

ProtectTexas™

Texas Department of Health

Eduardo J. Sanchez, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner of Health

Bureau of Food and Drug Safety
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756-3199
512/719-0222

<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us>
1-888-963-7111

Randy Fritz, M.P.A.
Chief Operating Officer

Nick Curry, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

NOTICE

The 78th Legislature, 2003, passed Senate Bill 1152, which amended Government Code, Chapter 2054, to require participation in Texas Online. As a result, the department is promulgating rules to implement this legislation which will enable certain licensees to renew their licenses online beginning September 2004. The legislation requires a subscription fee be added to the licensing fee to cover the development and maintenance costs of Texas Online. All licensees must pay this subscription fee, whether or not they actually use Texas Online. The subscription fee has been added to the licensing fee, as indicated on the renewal applications.

The 78th Legislature, 2003, also passed House Bill (HB) 2292, which amended Health and Safety Code §§12.0111 and 12.0112, requiring the department to set licensing fees in an amount to cover the costs of the programs, and to require all licenses to be two-year licenses effective January 1, 2005. In addition, HB 2292 allows the department to stagger the issuance and renewal of licenses.

As a result of HB 2292, the department has been promulgating rules to implement HB 2292. The department has decided to implement the two-year license requirement by issuing licenses in a staggered process. This process will allow the department to achieve a smooth transition and spread the workload out more evenly from the current licensing period (one-year in most cases) to the two-year period.

Beginning January 1, 2005, all new licenses will be issued for a two-year period, with the two-year license fee due at the time an application is submitted. Beginning January 1, 2005, all renewal licenses will be issued as follows: one-half of all renewal licenses will be issued a one-time, one-year license (with payment of the one-year license fee), and one-half of all renewal licenses will be issued a two-year license (with payment of the two-year license fee). The determination of which renewal licenses are issued for a one-year vs. a two-year period will be made through an automated random selection process. All the one-year renewal licenses issued in 2005 will expire in 2006, and then be issued a two-year license upon renewal.