
Meeting Notes

10:00 AM

Welcome Introductions

Larry Krantz

- TxDOT Update
 - Registration is open for the [2025 Traffic Safety Conference](#) @ Hilton Austin Airport, TCOLE accredited sessions

10:15 AM

Legislative Update

Ned Minevitz
Bronson Tucker
Laura Weiser

- Special session began July 21. Updates will be discussed at the Fall Meeting.
- **HB46 – Expansion of TCUP; medical use of low THC-cannabis**
 - Number of dispensary licenses – up to 15; satellite locations authorized (1 per health district, per license)
 - Dosage change (limits packaging, 1gram THC per package)
 - Delivery method (absorption, insertion, pulmonary inhalation of aerosol or vapor added)
 - Qualifying conditions added for eligibility
 - Condition that results in chronic pain (no definition for what defines chronic pain in the bill)
 - Traumatic brain injury
 - Crohn's disease or other inflammatory bowel disease
 - Terminal illness or a condition for which a patient is receiving hospice or palliative care
 - Allows physicians to submit requests to the Department of State Health Services; to report to the legislature, evidence that low-dose cannabis may be beneficial to treat a medical condition not listed
 - Amends definition: 1% by weight to 10 milligrams per dosage unit
 - HB 46 was the compromise to pass SB3 (which would ban THC outside of TCUP).
 - Increasing access to medical facilities to securely store and dispense the product means patients are less likely to self-medicate with products that are more accessible. If there is going to be THC, used as medicine, it needs to be accessible.
 - 90-day supply with up to 4 refills is added to the law
- **HB 2017 – Grayson's Law (son killed by wrong-way drunk driver who was in the US illegally with prior convictions)**
 - Intoxication manslaughter, 1st degree felony if prior convictions are for an intoxication offense and the defendant is in the country illegally
 - State crime to be here undocumented, Chapter 51 has been challenged by the 5th circuit court; DPS and others are enforcing the law because it preempts federal law

- Not clear how this will be implemented because prosecutors are unable to prosecute Chapter 51
 - If convicted under section: not eligible for probation, cannot be eligible for parole until served 10 years, calendar time, without credit for good behavior.
 - Increases penalty for intoxication manslaughter
- **HB4215 – Delivery Network Companies – requiring occupational permit & authorizing fee**
 - New term – delivery network company – delivery of food, consumer goods, beverages (i.e. Door Dash, Favor); does not include delivery of own products (i.e. Domino's – they deliver their own pizza)
 - Need a permit, TDLR issued, pay a fee
 - All delivery network companies are required to have an intoxicating substance policy
 - This applies when the employee is logged into the network – they may not have any level of intoxication, whether they are awaiting a delivery job or are making the deliveries.
 - Applicants are ineligible to become delivery drivers under the following circumstances:
 - 7-year period: DWI, use of motor vehicle to commit felony, felony involving property damage, fraud, theft, violence, or terrorism
 - 3 years: more than 4 moving violations, fleeing from police, reckless driving, driving without a license
 - The individual is registered in the national sex offender registry
- **SB296 – Driver Safety, Motorcycle Operator Training Course Dismissal**
 - Drivers are *entitled* to have certain fine-only traffic charges dismissed if they complete driver education courses
 - Now, *entitled* to dismiss 1 per year, courts can waive that requirement (can be more)
 - Previously, if had 3 charges at 1 time, could only dismiss 1. This has changed – all can be dismissed if the offenses occurred during 1 criminal transaction
 - Fees for all charges must be paid regardless of dismissal(s), but the driver will only have to take 1 course.
- **SB650 – Electronically Readable, Verify Purchaser's Age, Retail Sale of Alcoholic Beverages**
 - Requires off-premise retailers to have an electronic reader to verify Driver's License; visually inspect + use age identification scanner
 - Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) must adopt rules not later than September 1, 2027.
 - Does not apply to on-premise consumption (i.e. Chili's does NOT have to scan. Retail Sales at brew pubs, wineries, entertainment events, delivery services if beverages are picked up in sealed containers – do NOT need to scan)
 - Author wrote this bill specifically for grocery and convenience stores
 - 19-year old drove from 1 convenience store to the next to get Buzz Balls (alcohol drink), drove between each stop, and died in a single-vehicle car crash.

- Parents asked if something could be done after realizing mandatory ID checks or tools were not used.
- **SB745 – Enhancing Criminal Penalty for Offense of Intoxication Manslaughter**
 - Aggravated 1st degree felony (intoxication manslaughter) if the defendant causes the death of more than 1 person during the same criminal transaction.
 - Removes question of sentences running concurrently or stacked when there are multiple victims
 - Now, if there are multiple victims from 1 crash, the charge becomes an aggravated first-degree felony with punishment of 5-99 years or life.
- **SB826 – Operating Vehicle in School Zone while Intoxicated**
 - State vs. Espinoza – Mom passed out in the pick-up line at an elementary school, later discovered she was intoxicated.
 - DWI is a state jail felony if the person was operating the motor vehicle in a school crossing zone during the time the reduced speed limit applies to the zone.
- **SB1886 – Execution of Search Warrant, Blood Specimen**
 - Any peace officer from any county can execute the blood search warrant – law is clarified now.
 - Removes needless procedural barrier and addresses the overlaps – making it more straightforward.
- **Vetoed Bills**
 - **HB413** – *Release of Certain Defendants in Jail Pending Trial*
 - If in jail waiting for trial as long as (or longer) than the maximum punishment for the offense is, then would be released
 - Reasons it was vetoed include the following: 1) requires clarification to ensure the defendant will show up to be tried and, 2) protections need to be in place to know they wouldn't commit additional offenses.
 - **SB3** – Regulation of Consumable Hemp Products and Hemp-Derived Cannabinoids
 - Broad-based ban of THC, hemp-derived intoxicating products overall
 - More discussion on this topic to come during the Fall Meeting

10:30 AM

Quarterly Updates

- Impaired Driving Enforcement Training and Detection **Carlos Champion**
 - Review of Standard Field Sobriety Tests (SFST), Friday, Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals (DITEP) classes & attendees
 - 425 Drug Recognition Experts (DREs), 55 Instructors, 147 Participating Agencies across Texas (numbers fluctuate often)
 - Review of DRE Schools, In-Service Classes, ARIDE Training, Specialized DWI training & attendees
 - International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) – Annual Report, Texas moving in a positive direction when compared to other states
 - Enforcement evaluations: Not as many reported, but still

moving in a positive direction

- DRE Data System: As DREs go through the re-recertification process, some may need to enter data into the system still. The evaluation data (evaluation information + toxicology data) increases after DREs finish the re-certification process.
 - 2022: 635
 - 2023: 766
 - 2024: 738
 - 2025 YTD: 340

- Language Barriers

Cinthya Fillips

- Review of this discussion: Defendants who are Limited in English Proficiency (LEP) or are non-Spanish speaking have a difficult time participating in court ordered DWI education classes – how do we address this problem?
- ~5,500 DWI cases annually where the offender does not speak Spanish and are LEP
- To hold a class, minimum of 3 participants is required, and the class must be delivered in a single language
- Accommodations must be provided, but they are not detailed in Texas in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC).
- Report on the topic can be found [here](#)
- Extending invitations to TDLR to be a part of the discussion, as only English or Spanish DWI education content is licensed through TDLR

- Research

- “Driving Change” Podcast
 - 1 Posted: [Drawn to Justice: Austin Police Department’s Bold Approach to DWI Enforcement](#)
 - Qualified Technician Program, Sgt. Ryan Huling
 - 2 more will be posted soon
 - AAA Cannabis Report – Sarah Hacker
 - Wet and Green Labs – Kyle Clark
- [“Street Talk”](#) Blog
 - [Unpacking the DUI Puzzle – Who’s Driving Impaired and Why it Matters](#)
 - [New Insights on Drugs and Driving: NHTSA’s 2024 Fact Sheets](#)
- Attitudes Toward Driving After Cannabis Use: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis (42 studies)
 - 69% of respondents held negative attitudes toward Driving After Cannabis Use (DACU)
 - 31% did not view DACU as dangerous or impairing
 - Cannabis users less likely to view DACU as dangers compared to non-users / mixed samples.
 - There were no significant differences found between age groups, countries (US and Canada), or the legal status of cannabis in jurisdictions.
 - Recommendations include:
 - Improving public education and enforcement strategies
 - Developing validated standardized survey tools
 - Using neutral, specific language in surveys

- Clarifying the timeframes and THC potency when asking questions
- **Retailer Enforcement** **Oliver Johnson for David Doggett**
 - Major Oliver Johnson, Austin Region, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC)
 - Defined operation and activity types, provided performance measures for FY25, including:
 - 34,297 inspections
 - 8,632 undercover operations
 - 2,297 complaints received
 - TABC focuses on locations with complaints, or are on a priority list
 - To file a complaint with TABC:
 - Need Business name, address, suspected violation, witness contact information, suspect contact information, dates and times of the violation; reporting can be anonymous
 - Report:
 - In-person at a local TABC office
 - By email (complaints@tabc.texas.gov)
 - By Fax: 512-206-3449
 - Or by Mail: Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Attn: Enforcement Division, P.O. Box 13127, Austin, TX 78711
- **Impaired Driving Data** **Jim Markham**
 - Association of Transportation Safety Information Professionals (ATSIP) – reported attending the Impaired Driving Task Force Committee meeting
 - Review of available AASHTOWARE data dashboards – may request access under certain circumstances
 - Not official TxDOT data; use for rapid need-to-know data
 - Can use this data to pinpoint locations (ISDs, put prevention campaigns on jumbotrons, etc)
 - Working on a solution to combine toxicology and crash data

12:00 PM

LUNCH

1:00 PM

Boating While Intoxicated

Cody Jones

- Game Warden – Boating Law Administrator
- Recreational boating - \$11.8 billion annual economic impact
- 4.5 million boaters annually
- 554,398 registered vessels (engine-powered)
- Unregistered vessels: 359,000 (kayaks, rowboats, paddleboards, canoes, sailboats)
- 1 in 33 people in Texas own a vessel, 1 in 54 own a motorboat
- Alcohol use is leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents
- Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) defined in Penal Code Chapter 49
- Taking sobriety on the water seriously is critical – passengers & operators are all at risk (i.e. intoxicated passenger falling overboard)

- Person does not need to be operating a boat or vessel to receive a BWI: Those skiing, surfing, wake-boarding can get a BWI charge
- Operation Dry Water – National Boating Under the Influence awareness and enforcement campaign (July 4-6, 2025)
 - 2024
 - 32 BWI's Filed
 - 3 DWI's Filed (driving home after recreational boating)
 - Highest BAC Level: .236
 - 5 Boating Fatalities
 - 2025
 - 34 BWI's Filed
 - 4 DWI's Filed
 - Highest BAC Level: .235
 - 1 Boating Fatality
 - Encourage agencies to join [Operation Drywater](#)
- Seated SFSTs
 - Validated for water and removes the parameters needed to stand and use legs – no equilibrium is needed
 - Still working to educate judges and prosecutors on Seated SFSTs and their validity

2:00 PM

DWI Tracking Database

Emily Martin
Jessica VanDenBogaert

- Project introduction, need for database
 - Establish database that:
 - Tracks data from every DWI incident from the initial citation through all court-imposed compliance / treatment requirements
 - Combines data from traffic records databases & LEADRS – gives the full picture of the DWI problem
 - Computes accurate & timely aggregate data to inform decision-making efforts among stakeholders
 - Identifies repeat offenders in the state
- NHTSA – An Impaired driving tracking system report with an analysis of the current state of impaired driving tracking systems will be published in August or September. It will also include implementation strategies, tracking gaps, and will include a readiness guide for states looking to implement a DWI tracking database.
- ATSIP Traffic Records Forum – includes an Impaired Driving Data Task Force where agencies working towards a DWI tracking database can exchange ideas and information.

3:00 PM

Conclusion and Adjournment

- Bill summaries document is forthcoming
- 2026 Texas Impaired Driving Forum – Please share ideas for topics, speakers, etc.
- Next meeting will be in October or November – more details coming soon!