



TEXAS POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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POLICE ADMINISTRATORS

July 14, 2020

Sunset Commission
TDLR - Polygraph Examiner Licensing
PO Box 13066
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Sunset Commission,

Texas law enforcement agencies utilize polygraphs as an investigative tool and for law enforcement officer applicant screening. We are concerned about suggestions that polygraph examiner licensing requirements could be abolished.

Polygraph examiners are highly trained professionals with specific skill sets in the administration and interpretation of polygraph test results. The process to become an examiner and to test an examiner's competency and proficiency is highly complex.

We believe the elimination of polygraph examiner licensing could have the following negative effects:

- Harm public safety by allowing untrained or unprepared examiners to conduct polygraph exams;
- Wrongful convictions could occur due to an incompetent examiner providing bad information back to criminal investigators; and
- An unregulated specialty like this could create an opportunity for Texans to be subjected to fraudulent practices.

We urge the Sunset Commission and TDLR or another agency to continue to regulate polygraphed examiners through licensing requirements.

The Texas Police Chiefs Association (TPCA) represents 1,500 Texas law enforcement executives committed to professionalism in policing. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Chief Gene Ellis
TPCA President