Repealed until such time as the Board may choose to exercise its discretion concerning reciprocity agreements. This repeal does not affect the current policy allowing out-of-state investigators to enter the state for certain limited purposes originating from investigations in another state."

Rule 35.257 Training Courses

"Amended to allow applicants who are recently retired full-time peace officers to be exempted from Level III training under the same conditions as active peace officers."

OF SPECIAL NOTE ** I believe we, as locksmiths, need to offer wording to amend Rule 35.311 that we believe fair and that we believe we can live with.

**PRIVATE SECURITY BUREAU
INVESTIGATIVE OFFICES**

For Criminal History and Licensing inquiries, please contact
Private Security Bureau Headquarters
(512) 424-7710

"PHONY LOCKSMITH"

Updates

TO: Laurie, TLA Editor

It was a pleasure speaking with you on the phone. As we discussed, Bill Bybee contacted me and we were able to discuss a few issues related to locksmiths. I'm sure that your association is familiar with the operation that was conducted in El Paso in regards to unlicensed locksmiths. The Private Security Bureau's Investigation section primary focus is the investigation of unlicensed companies and individuals. Here are some other investigations from around the state that have been ongoing over the past several months in regards to unlicensed locksmiths. In March, Private Security Bureau Troopers arrested an individual in Corpus Christi for operating a without a license. The arrest stemmed from an ongoing investigation of unlicensed locksmith activity in the Corpus area. The individual had a previous criminal history and had been previously performing locksmith services for other companies. As a result of the initial arrest, troopers were able to identify another unlicensed locksmith in which warrants for his arrest were obtained for unlicensed activity.

In April, as a result of an ongoing investigation, undercover troopers arrested two individuals for unlicensed locksmith activity. The sting operation was conducted in the north Houston area. One of the individuals arrested had a previous criminal history and was denied licensure. The other individual had been operating without having obtained a license. Both subjects were transported to the Harris County jail.

In April, Private Security Bureau Troopers in the Dallas area arrested an individual for operating without a license. The individual was under license suspension and also expired. Criminal charges were accepted by the county prosecutor and the individual was arrested and placed in the Camp County jail pending further prosecution.

As I receive more information of interest, I will forward to your attention.

Thanks
RenEarl Bowie, Captain - PSB

[If you or your customers encounter a phony locksmith, please file a complaint through your state's Attorney General office. The AG's are aware of this problem, but require consumer complaints in order to pursue the matter.](#)

[ALOA has set up a webpage to file those complaints at: http://www.aloa.org/AGMap/AG.htm.](http://www.aloa.org/AGMap/AG.htm)

SPECIAL REPORT

TLA LOBBYIST

Jim Warren

Before my formal update, I'd like to comment on of the recent ALOA Convention in Dallas. I spent about six hour walking around the exhibit hall and came away very impressed with the quality and innovative products on display at the booths. Some of the products were so simple yet practical that it made you want to slap your head and think, "Why didn't I think of that." Others were so high-tech and specialized that, frankly, the whole concept never came closing to sinking into my tiny brain. In any event, it showed that the locksmith industry goes way beyond the old concepts of keys and dead bolts, and access control is more than a parking garage card key.

With that out of the way, let me provide a little background on the Sunset Review process. This state program, begun in the late 1970s, requires all state agencies to undergo a review every year 12 years to justify their existence. A dozen or so agencies have actually been abolished. But more often than not, they provide a periodical mechanism to revise, reform, and update an agency's management structure, financial practices, and customer service priorities. Sometimes agencies -- or at least parts of agencies -- are transferred to another, more appropriate place in state government. Or given a timetable to correct chronic problems.

Many people believe that Sunset legislation represents "must-pass" bills. In truth, the Legislature generally passes a so-called "safety net" bill in the closing days of the session. Agencies whose Sunset bills fail to pass then go through the whole process again over the next two years.

Here's the basic structure of the system. The Sunset Review Commission has a full-time staff, which is a part of the legislative branch. The Commission itself is made up of five House members appointed by the Speaker and five Senators appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. The Speaker and Lieutenant Governor also each appoint a public member to provide an outside perspective.

The Commission staff prepares an initial set of recommendations, and the Commission holds public hearings on that initial report. Then the staff submits a final report, and the Commission votes on the final recommendations or any supplemental recommendations proposed by Commission members. That leads to the drafting of a bill, which is almost always amended in the form of a committee substitute. Then the legislative process proceeds.

SPECIAL REPORT - TLA LOBBYIST, Cont'd

Jim Warren

The Department of Public Safety, the parent agency of the Private Security Board, is undergoing Sunset review. This is, to say the least, bad timing for the DPS, which is severely understaffed, lost its top leader last week, is being blamed for the devastating fire at the Governor's Mansion, and spent months earlier this year with no governing board because the Governor didn't make sufficient appointments to create a quorum.

Fortunately for TLA and other members of the private security community, the PSB has received high marks. DPS as a whole had about a 150-year head start of the PSB; yet PSB has received relatively high marks from the Sunset staff while the parent agency is facing major structural changes.

Since the inception of the Sunset process, the commission members have stressed that the actual legislation should focus on management, function, and financial issues. Yet around the Capitol, Sunset bills have been referred to as "Christmas trees" and "pet food for lobbyists." Whether the DPS Sunset bill will be a management bill, a policy bill, or a little of both -- well, that's anyone's guess at this point.

The two main issues I've been hearing about from TLA members: non-locksmiths avoiding the law, and allowing registered locksmiths to access auto manufacturer data based storage car key codes. I've talked to Sunset staff members, as well as a few commission members, about both issues. My best guess is that the Sunset bill won't be the legislative vehicle for either and stand-alone bills are the most likely course of action. Although in 20+ years of work in the Capitol, I know that predictions in the final days of a session are iffy. Predictions a year out are baseless.

These are other topics will be discussed next week in conjunction with a Private Security Commission meeting in Austin. Other ideas almost certainly will be thrown on the table as well. TLA's leadership will continue to keep you updated, and don't be shy about sharing your ideas and concerns. Texas is a giant state, so what may be going great in Texarkana may be an utter disaster in El Paso. So let us know.

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

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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.



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GOOD WILL & WELFARE

Each month we would like to share both good and sad information with our membership. They included Birthdays, Anniversary's, Birth Marriage Announcements, Illness and Passings etc.

Please send this information to editor@texaslocksmiths.org before the end of each month.

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