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COVID-19 SUSPENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

Agency Action

Driver Education	Allow driver education classroom instruction courses through distance learning
Barbers, Cosmetologists, and Massage Therapy Education Providers	Allow schools to utilize technologies such as videos of hands on work, electronic learning, virtual learning, and other practices that would effectively deliver the practical portion of the school's curriculum to ensure that a student develops the job skills and knowledge to obtain a license in Texas
	Waive all continuing education courses for individual licenses expiring March 2020 through June 2020, but require licensees to submit their renewal applications and pay the fees
Offender Education Providers	Suspend the requirement that teachers of the Drug Offender Education Program, Alcohol Education Program for Minors, and DWI Education Program teach a minimum of 4 classes and attend at least one department-sponsored continuing education seminar and allow them to renew their license if all other requirements are met
	Suspend the requirement that teachers of the DWI Intervention Program teach a minimum of 2 classes and attend at least one department-sponsored continuing education seminar and allow them to renew their license if all other requirements are met

Governor Action

	Waive late fees accrued March 13, 2020 through June 15, 2020 for occupational licenses issued by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Elevator Inspections	Grant an extension for inspection requirements for elevators with permits set to expire in March 2020 through June 2020

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COVID-19 SUSPENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS

Boiler Inspections	A boiler Certificate of Operation that expires from March 13, 2020 through June 30, 2020 shall not receive a penalty for failing to obtain an inspection before the certificate expires. A request for an extension for the internal inspection interval will maintain eligibility for boiler extensions for which the Certificate of Operation is set to expire March 13, 2020 through June 30, 2020
Elimination of Architectural Barriers Program	Extend by 60 days all building inspection deadlines in the Elimination of Architectural Barriers program due March 2020 through June 2020 in case those buildings need to be used in response to COVID-19
Behavior Analysts	Allow supervision of a behavior analyst student, intern, or fellow by a licensed behavior analyst or an instructor in a course sequence approved by the certifying entity to be done through telehealth
	Allow telehealth to be used for direct observation and measurement of behavior and environment, as allowed by the certifying entity
Orthotists and Prosthetists	Suspend the requirement that a licensed orthotist and/or prosthetist provide on-site direction at an accredited facility
Hearing Instrument Fitters & Dispensers	Allow a smart phone, or any audio-visual, real-time, or two-way interactive communication system to qualify as telecommunications technology to provide telehealth services
	Waive the requirement that a supervisor of a temporary training permit holder be working in an established place of business
	Waive the requirement that licensees conduct an initial professional contact in-person at the same physical location as the client
Dyslexia Therapy	Allow dyslexia services to be provided by dyslexia therapists or dyslexia practitioners solely by smart phone or any audio-visual, real-time, or two-way interactive communication system that can be used to provide telehealth services
	Waive the requirement that the initial meeting be in-person between a dyslexia therapist or a dyslexia practitioner and a client and allow licensed dyslexia practitioner and dyslexia therapists to practice and provide services outside of an educational setting

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COVID-19 SUSPENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP) and Audiologists	Allow SLP interns, SLP assistants, and Audiology assistants to receive direct supervision and provide services to clients through telehealth
	Audiologists and audiology interns who fit and dispense hearing instruments through telehealth are no longer required to conduct an initial professional contact in-person at the same physical location

Texas Medical Board

Agency Action

	Extend physician and physician assistant licensee permits that expired on February 28, 2020 or May 31, 2020 through August 31, 2020 without any late fees
	Extend the registration for newly licensed physician and physician assistants with a March through June due date to August 31, 2020 without any late fees
	Extend permits for medical physicists, medical radiologic technologists, perfusionists, respiratory care practitioners and those on the Non-Certified Radiologic Technician Registry whose current permit expires February 28, 2020, May 31, 2020, or June 30, 2020 to August 31, 2020 without any late fees
	Extend surgical assistant permits that expire on June 30, 2020 to August 31, 2020
	Allow physician assistant, respiratory care practitioner, medical physicists and perfusionist applicants who currently have an active, pending application on file to be eligible for the Limited Emergency License if they only lack fingerprinting and certain certifications
	Allow for fast-track of the temporary licensing of out-of-state physicians, physician assistants, certain retired physicians, and other license types
	Allow out-of-state physicians to obtain a Texas limited emergency license or hospital-to-hospital credentialing through the time period that encompasses the Governor's Disaster Declaration

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COVID-19 SUSPENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS

Governor Action

	Allow for telephone refill(s) of a valid prescription for treatment of chronic pain by a physician with an established chronic pain patient
	Allow retired physicians who are Texas residents with licenses that have been placed on official retired status for less than two years to apply for a return to active status
	Allow a physician-in-training permit holder to be utilized in areas outside of their GME training program
	Allow oral prescriptive delegation agreements between physicians and the Physician Assistants and Advance Practice Registered Nurses they supervise

Texas State Board of Nursing

Agency Action

	Grant applicants an extension to their 4-year NCLEX exam eligibility if they had an active exam application on file and were affected by a travel ban, testing site closure, or government lockdown which prevented them from testing
	Applicants who have an ATT and/or NCLEX on file during COVID-19, but were affected by a travel ban, government lockdown, or testing site closure do not need to resubmit any application items that expired during the COVID-19 pandemic and applications will remain valid through August 31, 2020
	Allow temporary permit extensions for graduate nurses and graduate vocational nurses who have yet to take the licensing exam
	Extend graduate nurse and graduate vocational nurse permits for 6 months and allow any issued after March 21, 2020 to remain valid for 6 months

Governor Action

	Allow an out-of-state nurse to practice in Texas for the purpose of rendering aid, provided the nurse holds a current license in good standing in their home state
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COVID-19 SUSPENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS

	Allow nurses with an inactive license to reactivate their license without paying a fee or completing continuing education requirements
	Allow licensed vocational nurses, registered nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses until September 30, 2020 to renew their license
	Allow for telephone refill(s) of a valid prescription for treatment of chronic pain by a advanced practice registered nurse with an established chronic pain patient
	Allow advance practice registered nurse graduates who have applied for licensure and met all the requirements other than national certification to begin practicing under physician supervision
	Allow students in their final year of nursing school to meet their clinical objectives by exceeding the 50% limit on simulated experiences

Texas Department of State Health Services

Governor Action

Emergency Medical Service (EMS)	Allow a local medical director for a licensed EMS provider to permit individuals who are qualified, but not formally certified, to provide critical emergency response services for patients treated and transported by the EMS provider
	Grant a 90-day grace period for EMS personnel whose license or certification expired after March 13, 2020
	Waive required skills verification for 90 days for EMS personnel whose certification expired less than one year prior to the Governor's declaration on March 13, 2020
	Waive the skills verification for out-of-state AEMT applicants for 90 days and allow the applicant to certify at the EMT level
First Responder Organization	Allow a first responder organization whose license expires after March 13, 2020 and 90 days thereafter, to delay submission of its renewal application and completion of the re-licensure requirements until the end of the 90-day waiver period

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COVID-19 SUSPENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS

Bulk Grocery Items	Allow restaurants to sell bulk retail products from restaurant supply chain distributors directly to consumers provided that such foods are in their original condition, packaging, or presented as received by the restaurant
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Texas State Board of Pharmacy

Governor Action

	Temporarily suspend the expiration dates and continuing education requirements of pharmacist licensees, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy technician trainees
	Temporarily suspend the requirement for board approval as a preceptor to supervise a pharmacist-intern performing pharmacist duties
	Temporarily suspended the requirement for a pharmacist to visit an ambulatory surgical center and a Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facility at least once each calendar week of board rule
	Allow pharmacists to conduct telephonic consultations
	Temporarily suspend the requirement to obtain an inspection with the last renewal period in order to renew a Class A-S, Class B, Class C-S, and Class E-S pharmacy license
	Allow pharmacy technicians to accept prescription drug orders over the phone and to transfer or receive a transfer of original prescription information on behalf of patients

Texas Judicial Branch Certification Commission

Agency Action

Supreme Court Order	Extend deadlines whether prescribed by statute, rule, or order, related to the issuance or renewal of certifications, licenses, or registrations issued by the Judicial Branch Certification Commission, including deadlines for fulfilling mandatory continuing education until August 15, 2020
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COVID-19 SUSPENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS

State Bar of Texas

Agency Action

	Grant an automatic 60-day extension to attorneys reaching their compliance deadlines in March, April, or May
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Texas State Board of Public Accountancy

Agency Action

	Extend an Application of Intent to December 31, 2020 for candidates who have approved applications and are unable to find an open testing site or schedule an appointment for testing prior to the expiration
	Extend a Notice to Schedule expiring between April 1 and September 30, 2020 are extended until December 31, 2020
	Exam candidates with one or more credits on the CPA exam expiring on or before September 30, 2020 will be granted a 90 day extension of the credit
	Temporarily accept electronic transcripts and e-scripts to document the educational coursework completed and degrees awarded for individuals who submit an Application of Intent
	Eliminate the requirement that candidates take at least 15 of their 30 semester credit hours of upper division accounting courses in person and allow these courses to be completed online
	Automatically grant continuing professional education credits through August 2020 for May, June, and July individual license renewals

Texas State Board of Professional Geoscientists

Agency Action

	Provide a nine hour continuing education credit for licenses that expire March through August and allow the CE to be completed online or through self-directed studies
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COVID-19 SUSPENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS

Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners

Agency Action

	Allow Tradesman Plumber Limited training courses to be completed online and suspend in-class continuing education requirements for Journeyman licenses
	Allow applicants to become a Responsible Master Plumber without the required training course if they submit an application, pay the fee, and submit proof of insurance online
	Licenses and registrations expiring March 31, 2020 through June 30, 2020 will have expiration dates extended
	All licenses and registrations expiring June 30, 2020 will show a temporary disaster relief continuing education credit on the public site and will be allowed to renew if all other requirements are met
	Temporarily allow training courses to take place virtually with a limited number of exceptions

Texas Real Estate Commission

Agency Action

	Allow license applicants and license holders within their renewal period to complete their initial application or renewal requirements by July 31, 2020
Supreme Court Order on Evictions	Suspend all proceedings and deadlines for residential evictions through May 18, 2020 and suspend writs of possession—a court order allowing a sheriff to seize the property and return it to the landlord—until after May 25, 2020

Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

Agency Action

	Allow the 60-day public notice sign to be printed by applicant
	Allow license applications to be submitted electronically

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COVID-19 SUSPENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS

	May waive penalties on a case-by-case basis for late submission by licensees and permittees of excise tax reports and payments delayed by some circumstance related to the coronavirus pandemic
	Waive penalties for retailers that fail to make payments on cash and credit law purchases for March through July
	Allow for no contact delivery by having the delivery driver sign the invoice
	Allow a seller or server certificate with an expiration date falling between March 13, 2020 and May 13, 2020 to remain valid until August 18, 2020
	Allow certain holders of the Mixed Beverage Permit that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 to renew for one year rather than the standard two-year renewal period, reducing the upfront renewal cost by half
	Allow businesses that have current alcohol sales that make up less than 51% of total sales but have not traditionally been considered a restaurant by TABC to apply to qualify as a restaurant under GA-28 in order to provide dine-in services, with certain restrictions

Governor Action

	Allow Mixed Beverage Permit holders who have permanent food service capabilities on the premises to sell mixed drinks that are sealed by an adhesive and placed in a bag that seals with a zip tie for delivery or to-go with food orders
	Allow a brewery, distillery, or winery to transfer an alcoholic beverage in bulk to another brewery, distillery, or winery if the alcoholic beverage is used only for manufacturing purposes and if the transfer is allowed by federal law
	Allow event permit fees to be refunded if the event was cancelled due to Coronavirus for certain license types
	Allow wholesalers to repurchase a product from a retailer if the excess is the result of a cancelled event and it was purchased no earlier than February 16, 2020
	Allow members of the manufacturing and wholesale tiers to provide logistical support to retailers in delivering grocery products to their stores

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COVID-19 SUSPENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS

	Authorize distillers to make hand sanitizer
	Waive the late fee for TABC license and permit renewals expiring on or after March 13, 2020 and submitted after the 30 day grace period

Texas Department of Insurance

Agency Action

State-Regulated Health Insurance	Require telemedicine visits for patients with state-regulated plans to be paid the same as in-office visits for insurance purposes
	Request state-regulated insurers waive co-payments, co-insurance, and deductibles for COVID-19 testing
	Request state-regulated insurers waive consumer cost-sharing and facilitate expanded use of telemedicine
	Request state-regulated insurers cover necessary medical equipment, supplies, and services
	Request state-regulated insurers waive penalties, restrictions and claims denials for necessary out-of-network services
	Request state-regulated insurers waive requirements for pre-authorization, referrals, notification of hospital admission, or medical necessity reviews for care consistent with CDC guidance
	Request state-regulated insurers allow extra time for health providers and facilities to file claims
Pharmacy Refills	Require state-regulated health insurance companies to pay for a 90-day refill of covered medications, allow prescriptions to be filled at out-of-network pharmacies at no additional cost to the consumer if the drug isn't available quickly through mail order or at an in-network pharmacy within 30 miles, allow for substitutions if the plan's preferred drug isn't available due to shortages or distribution issues, and waive any requirement for a consumer's signature
	Require state regulated health plans to extend established prior authorization approvals

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COVID-19 SUSPENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS

Prompt Pay	Authorize tolling of the prompt pay submission deadline when a provider cannot meet the deadline due to a catastrophic event, such as the COVID-19 pandemic
	Extend claim-handling deadlines imposed by the state's prompt payment laws for an additional 15 days to help carriers respond to the COVID-19 outbreak
Property and Casualty Insurance	Expedite approvals for property and casualty filings that provide additional coverage or relief to policyholders during the COVID-19 outbreak
Licensing	Issue temporary agent licenses without required testing or additional fees; all training can be completed online, and fingerprints will be submitted later
	*Extend licenses that expire March or April for Texas-licensed insurance agents, adjusters, title agents, escrow officers, fire alarm licensees, fire extinguisher licensees, fire sprinkler licensees, life settlement brokers, and life settlement providers for two months with no late fees

Division of Workers Compensation

Agency Action

	Allow for billing and reimbursement of certain telemedicine and telehealth services when they are available as an alternative to office based health care
	Suspend work search compliance standards for supplemental benefits, testing, training, and application requirements for designated doctors and maximum medical improvement and impairment rating recertification and required medical exams

Texas Workforce Commission

Agency Action

	Waive work search requirements for all claimants
	Waive the waiting week for claimants affected by COVID-19

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COVID-19 SUSPENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS

	Extend the due date for 1st quarter 2020 tax reports and payments to May 15, 2020
	Allow children participating in the subsidized child care program to accrue absences without impacting ongoing eligibility

Public Utility Commission

Agency Action

Water and Sewer	Suspend rules allowing assessment of late fees on residential customers for delinquent bills
	Prohibit a water utility from charging interest to residential customers on a deferred payment plan
	Suspend disconnects of residential customer accounts for non-payment
	Allow water/sewer companies to conduct an estimated reading if they believe there is a good reason, with the requirement that it's done in-person every 60 days
Electricity	Suspend rules allowing assessment of late fees on residential customers for delinquent bills
	Suspend disconnects of residential customer accounts for non-payment

Texas Department of Banking

Agency Action

	Allow banks to close all or a portion of their offices while ensuring they can meet the needs of the public
	Allow bank examinations to be conducted offsite
	Allow electronic signatures and grant an extension through May 31, 2020 for trust company reports

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COVID-19 SUSPENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS

Texas Department of Information Resources

Agency Action

	None at this time
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Texas Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending

Agency Action

	Suspend requirements that a physical office be open to the public during posted normal business hours and allow licensed mortgage loan originators to work from home or another remote location
	Suspend the requirement that a state-chartered savings bank must submit an independent audit to the Department by no later than the 90th day after the date its fiscal year ends

Office of Credit Consumer Commissioner

Agency Action

	Extend the deadline for a regulated lender to file an annual report with the OCCC from May 1 to June 1
	Allow a licensee to conduct regulated lending activity from unlicensed locations, if conducted in accordance with OCCC guidelines

Other Actions

Transportation related	Waive trucking regulations including oversize and overweight permitting requirements and registration permit requirements
	Waive vehicle registration, titling and disability parking placard regulations
	Waive DPS expiration dates for drivers licenses
Healthcare related	Waive health care fees for incarcerated inmates

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COVID-19 SUSPENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS

	Allow long-term care nursing facilities to hire people to provide nurse aide services without having to complete a full certification program in their first four months of employment
	Waive COVID-19 medical cost-sharing for public safety employees
	Allow healthcare facilities that have pending licenses or facilities that have been closed for no more than 36 months to come online under existing hospital building licenses as long as they are administered and operated by hospitals with existing licenses
	Allow for increased occupancy in hospital rooms and allow increase unused bed capacity without submitting an application or associated fees
Other	Expand the virtual services allowed to be conducted by a notary public
	Allow virtual and telephonic government open meetings
	Ensure students in work-study programs continue to be paid while college campuses are closed
	Waive STAAR testing requirement