

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Interoffice Memorandum

To: Commissioners **Date:** July 10, 2026

Thru: Laurie Gharis, Chief Clerk
Kelly Keel, Executive Director

From: Beth Seaton, Director 
Office of Waste

Docket No.: 2025-1309-RUL

Subject: Commission Approval for Proposed Rulemaking
Chapter 30, Occupational Licenses and Registrations
Implementation of Occupational Licensing Legislative Updates 89th Session
Rule Project No. 2025-027-030-WS

Background and reason(s) for the rulemaking:

The Occupational Licensing & Registration Division (OLRD) proposes to initiate a rulemaking project to amend 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 30, *Occupational Licensing and Registration*, to implement statutory changes made in House Bills (HB) 1237 and 5629, and Senate Bills (SB) 1818 and 1080 during the 89th Legislative Session.

Scope of the rulemaking:

A.) Summary of what the rulemaking would do:

The proposed rulemaking would amend 30 TAC Chapter 30 to implement statutory changes from the 89th Texas Legislative session related to license renewal timelines and fees, reciprocal licensing for military service members, veterans, and military spouses, and revisions to felony-based license revocation. In addition, the rulemaking would include minor updates to Chapter 30 to improve clarity.

B.) Scope required by federal regulations or state statutes:

HB 1237 allows licensed individuals additional time to renew any license or registration up to 180 days past its expiration date. The bill allows the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ, agency, or commission) to charge up to 1.5 times the normal fee to renew a license or registration that is up to 90 days past expiration and up to two times the normal renewal fee to renew a license or registration that is more than 90 days but not more than 180 days past expiration. Previously, the statute only allowed an individual to renew their license up to 30 days past the expiration date and allowed a licensing agency to charge up to 1.5 times the normal fee. TCEQ proposes to set the renewal fees for 1.5 times the normal fee and two times the normal fee for license and registration applications that are submitted up to 90- and 180-days past expiration, respectively.

HB 5629 amends the reciprocal process for military service members, veterans, and military spouses with an occupational license from another state seeking an occupational license in Texas. The review process for reciprocal licenses will be based on whether the license in the other state is similar in scope of practice to a license in Texas, regardless of whether the requirements are substantially equivalent to Texas or how the license was obtained. A military member, veteran, or military spouse, applying for a reciprocal license in Texas, is required to provide supporting documentation to prove that he or she is in good standing with the state from which he or she holds a license by submitting a notarized affidavit. HB 5629 gives TCEQ 10 days to respond to an applicant as to 1) whether they qualify for the reciprocal license; 2) the application is incomplete; or 3) the agency is unable to recognize the applicant's out-of-state license. HB 5629 also requires TCEQ to waive the application fee for all military service members', veterans', or military spouses' applications for a new license. HB 5629 also requires TCEQ to maintain a record of complaints

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made against military service members, veterans, or military spouses with reciprocal licenses and publish these complaints quarterly on the agency's website.

SB 1818 requires state licensing authorities to promptly issue either a provisional license or a regular license to military members, veterans, and military spouses who apply for a reciprocal license. The provisional license would temporarily authorize the military member, veteran, and military spouse for work in their occupation while the regular license is being processed and would expire when the agency approves or denies the application for a reciprocal license or 180 days after the provisional license is issued, whichever comes first.

SB 1080 amends the automatic revocation of licenses following a felony conviction. It continues to require TCEQ to automatically revoke a license for a felony conviction that results in imprisonment for an offense that directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the licensed occupation, an offense listed in Article 42A.054, Code of Criminal Procedure, or a sexually violent offense, as defined by Article 62.001, Code of Criminal Procedures. The bill makes revocation discretionary for an imprisonment due to a felony conviction that is not considered directly related to their duties, violent, or sexually violent. Previously, the statute required automatic revocation for all licensees that received any felony conviction that resulted in imprisonment.

C.) Additional staff recommendations that are not required by federal rule or state statute:

Staff propose to allow an individual who submits a renewal application within 90 days after the license expiration date to complete the required training for renewal within that 90-day period. While not expressly addressed in the statute, this would be in line with the flexibility added by HB 1237, which allows a licensee additional time to submit a renewal application and allows for an individual who submits a renewal application within 90 days after the license expiration date to continue performing duties that require a license.

Additional staff-initiated changes included in this rulemaking would correct the required training hours for the Class B Wastewater license in 30 TAC §30.340(a) from 100 hours to 120 hours. In the previous rulemaking, the commission added the Basic Wastewater course as a requirement for Class A and Class B Wastewater licenses; however, the total number of required hours for the Class B Wastewater license was not updated to reflect the additional 20-hour course. This rulemaking would correct that omission to ensure consistency with existing training requirements. The rulemaking would also amend the requirement for notifying licensees of impending license expiration to allow renewal notifications to be sent electronically. Specifically, the rule would be revised to replace the requirement to provide "written notice of the impending expiration" with language requiring TCEQ to "mail a renewal notification," thereby allowing notifications to be sent by email. This change is consistent with Texas Water Code (TWC), §37.006(c).

Statutory authority:

These amendments are proposed under the authority granted to the commission in TWC, §5.012, which provides that the commission is the agency responsible for implementing the constitution and laws of the state relating to conservation of natural resources and protection of the environment; and §5.103 and §5.105, which establish the commission's general authority to adopt rules.

These amendments are also proposed under TWC, §37.002, which provide the commission's specific authority to adopt rules governing occupational licenses and registrations; §§26.0301, 37.003, 37.005, and 37.006 of TWC; §§341.033, 341.034, 361.027, and 366.071 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, and §1903.251 of the Texas Occupational Code (TOC).

These amendments are also proposed under TOC §53.105.

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The rules will implement TWC §37.006 as amended by HB 1237; TOC §§ 55.004, 55.0041, 55.0042, 55.0043, 55.005, and 55.009, as amended by HB 5629; TOC §§ 55.004 and 55.0041, as amended by SB 1818; and TOC §§ 51.4014 and 53.021, as amended by SB 1080.

Effect on the:

A.) Regulated community:

Military service members, veterans, and military spouses with occupational licenses from TCEQ will have the fee waived for all new applications, rather than just the reciprocal or initial license.

Licensees will benefit from additional flexibility to renew their licenses up to 180 days past the expiration date, as proposed in 30 TAC §30.24(a) of the rulemaking. In these cases, the individual would not need to re-test for a new license as they have had to in the past, allowing them to receive their renewed license faster. It would require them to pay an increased fee.

B.) Public:

The public will also benefit from minor corrections and clarifications in the rule.

C.) Agency programs:

No fiscal implications are anticipated for the agency or for other units of state or local government as a result of administration or enforcement of the proposed rule unless any individual opts to renew their license after its expiration date. Should any licensee that is subject to this rulemaking apply for renewal of their license after it is expired and within 90 or 180 days of the expiration, TCEQ would receive additional revenue in the amounts specified in §§30.30(c), 30.30(e), 30.192(3), 30.355(d), 30.355(e), and 30.400(c) of the proposed rulemaking. These sections of the rule would provide for an increase in the fee by one-and-a-half times the normal amount for applications received within 90 days after the expiration date, and two times the normal amount for applications received after 90 days but not more than 180 days.

Stakeholder meetings:

OLRD conducted a virtual stakeholder meeting on October 20, 2025, to solicit informal comments on rulemaking for 30 TAC Chapter 30, *Occupational Licenses and Registrations*. The comment period ended November 3, 2025.

Public Involvement Plan

A Public Involvement Plan is required.

Alternative Language Requirements

Spanish language documents will be required for this rulemaking.

Potential controversial concerns and legislative interest:

None.

Would this rulemaking affect any current policies or require development of new policies?

The proposed rulemaking would not affect current policies or require new policies.

What are the consequences if this rulemaking does not go forward? Are there alternatives to rulemaking?

These amendments are necessary to align agency rules with recently enacted changes in statute.

Key points in the proposal rulemaking schedule:

Anticipated proposal date: July 30, 2026

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Anticipated *Texas Register* publication date: August 14, 2026

Anticipated public hearing date: September 9, 2026

Anticipated public comment period: August 14, 2026 to September 15, 2026

Anticipated adoption date: December 16, 2026

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Attachments:

HB 1237

HB 5629

SB 1080

SB 1818

cc: Chief Clerk, 2 copies
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