



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

April 4, 2016

Mr. John P. Beauchamp  
General Counsel  
Texas Commission on Law Enforcement  
6330 East Highway 290, Suite 200  
Austin, Texas 78723-1035

OR2016-07478

Dear Mr. Beauchamp:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 604310.

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement ("TCOLE") received a request for the following information pertaining to a named individual: F-5 forms, information relating to licensure suspension and reinstatement, and information regarding reprimands and complaints. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note you have only submitted F-5 forms pertaining to the named individual. To the extent any additional information responsive to this request existed and was maintained by TCOLE on the date TCOLE received the request, we assume TCOLE has released it. If TCOLE has not released any such information, it must do so at this time. Gov't Code §§ 552.301(a), .302; *see also* Open Records Decision No. 664 (2000) (if governmental body concludes no exceptions apply to requested information, it must release information as soon as possible).

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Gov't Code § 552.101. This section encompasses information protected by other statutes such as

section 1701.454 of the Occupations Code, which governs the public availability of information submitted to TCOLE under subchapter J of chapter 1701 of the Occupations Code. The submitted information consists of F-5 forms that were created prior to the effective date of the amendment of section 1701.454 by the Seventy-ninth Legislature. *See* Act of May 25, 2005, 79th Leg., R.S., ch. 1298, § 4, 2005 Tex. Gen. Laws 4094, 4096. Thus, the F-5 forms at issue are governed by the previous version of section 1701.454. *See* Act of May 25, 2005, 79th Leg., R.S., ch. 1298, § 6, 2005 Tex. Gen. Laws 4094, 4096.<sup>1</sup> Former section 1701.454 provides as follows:

(a) A report or statement submitted to [TCOLE] under this subchapter is confidential and is not subject to disclosure under [the Act] unless the person resigned or was terminated due to substantiated incidents of excessive force or violations of the law other than traffic offenses.

(b) Except as provided by this subsection, a [TCOLE] member or other person may not release the contents of a report or statement submitted under this subchapter. The report or statement may be released only by the [TCOLE] employee having the responsibility to maintain the report or statement and only if:

(1) the head of a law enforcement agency or the agency head's designee makes a written request on the agency's letterhead for the report or statement accompanied by the agency head's or designee's signature; and

(2) the person who is the subject of the report or statement authorizes the release by providing a sworn statement on a form supplied by [TCOLE] that includes the person's waiver of liability regarding an agency head who is responsible for or who takes action based on the report or statement.

Occ. Code. § 1701.454 (repealed 2005). Upon review, we find the F-5 forms at issue are not subject to release under the provisions of former section 1701.454. Accordingly, TCOLE must withhold the submitted information under section 552.101 of the Government Code in conjunction with former section 1701.454 of the Occupations Code.

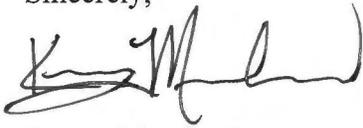
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<sup>1</sup>Section 6 of the amending legislation states “[t]he changes in law made by this Act in relation to employment termination reports apply only to an employment termination report under Subchapter J, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, regarding a resignation or termination that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act. An employment termination report regarding a resignation or termination that occurs before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law as it existed immediately before the effective date and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.” Act of May 25, 2005, 79th Leg., R.S., ch. 1298, § 6, 2005 Tex. Gen. Laws 4094, 4096.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at [http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl\\_ruling\\_info.shtml](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml), or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenny Moreland', written over a horizontal line.

Kenny Moreland  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KJM/som

Ref: ID# 604310

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)