

## 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*

*TN.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 was established to ensure that the citizens of Tennessee have access to and participate in the arts. A statewide volunteer citizen board appointed by the Governor works with a nationally recognized professional staff to offer funding opportunities to Tennessee nonprofit and public organizations that produce and present high quality arts activities that add value to the cultural life of the state's diverse communities and populations.

Through a variety of programs the agency invests in cultural assets that enrich the lives of Tennesseans; communicates the value of the arts to every Tennessee community; preserves and promotes the folk arts and cultural heritage of the state; invests in arts education for all Tennesseans; empowers Tennessee artists and organizations with resources to be economic and cultural contributors to their communities; and engages in partnerships to broaden support for the arts in Tennessee.

## Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole

*Parkway Towers, Suite 1300  
404 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243-0850  
(615) 741-1673  
[www.TN.gov/bopp](http://www.TN.gov/bopp)*

**Charles M. Traugher, Chairman**  
**Bo Irvin, Executive Director**

The Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole, established by legislation on July 1, 1979, is an independent, autonomous seven-member board. Its purpose is to fairly and impartially consider all eligible inmates 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 state probation.

## Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

*901 R.S. Gass Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37216-2639  
(615) 744-4000  
[www.tbi.state.tn.us](http://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 80,000 pieces of evidence annually. The total number of tests conducted in a year is more than 250,000.

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 profile programs including the TBI Most Wanted, AMBER Alert, the statewide Sex Offender Registry and the 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 is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and sits on the National Forensic Academy Board.

The TBI employs nearly 500 people statewide, approximately half of whom are commissioned officers. Continuing education is also a priority, with the TBI conducting nearly 1,800 hours of law enforcement training for 6,500 people annually.

## Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability

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

*TN.gov/comaging*

**Mike Hann, Executive Director**

The Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability was created by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1963. The Commission is the designated state unit on aging and is mandated to provide leadership relative to all aging issues on behalf of older persons in the state. The Commission administers the federal funds provided by the Older Americans Act. In 2001, the Legislature expanded the authority of the Commission to provide services to adults with disabilities under age 60.

The Older Americans Act provides federal funds for administration and direct services. These services include congregate and home-delivered meals, protection of elder rights, supportive and in-home care, senior centers, transportation, and family caregiver services. The commission administers federal funds from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to operate the statewide State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which provides consumer education and counseling about Medicare and all other related health insurances. The Commission also administers state funds for multi-purpose senior centers, public guardianship and in-home services including homemaker and personal care services, as well as home-delivered meals. The Commission serves as the operating agency for a Medicaid Waiver that provides in-home services to older persons and adults with disabilities who choose to stay at home rather than be placed in a nursing home.

The Commission works in partnership with the nine Area Agencies on Aging and Disability. Each of the nine Area Agencies is the principal agent of the Commission for carrying out the mandates of the Older Americans Act and requirements of the state agency. Each Area Agency serves as the focal point for all issues relative to the welfare of older persons in its respective planning district. Area Agencies perform a wide range of activities related to advocacy, planning, coordination, inter-agency linkages, information sharing, brokering, monitoring and evaluation. These activities lead to the development or enhancement of comprehensive and coordinated community based systems which serve all communities.

Each year, every Area Agency submits an "Area Plan for Programs on Aging," or an annual update, to the Commission for approval. An area plan provides a comprehensive description of services to be provided within the area, based on local needs, through contract with local service providers.

## **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*

*TN.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*

**Jim Hill, Chairman**

**Rebecca 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 to specific education programs, including college scholarships, Pre-Kindergarten and after-school programs. There is also the opportunity for excess funds to be allocated to K-12 capital outlay projects.

The Lottery transfers funds to the state's Lottery for Education Account on a quarterly basis. As of December 31, 2008, the Lottery had raised more than \$1.3 billion for education programs in Tennessee.

The Tennessee Education Lottery maintains four 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  
www.TN.gov/hsda*

**Carl Ohm Koella, III, Chairman**

**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.

The Tennessee Health Services and Development Agency is an independent agency that consists of 10 members:

The Comptroller of the Treasury or his/her designee; the Director of TennCare or his/her designee; the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and In-

surance or his/her designee; a consumer appointed by the speaker of the Senate; a consumer appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; a person who has recent experience as an executive officer of a hospital or hospital system by the Governor; a representative of the nursing home industry appointed by the Governor; a duly licensed physician appointed by the Governor; one (1) representative of the home care industry; and a consumer appointed by the Governor.

## **Tennessee Housing Development Agency**

*Suite 1200, Parkway Towers  
404 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243-0900  
(615) 741-2400  
www.thda.org*

**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., foreclosures, construction permits issued, housing starts, median income, sales prices) and provides technical services and information to housing providers.

## **Tennessee Human Rights Commission**

*Central Office  
710 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 100  
Nashville, TN 37243-1219  
(615) 741-5825 / (800) 251-3589  
(866) 856-1252 (Espanol)  
www.TN.gov/humanrights*

**Beverly L. Watts, Executive Director**

The Tennessee Human Rights Commission (THRC) is responsible for enforcing the state's civil rights laws which prohibit discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodation.

Discrimination is prohibited on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, disability, familial status (housing only), or age (over 40 in employment). The Commission is charged with receiving, initiating, investigating, litigating and resolving complaints of discrimination; cooperating with civic, religious and other organizations and other government officials; furnishing technical assistance, edu-

cation and outreach; and making studies to effectuate the purposes and policies of the act and agency.

The Commission is governed by 15 commissioners appointed by the Governor to represent 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 Tennessee keeps pace with the growing need for more effective and efficient social and law enforcement endeavors.

## **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.TN.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 the state's success at preparing all students for post-secondary success by measuring the remedial and developmental studies rates at Tennessee post-secondary institutions, the college-going rate, graduation rates and ACT-readiness subject-area benchmarks in 8th, 10th and 12th grade. 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*

*TN.gov/twra*

**Ed Carter, *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 Rosa L. Parks Ave., 12th Floor*

*Nashville, TN 37243*

*(615) 532-1426*

*www.volunteertennessee.net*

**Jim Snell, *Executive Director***

Volunteer Tennessee (formerly the Commission on National and Community Service) helps ensure that the Volunteer State lives up to its name through its mission to encourage volunteerism and community service. Volunteer Tennessee pursues this mission through grants, training and partnerships with service organizations across Tennessee. 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. Volunteer

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Tennessee also manages the Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards. Initiated in 2008, the Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards recognizes one youth and one adult volunteer from each county in the state.

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. The Governor appoints the 25 commission members who represent the geographic and cultural diversity of the state.