

**TO: Trevor Barnes, President
Texas Police Chiefs Association**

**FROM: Gary L. Tittle
Legislative Committee Chair**

DATE: September 13, 2024

SUBJECT: TPCA Legislative Committee Report

On August 28, 2024, the Legislative Committee held a meeting to discuss a variety of legislative topics and receive several updates. The meeting was hosted at the Texas Municipal League office on Rutherford Lane in Austin. Over 32 people attended with an opportunity to provide input for a forthcoming TPCA Legislative Agenda.

Despite the vast topics discussed, we have identified several areas of focus listed below:

- **Funding** – Seeking to sustain and grow the funding for policing, but specifically both the LEMIT and LEOSE funds.
- **Accreditation** – Promoting and ensuring integrity and credibility in Texas policing is an overarching mission for TPCA. Accreditation is part of that mission.
- **Mental Health** - The impact of mental health in our society continues to grow and creates challenges for the entire criminal justice system.
- **Emergency Detention and Transport** – Expand the law to allow Emergency Medical Services personnel to complete Emergency Detention Orders (EDO) to include mental health professionals and others into the EDO process.
- **Taser 10** – Change the penal code to remove the new taser 10 from being recognized as a deadly weapon under the description of a firearm due to the firing mechanism. The appropriate designation is a less lethal weapon to promote de-escalation and reduce the need for deadly force.
- **School Safety** – Despite the extensive school safety provisions created last session, we must be diligent and aggressive in ensuring the continued safety of our schools.

- **Delta 8 & 9** – Make recommendations to prohibit or at least further regulate the sale of related products and suggest legislation to stop retailers who market these products to children.
- **Marihuana** – TPCA will continue opposing the efforts to de-criminalize marihuana.
- **Lobbying by Municipal Employees** – Support legislation that blocks any attempt to prohibit the authority to use public funds to communicate with legislators and state agencies as well as pay membership dues to organizations that hire lobbyists.

Numerous other topics were discussed as legislative concerns to include some such as Squatting, Children Without Placement (CWOP), Glock Switches, Reserve Officers, Asset Forfeiture, Bail Reform, Enhanced Penalties for Evading, and more.

Further discussion included processes for bill analysis and selection of a Chiefs Day at the Capitol in late January or early February.

As we move toward the 89th Session of the Texas Legislature, the committee will continue to work further our agenda and processes.



Gary L. Tittle
Legislative Committee Chair

Attachments:

August 28, 2024, Meeting Agenda

List of Attendees

Dates of Interests

TPCA Legislative Meeting Agenda

August 28, 2024

10:00 - Message from the President, Trevor Barnes

10:05 - Word from the Office of TPCA Executive Director, Scott Rubin

10:10 - Self-Introductions

10:30 - Update from Texas Municipal League, JJ Rocha

10:40 - Update from Texas District and County Attorneys Association, Shannon Edmonds

10:50 - Update from Sheriffs Association of Texas, Skylor Hearn (Unable to Attend)

11:00 - Update from Major City Chiefs, Jessica Anderson & Julio Gonzalez

11:15 - Presentation of Preliminary TPCA Agenda, Gary Tittle

11:30 - Lunch

12:00 - Group Discussion for Suggested Agenda Topics

12:45 - Legislative Committee Chair Comments, Gary Tittle

- Organizational Structure of Committee
- Important Dates
- Chiefs' Day at Capitol

1:00 - Wrap – Up, Scott Rubin

Texas Police Chiefs Association
August 28, 2024

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DATES OF INTEREST | 89TH LEGISLATURE

Interim

- Tuesday, March 5, 2024** Primary election to select political party candidate for federal, state, and county officers.
[Sec. 41.007(a), Election Code]
- Saturday, May 4, 2024** Uniform election date for elections held by a political subdivision, other than a county, or ordered by the governor.
[Sec. 41.001(a)(2), Election Code]
- Tuesday, May 28, 2024** Runoff primary election to select political party candidate for the November general election for federal, state, and county officers.
[Sec. 41.007(b), Election Code]
- Tuesday, November 5, 2024** General election for federal, state, and county officers.
[Sec. 41.001(a)(3), Election Code]
- Monday, November 11, 2024** First day legislators and legislators-elect may file bills for the 89th Legislature.
[House Rule 8, Sec. 7; Senate Rule 7.04(a)]

Regular Session Begins

- Tuesday, January 14, 2025
(1st day)** 89th Legislature convenes at noon.
[Sec. 5(a), Article III, Texas Constitution; Sec. 301.001, Government Code]
- Friday, March 14, 2025
(60th day)** 60-day deadline for bill filing.
[House Rule 8, Secs. 8 and 10(c); Senate Rule 7.07(b); Senate Rule 10.01 subjects joint resolutions to the rules governing proceedings on bills]
- Monday, June 2, 2025
(140th day)** Sine die. (Last day of 89th Regular Session)
[Sec. 24(b), Article III, Texas Constitution]