



TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Technical Assistance Bulletin

To: All Texas Law Enforcement Agencies/Chief Administrators/Licensees
From: Cullen Grissom/Director, Credentialing, Education and Field Services
Regarding: **Qualified Retired Law Enforcement Officer Credentials (QRLEO)**
Date: November 29, 2022

TCOLE receives numerous inquiries from officers seeking credentials denoting their status as "Qualified Retired Law Enforcement Officers" under 18 U.S. Code § 926C - Carrying of concealed firearms by qualified retired law enforcement officers. This bulletin was created in an effort to clarify the process.

Process for Qualified Retired Law Enforcement Officers (QRLEO):

- 1) Review [18 U.S. Code § 926C - Carrying of concealed firearms by qualified retired law enforcement officers](#). (Please review that FEDERAL statute to see if you meet ALL of the requirements which includes at least 10 years of aggregate service as a law enforcement officer OR that you separated from service with your agency, after completing any applicable probationary period of such service, due to a service-connected disability, as determined by your agency.)
- 2) If you are a QRLEO AND your license was not suspended or revoked during your term of service AND you have no psychological or physical disability that would interfere with your proper handling of a handgun, then a head of a state or local law enforcement agency MAY allow you an opportunity to demonstrate weapons proficiency. Ref: TX Occupations Code 1701.357(b)
- 3) As an alternative to step 2, a qualified handgun instructor MAY allow you an opportunity to demonstrate weapons proficiency if you provide to the instructor a copy of the sworn affidavit at the bottom of the second page of [this Qualified Retired Firearms Certificate packet](#). Ref: TX Occupations Code 1701.357(b-2)
- 4) Complete the Qualified Retired Firearms Certificate packet and send it, with the required fee, to TCOLE.
- 5) TCOLE will process the packet. If approved you will receive a certificate of proficiency in the form of a TCOLE ID card that expires in one year.
- 6) You may present that TCOLE certificate of proficiency to the head of the state or local law enforcement agency from which you retired or most recently separated. That agency will issue you an identification that indicates you honorably retired or separated from the agency. The identification card may have an expiration date.

Process for Chief Administrators Dealing with QRLEO requests:

- 1) When presented with a TCOLE certificate of firearms proficiency you should determine that the QRLEO candidate was either:
 - a. appointed or employed by your agency for 20 years or more and the officer is receiving retirement or pension benefits, **OR**
 - b. your agency was the last agency to have appointed the QRLEO as a peace officer in TCLEDDS.
- 2) If the candidate is eligible for the issuance of the ID card under the previous step, your agency is obligated to issue the QRLEO ID card meeting the standards set forth in TX Government Code Section 614.1241