

From: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 7:57:30 AM

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 4:08:26 AM (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS DEPARTMENT LICENSING AND REGULATION

First Name: J. T.

Last Name: Brinson

Title: Owner and Instructor

Organization you are affiliated with: BRIGHT DRIVER SAFETY SCHOOL

Email:

City: Ponder

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

We have received correspondence of TDLR streamlining defensive driving in the state of Texas. This is a very difficult subject because the State of Texas Court will not change. Texas has the worst driving records because of the freedom it has to take online courses that are not monitored effectively.

Other states have a more effective way of making sure residents take a reputable course. I teach an in person defensive driving course and have not made any real money since I started because the court systems to dismiss a person's defensive driving citation is different depending on the judge.

Eliminating our instructors who teach defensive driving is not going to change the behavior of the drivers nor is it going to made the process of persons getting their citation taken care of. TDLR needs to do more than just record information. TDLR needs to make sure that persons are really taking an online course and have a change of heart in the way they drive. I have had clients tell me that they paid other people to take their online course. I have had companies tell me that they have they CDL drivers take a

one hour online safety course and they get an insurance discount so why pay to come to a defensive driving course. There is a big loop hole that will only get worse if those few of us who teach defensive driving live classroom business will truly go away. I would hate to see a lawless society of residents driving in our current municipalities. I have tried to make a successful business out of teaching defensive driving but I have not been able to because we are not a visible agency. We are not connected to the court system for instance like The National Safety Council. The National Safety Council reputation is highly regarded and respected and their instructors are connected on a national level.

Defensive Driving is just as important as driver's education. We need to be respected in that same manner.

The local news channels often highlights defensive driving scenarios during construction or change in weather. But we as instructors never are known to the public.

Before any decision is made, ask those of us who teach defensive driving about what can be done to make ourselves visible.

The Department of Public Safety should work hand in hand with defensive driving and driver education instructors to help improve the quality of drivers on the road in the state of Texas as well as decrease the fatalities on the state of Texas roads.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

New recommendations are as followed:

1. The yearly license refresher course of defensive driving is necessary and needed and our renewal license should be done online instead of via mail because the time that TDLR recertifies someone could be passed their renewal date. The USPS delivery date is only based on when TDLR mailed the renewable.

TDLR should should information via email when the renewal license was distributed. There is no way to know when the renewable license is on its way to the instructors.

2. The Local Court System, The Department of Public Safety, Local Police Departments, NTTA, AARP and The State of Texas Transportation Department should send all persons with a traffic citation a listing of current defensive driving instructors to each individual in their municipalities.

There is a rule that defensive driving instructors can only advertise in so many fee of the court house or municipalities.

3. The system of traffic ticket dismissal should be simplified in how a person takes care of their citation. Residents are losing their job because of not understanding the whole process of trying to dismiss at traffic citation because everyone rules are different.

Whether a person gets a citation on a toll road, an public business such as a college campus or an airport, the way to take care of that citation should be the same. This process needs to be moved to online and streamlined so that a person is assigned a location to take the course or if they decide to do deferred judication it should be explained in the same online process.

4. Judges need to be on one accord. I have a great respect for rules and regulations but it is hard for us as instructors to often help clients in making sure the process where they received their citation is correct because of all the municipalities with different rules.

I was once told by a municipal clerk that a judge has the power to do anything they want to and the nine judges they have in their court dismiss traffic citations differently.

5. Defensive Driving and Driver Education instructors should be visible in all transportation industries in Texas.

6. Reducing traffic fatalities should be the priority of this entire review.

If traffic fatalities are not reduced then the roads in the state of Texas will become more dangerous that anything in the state of Texas.

7. Residents want real information that works. Eliminating those of us who are instructors creates a bigger problem because there has to be more than an online way to take care of a traffic citations. Most of my clients are over 65 and do better in person than online to dismiss their traffic citation.

8. Our society is living longer so there needs to be more implementation for senior drivers than is in place. Sending the seniors to a good defensive driving course as well as mandating that they take a live classroom course every two years after they reach 70 years of age would be beneficial to decrease fatalities. Cognitive thinking in our senior drivers needs to be a priority and needs to be measured.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree