

## 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](http://www.tbi.state.tn.us)

**Mark Gwyn, Director**

On March 27, 1980, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) was established by the legislature as an independent agency. As the state's primary criminal investigative agency, the TBI is responsible for assisting local law enforcement with the investigation of major crimes and launching its own special investigations into crimes involving illegal drugs, fugitives, public corruption, official misconduct, organized crime, domestic terrorism, and Medicaid fraud. The bureau also manages the state's three forensic crime labs, which conduct tests on more than 70,000 pieces of evidence annually.

The director, who is appointed by the governor, serves a six-year term and is a member of the Tennessee Law Enforcement Planning Commission.

The TBI is accountable to the district attorneys general and to the judiciary for its performance of services and to the executive and legislative branches for support functions. The TBI has the statutory authority to investigate any criminal violation upon the request of the District Attorney General for that Judicial District.

The TBI has been designated to coordinate the gathering, analysis and dissemination of state and local crime statistics and providing that criminal justice data to the Governor, General Assembly, and all enforcement agencies. The TBI also maintains the computer information network for law enforcement in the state and conducts classes for users of the network. To accomplish this vast mission, the bureau employs more than 400 people, assigned to one of five divisions.

### Services

**Criminal Investigation Division** — The Criminal Investigation Division is the largest within the TBI, responsible for providing specialized law enforcement services and expertise to agencies throughout the state. Agents in the CID are assigned to one of three units.

*The Field Investigation Unit* is comprised of 88 agents who work throughout the state and investigate everything from murders to public corruption, often at the request of District Attorneys General. TBI field offices are located in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Jackson, Johnson City, Memphis and Nashville.

*The Criminal Intelligence Unit* is responsible for compiling, analyzing and sharing statewide criminal intelligence with a special emphasis on organized crime, fugitives, gang activity and missing children. The CIU manages several high profile programs including Amber Alert, the Statewide Sex Offender Registry, and TBI Most Wanted.

*The Medicaid Fraud Unit* focuses on a wide variety of cases involving not only provider fraud, but also patient abuse. Information obtained through these investigations is used to compile the state abuse registry, managed by the Tennessee Department of Health.

***Drug Investigation Division*** — The Drug Investigation Division was created in 1998, following a report that showed 80 percent of the state's crimes were drug-related. This division is responsible for investigating and assisting in the prosecution of crimes involving controlled substances, narcotics and other illegal substances. The Drug Investigation Division is also responsible for managing Tennessee's *Methwatch Program* designed to identify and prosecute methamphetamine manufacturers throughout the state.

***Forensic Services Division*** — Forensic science has emerged as a driving force in modern law enforcement. The Forensic Services Division is comprised of a central crime laboratory in Nashville and regional laboratories in Knoxville and Memphis. Specialized units of these laboratories provide forensic analysis of biological, chemical and physical evidence. The division also manages three crime scene vehicles, equipped to process violent crime scenes or those involving mass casualties.

***Information Systems Division*** — In the late 1980s, only two computer specialists were employed by the TBI. Today, the Information Systems (IS) Division includes more than 88 employees, responsible for integrating modern technology with traditional policing.

All state criminal records are maintained by the Information Systems Division and are provided electronically to local, state and federal law enforcement officials upon request. In 2004, the state legislature made it possible for members of the public to access Tennessee criminal history through a name-based background check.

The Information Systems Division is also responsible for maintaining the state's automated fingerprint identification system, as well as the communication network that provides hundreds of law enforcement agencies with instant access to the TBI's expansive criminal history database and the national criminal information center (NCIC). The Information Systems Division also serves as a point of contact for all firearm transfers in compliance with the Brady Legislation, and houses the Statistical Analysis Center for crime reporting within the state.

***Administrative Services Division*** — The Administrative Services Division is responsible for providing technical and administrative support to all areas of the Bureau. These services include training, personnel, fiscal services, uniformed officers, and professional standards. The TBI conducts in-service training for hundreds of its own employees each year, in addition to providing training for Tennessee's overall law enforcement community. The training unit also conducts the basic criminal investigation school for all new agents and members of the Tennessee Department of Correction. The Professional Standards Unit oversees all legal, procedural and legislative issues related to the Bureau.

***Field Offices*** — The TBI operates regional field offices in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Jackson, Johnson City, Memphis, and Nashville.

## Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability

*Andrew Jackson Building, Eighth Floor*

*500 Deaderick Street*

*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 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 adults with disabilities needing home and community based long-term care. It is responsible for promoting the exchange of ideas, disseminating information on aging and disability issues, encouraging, and assisting the development of programs for older Tennesseans and adults with disabilities needing home and community based long-term care services.

In cooperation with local, state, and federal governments, the commission coordinates programs for the aging and persons with disabilities and makes recommendations for improvements. The staff works with local communities through their agencies, organizations, and individuals to develop needed services. 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 Medicaid home- and community-based services waiver.

## 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 was created in 1988 by the General Assembly. The commission is an independent state agency that advocates for improvement in the quality of life for children and families; collects and disseminates information on children and families for the planning and coordination of policies, programs and services; and administers the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in Tennessee.

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.

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

## **Tennessee Commission on National and Community Service**

*William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower  
312 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Suite 1200  
Nashville, TN 37243  
(615) 532-9416  
[www.volunteertennessee.net](http://www.volunteertennessee.net)*

**Carol White, Executive Director**

The Tennessee 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. The commission 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. The commission 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. The 25-member Tennessee commission was created in 1994 by Executive Order 55 and is administratively attached to the Department of Finance and Administration.

## **Tennessee Corrections Institute**

*Andrew Jackson Building, Eighth Floor  
500 Deaderick Street  
Nashville, TN 37243-1420  
(615) 741-3816*

**C. David Hensley, 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, Tenn. 37228  
(615) 324-6500  
www.tnlottery.com*

**Dennis Bottorff, Chairman**  
**Rebecca Paul, CEO and President**

In November 2002, Tennessee voters approved a referendum to lift the constitutional ban on a state 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 Corporation transfers funds to the state's Lottery for Education Account on a quarterly basis. As of March 31, 2005, the Lottery had raised more than \$291 million for education programs, in addition to more than \$2 million for after-school programs.

The Tennessee 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. The ten-member agency votes to either grant or deny certificate of need applications.

A certificate of need (CON) is a permit for the establishment or modification of a health-care institution or facility, acquisition of major medical equipment, or the initiation of a covered health service at a designated location. 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. These duties were previously performed by the Health Facilities Commission.

## Tennessee Housing Development Agency

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

**Janice Myrick, Executive Director**

Created by the General Assembly in 1973, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency's (THDA) mission is to be the lead state agency promoting sound and affordable housing for people who need help. 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 funded mortgages for group homes for retarded adults.

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

*Suite 305, Cornerstone Square Building  
Central Office  
530 Church Street  
Nashville, TN 37243-0745  
(615) 741-5825  
Tennessee.gov/humanrights*

**Amber D. Gooding, Executive Director**

The Human Rights Commission is responsible for ensuring fair and equal employment, housing, and public accommodations for Tennesseans without regard to age, disability, race, creed, color, religion, sex, familial status, or natural origin. The commission cooperates with government, civic, and religious groups at every level in the development of public information programs, leadership, and activities in the interest of equal opportunity.

## Tennessee Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission

*LETA Facilities at 3025 Lebanon Road  
Nashville, TN 37214-2217  
(615) 741-4461*

**Brian E. 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 duties and responsibilities for the establishment, implementation,

and maintenance of uniform standards for the employment, training, and administration of the supplemental incomes for all local law enforcement officers in Tennessee.

This eighteen-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 necessary 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](http://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 Vocational Education**

*710 James Robertson Parkway, 9th Floor  
Nashville, TN 37243-1050  
(615) 741-2966  
[www.tennessee.gov/sbe](http://www.tennessee.gov/sbe)*

**Dr. Gary Nixon, Executive Director**

The State Board of Education is the governing and policy-making body for the state system of public elementary and secondary education. Its work touches all facets of education from accountability and evaluation to curriculum and teacher education.

The board has a professional staff of research associates to provide ongoing policy research and analysis of public education issues. The board works closely with the General Assembly to secure legislative support for education. Through its annual report on student, teacher, and school performance, the board provides the legislature and general public with information about the status of education in Tennessee.

The board's mission is "to ensure that Tennessee schools are among the best in the nation." To accomplish this mission, the board has identified the following key result areas: early childhood education, primary and middle grades education, high school education, technology, professional development and teacher



education, accountability and assessment, school leadership and school-based decision making, school health and safety, and funding.

The board has developed specific strategies to address these priorities in its Master Plan for Tennessee Schools. The Master Plan guides the board as it makes policy decisions.

The board also has the responsibility to study the use of state funds for public education. Its annual recommendations are included in the Master Plan.

The State Board of Education is composed of nine 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 625-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, Data Processing, Personnel, General Services, 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.