

AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

The following agencies, boards, and commissions are attached organizationally to the executive branch of state government but operate with their own budgets and staffs.

Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission

226 Capitol Boulevard Building, Suite 300

Nashville, TN 37243-0755

(615) 741-1602

Tennessee.gov/abc

Danielle Elks, *Executive Director*

The commission has the legal responsibility to license, regulate, and inspect all wholesale and retail liquor dealers in Tennessee, as well as establishments providing on-premise consumption. It also issues employee permits and enforces all state liquor laws and regulations including the control of illegal manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages. The enforcement of laws dealing with marijuana cultivation also is the responsibility of the commission.

Tennessee Arts Commission

401 Charlotte Avenue

Nashville, TN 37243-0780

(615) 741-1701

www.arts.state.tn.us

Rich Boyd, *Executive Director*

The Tennessee Arts Commission, with a board of fifteen members appointed by the governor, has a mission that the citizens of Tennessee have access to and the opportunity to participate in the arts. Through a variety of programs the Commission encourages excellence in artistic expression through the state's artists and arts organizations.

A staff of professional arts administrators and support personnel assists the Commission in carrying out day-to-day activities designed to encourage participation, appreciation and education in the arts. The Commission's activities include grant making, technical assistance and services to the arts community and special projects that encourage excellence and accessibility to Tennessee's artists and arts organizations.

The Commission also has supervisory and administrative responsibility for the Tennessee State Museum.

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

901 R.S. Gass Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37216-2639
(615) 744-4000
www.tbi.state.tn.us

Mark Gwyn, Director

The state legislature established the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) as an independent agency in 1980. As the state's primary criminal investigative agency, the TBI is responsible for assisting local law enforcement with major crimes. The TBI also launches its own special investigations into illegal drugs, fugitives, public corruption, official misconduct, organized crime, domestic terrorism, gambling, Medicaid Fraud and patient abuse. The TBI has the statutory authority to investigate any criminal violation upon the request of the District Attorney in the jurisdiction where the crime occurred.

The bureau manages the state's three forensic crime labs, which conduct tests on more than 70,000 pieces of evidence annually. The total number of tests conducted in a year is more than 200,000.

State law requires the TBI to collect statewide crime statistics and publish those annually in the "Crime in Tennessee" report. The TBI also manages a number of high profiles programs including the TBI Most Wanted, AMBER Alert, the statewide Sex Offender Registry, and a Meth Offender Registry. Additional responsibilities include instant checks for gun purchases and statewide background checks to the public for a fee.

The Director of the TBI is appointed to a six year term by the Governor and serves as a member of the Tennessee Law Enforcement Planning Commission.

The TBI employs about 500 people statewide, nearly half of whom are commissioned officers. Continuing education is also a priority, with the TBI conducting nearly 2,000 hours of law enforcement training for 12,000 people annually.

Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability

Andrew Jackson Building
500 Deaderick Street, Ste. 825
Nashville, TN 37243-0860
(615) 741-2056

Tennessee.gov/comaging

Nancy C. Peace, Executive Director

The Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability is the designated state agency on aging mandated to provide leadership relative to all aging issues on behalf of older persons. The Commission administers the federal Older Americans Act, programs funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and state-appropriated funds and operates the Statewide Home- and Community-Based Services Medicaid Waiver for the Elderly and Disabled. In cooperation with local, state, and federal governments, the Commission coordinates programs for older adults and other adults with disabilities and makes recommendations for improvement. The staff work with local communities through area agencies, organizations, and individuals to develop needed services. The Commission is responsible for promoting the exchange of ideas, disseminating information on aging and disability issues, and encouraging and assisting the development of programs for older Tennesseans and other adults with disabilities needing home- and community-based

long-term care services. The Commission is a clearinghouse for information on needs and characteristics of the older population. The Commission collects facts and statistics and performs other special duties related to conditions affecting the health and welfare of aging Tennesseans and other adults with disabilities.

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth

Andrew Johnson Tower, Ninth Floor

710 James Robertson Parkway

Nashville, TN 37243-0800

(615) 741-2633

Fax (615) 741-5956

Tennessee.gov/tccy

Linda O'Neal, Executive Director

The Commission on Children and Youth is an independent state agency with a primary mission of advocacy for improving the quality of life for children and families. The commission collects and disseminates information on children and families for the planning and coordination of policies, programs and services, including an annual state of the child report, administers the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and other federal and state juvenile justice funds in Tennessee, evaluates the systems and services for children in state custody, and has an ombudsman program for children in state custody or relative placements.

The commission staffs and coordinates nine regional councils that address the local needs of children and families, provide organizational structure for state-wide networking on behalf of children and families, and provide local input to the commission.

There has been a statutory commission created by the General Assembly to focus on Tennessee children since 1955, with the most recent major changes in 1988. The policy-making body to the commission is a 21-person board whose members are appointed by the Governor. At least one member is appointed from each of Tennessee's nine development districts.

Tennessee Corrections Institute

Andrew Jackson Building, Eighth Floor

500 Deaderick Street

Nashville, TN 37243-1420

(615) 741-3816

Jerry Abston, Executive Director

The institute provides support services for local penal systems in Tennessee. Staff trains correctional employees at the local level in addition to providing research and evaluation services to governmental agencies. The Corrections Institute also is responsible for the inspection and certification of local correction facilities.

Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation

*Plaza Tower, MetroCenter
200 Athens Way, Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 324-6500
www.tnlottery.com*

Dennis Bottorff, *Chairman*

Rebecca Paul Hargrove, *President and CEO*

In November 2002, Tennessee voters approved a referendum to amend the state Constitution to allow a lottery. The General Assembly passed legislation creating the Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation in May 2003, and in June of the same year Governor Phil Bredesen appointed a seven-member board to oversee the Corporation.

The Lottery began selling its first tickets on January 20, 2004. The Tennessee Constitution requires that all Lottery profits go first to college scholarships, with excess funds allocated to K-12 capital outlay and early learning and after-school programs.

The Lottery transfers funds to the state's Lottery for Education Account on a quarterly basis. As of June 30, 2007, the Lottery has raised \$919,275,000 for education programs including \$26,750,000 for after-school programs.

The Tennessee Education Lottery maintains five district offices throughout the state and is headquartered in Nashville's MetroCenter.

Tennessee Health Services and Development Agency

*500 Deaderick Street, Suite 850
Nashville, TN 37243
(615) 741-2364*

Melanie Hill, *Executive Director*

The Tennessee Health Services and Development Agency is responsible for regulating the health care industry in Tennessee through the Certificate of Need Program. A Certificate of Need ("CON") is a permit for the establishment or modification of a health care institution, facility, or service; purchase of major medical equipment; or establishment of certain services at a designated location. The CON program serves as a growth-management and cost-savings tool since it requires certain health providers to establish the need for new services and facilities before the providers will be allowed to build facilities, become licensed, or conduct certain business. The CON program assures that health care projects are accomplished in an orderly, economical manner consistent with the development of adequate and effective health care for the people of Tennessee.

Tennessee Housing Development Agency

*Suite 1114, Parkway Towers
404 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0900
(615) 741-2400
Tennessee.gov/thda*

Ted R. Fellman, Executive Director

Created by the General Assembly in 1973, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency's (THDA) mission is Leading Tennessee Home by creating safe, sound, affordable housing opportunities. The agency is authorized to sell tax-exempt revenue notes and bonds to provide funds for mortgage loans at low interest rates. The agency uses local lenders throughout the state to make affordable mortgages to first-time homebuyers. The agency also administers rental housing programs and has created a housing trust fund to serve very low income, special-needs, elderly Tennesseans.

THDA administers HOME, a federal grant program. Through this grant program, counties, communities, and nonprofit housing providers accept grants to fund locally designed housing efforts for low- and very low-income households.

THDA also researches housing issues (i.e., construction permits issued, housing starts, median income, sales prices) and provides technical services and information to housing providers.

Tennessee Human Rights Commission

*Central Office
530 Church Street, Suite 305
Cornerstone Square Building
Nashville, TN 37243-0745
(615) 741-5825 / 1 (800) 325-9664
1 (866) 856-1252 (Spanish)
www.Tennessee.gov/humanrights*

Beverly L. Watts, Executive Director

The Tennessee Human Rights Commission is the state enforcement agency charged with enforcing the state's civil rights laws in housing, employment, and public accommodation to ensure fair treatment for all individuals within the state.

It is against the law to discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, disability, sex, national origin, familial status (housing only), or age (over 40 in employment).

The Commission works in partnership with government, civic groups, religious organizations and agencies from other states in the development of public information programs. The Commission provides leadership and engages in community-based activities to promote the Commission and public understanding of its work.

The Commission is governed by fifteen (15) commissioners appointed by the Governor. The Commissioners representation is equally divided among each grand division of the state – East, Middle and West Tennessee. The Commission has its central office in Nashville and has regional offices in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Memphis.

Tennessee Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission

LETA Facilities at 3025 Lebanon Road

Nashville, TN 37214-2217

(615) 741-4461

Brian Grisham, Executive Secretary

Established by 1981 Acts, Chapter 455, the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission is charged under Tennessee Code Annotated §38-8-104 with the establishment, implementation, and maintenance of uniform standards for the employment, training, and administration of supplemental incomes of all local law enforcement officers in Tennessee and certain state law enforcement agencies.

This 18-member commission consists of citizens, law enforcement officials, one member from the Senate, and one member from the House of Representatives as specified by Tennessee Code Annotated §38-8-102. In addition, the commission continually strives for and encourages higher selection, training, and development standards to ensure that Tennessee keeps pace with the growing need for more effective and efficient social and law enforcement endeavors.

Tennessee Probation and Parole Board

Suite 1300, Parkway Towers

404 James Robertson Parkway

Nashville, TN 37243-0850

(615) 741-1673

www2.state.tn.us/bopp/home.htm

Charles M. Traughber, Chairman

Bo Irvin, Executive Director

The Tennessee Probation and Parole Board, established by legislation on July 1, 1979, is an independent, autonomous seven-member board. Its purpose is to fairly and impartially consider all inmates serving a sentence of more than two years for parole and to review and make recommendations to the governor on all clemency requests. The Board's Field Services Division provides investigatory functions for the Board and the Courts and supervises offenders placed on parole or probation.

Tennessee State Board of Education
State Board for Career and Technical Education

710 James Robertson Parkway, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243-1050
(615) 741-2966

www.tennessee.gov/sbe
http://info.tnanytime.org/sbe/

Dr. Gary Nixon, *Executive Director*

The State Board of Education's vision is to prepare all Tennessee children for successful post-secondary work, education, and citizenship. The Board establishes rules and policies governing all aspects of the elementary and secondary education necessary for the success of individual children, their communities, the State and the nation.

The Board's Master Plan includes the following goals: successful transitions; rigorous, relevant high school; relevant middle grade experiences; dynamic elementary grade education; and the availability of high-quality Pre-K programs.

Board members and staff work closely with the General Assembly, the State Department of Education, Tennessee's higher education institutions, business leaders and other education stakeholders in overseeing implementation of policies and programs that implement proven, research-based policies in four foundational areas: effective school leaders; effective teachers; rigorous, relevant curriculum; and adequate resources.

The Board gauges how well the State is preparing all students for post-secondary success by measuring the remedial and developmental studies rates at Tennessee post-secondary institutions, the college-going rate, high school graduation rates, and ACT-readiness subject-area benchmarks in 8th, 10th and 12th grades. The Board also compares the difference in the percentage of Tennessee students scoring proficient or above on the NAEP assessment and the percentage of Tennessee students scoring at or above proficient on the TCAP assessment.

The Board provides information and tools to students, parents, teachers, and policymakers to enable them to help deliver the education constitutionally guaranteed to all Tennesseans. See <http://info.tnanytime.org/sbe/>.

The State Board of Education is composed of ten members – one from each congressional district, plus a student member. Dr. Gary L. Nixon serves as executive director of the Board.

Tennessee State Museum

5th and Deaderick

James K. Polk Cultural Center

Nashville, TN 37243-1120

(615) 741-2692

www.tnmuseum.org

Lois Riggins-Ezzell, Executive Director

The Tennessee State Museum is located in downtown Nashville in the James K. Polk Cultural Center with a military branch in the War Memorial Building. It features a series of exhibits which interpret more than 12,000 years of history along with special temporary exhibits on history and art in a changing gallery. The Tennessee State Museum has become one of the largest and finest state museums in the country. The permanent exhibits begin with The First Tennesseans tracing prehistoric humans some 12,000 years ago through the 1600s with European explorers. Frontier looks at the beginnings of permanent settlements and statehood (1760-1812). Other permanent exhibits include the Age of Jackson (1812-50); Antebellum (1840-60); Civil War and Reconstruction (1860-70); and The New South (1870-1917).

The Military Branch Museum in the War Memorial Building houses military exhibits on Tennessee's involvement in overseas conflicts from the Spanish-American War in 1898 to the end of World War II. Among the artifacts on display are Spanish, German, Japanese, and American uniforms and equipment and selected sterling silver pieces from the service of the battleship U.S.S. Tennessee, which was sunk at Pearl Harbor. There are long-range plans to add exhibits on the Korean and Vietnam wars.

The heritage of some 200 years of history and the efforts of many citizens to preserve mementos of that history have combined to create an outstanding museum. The Tennessee State Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and on Sunday, 1-5 p.m. There is no admission charge.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Ellington Agricultural Center

P.O. Box 40747

Nashville, TN 37204-0747

(615) 781-6500

Tennessee.gov/twra

Gary Myers, Executive Director

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is governed by a thirteen-member Wildlife Resources Commission which includes the commissioners of Environment and Conservation and Agriculture, nine people appointed by the governor, one appointed by the speaker of the Senate, and one by the speaker of the House. The agency has the responsibility to preserve, manage, enhance, and protect the state's wildlife resources and their environments and the responsibility for boating safety. Operation of the 672-employee agency is handled by divisions and sections of the main Nashville office and four regional offices located in Jackson, Nashville, Crossville, and Morristown.

The divisions and sections are: Wildlife Management, Fish Management, Law Enforcement, Environmental Services, Engineering, Administrative Services, Information and Education, Information Technology, Human Resources, General Services, Real Estate and Forestry, Planning – GIS and Federal Aid, Staff Attorney, and Boating.

Major functions of the agency include law enforcement; research; operation of lakes, hatcheries, and management areas; hunter safety training; public information; conservation education; habitat protection; boating education; access area development; and regulation of hunting seasons and bag limits.

Volunteer Tennessee

William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower

312 8th Avenue North, Suite 1200

Nashville, TN 37243

(615) 532-9416

www.volunteertennessee.net

Jim Snell, Interim Executive Director

Volunteer Tennessee (formerly the Commission on National and Community Service) works through grants, training and partnerships with service organizations across Tennessee to help ensure that the Volunteer State lives up to its name. Volunteer Tennessee administers AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps where hundreds of Tennesseans give a year of their lives in service to meet community needs in education, environment, public safety and human needs in return for help with college or loan repayments. Volunteer Tennessee partners with the Department of Education and Lions Clubs International to support service-learning, a teaching methodology that combines academic and behavioral learning with volunteer service for K-12 youth.

The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 requires states to maintain a bipartisan state citizen service commission in order to qualify for funds from the federal Corporation for National and Community Service. Volunteer Tennessee's 25-member commission was created in 1994 by Executive Order 55 and is administratively attached to the Department of Finance and Administration.

