

CHAPTER 297 – PHARMACY TECHNICIANS AND PHARMACY TECHNICIAN TRAINEES

§297.1 Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to provide a comprehensive, coherent regulatory scheme for the registration and training of pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees in this state. The provisions of this chapter, in conjunction with the Texas Pharmacy Act (Chapters 551 - 566 and 568 - 569, Texas Occupations Code, as amended), govern the method for the issuance of a registration to a pharmacy technician and a pharmacy technician trainee in Texas.

§297.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) Act--The Texas Pharmacy Act, Chapters 551 - 566 and 568 - 569, Texas Occupations Code, as amended.
- (2) Board--The Texas State Board of Pharmacy.
- (3) Pharmacy technician--An individual who is registered with the Board as a pharmacy technician and whose responsibility in a pharmacy is to provide technical services that do not require professional judgment regarding preparing and distributing drugs and who works under the direct supervision of and is responsible to a pharmacist.
- (4) Pharmacy technician trainee--An individual who is registered with the board as a pharmacy technician trainee and is authorized to participate in a pharmacy's technician training program.

§297.3 Registration Requirements

(a) General.

- (1) Individuals who are not registered with the Board may not be employed as or perform the duties of a pharmacy technician or pharmacy technician trainee.
- (2) Individuals who have previously applied and registered as a pharmacy technician, regardless of the pharmacy technician's current registration status, may not register as a pharmacy technician trainee.
- (3) Individuals who apply and are qualified for both a pharmacy technician trainee registration and a pharmacy technician registration concurrently will not be considered for a pharmacy technician trainee registration.

(b) Registration for pharmacy technician trainees. An individual may register as a pharmacy technician trainee only once and the registration may not be renewed.

- (1) Each applicant for pharmacy technician trainee registration shall:
 - (A) have a high school or equivalent diploma (e.g., GED), or be working to achieve a high school or equivalent diploma. For the purposes of this subparagraph, an applicant for registration may be working to achieve a high school or equivalent diploma for no more than two years;
 - (B) complete the Texas application for registration that includes the following information:
 - (i) name;
 - (ii) addresses, phone numbers, date of birth, and social security number; and
 - (iii) any other information requested on the application.
 - (C) meet all requirements necessary in order for the Board to access the criminal history record information, including submitting fingerprint information and paying the required fees.

(2) Once an applicant has successfully completed all requirements of registration, and the board has determined there are no grounds to refuse registration, the applicant will be notified of registration as a pharmacy technician trainee and of his or her pharmacy technician trainee registration number.

(3) Pharmacy technician trainee registrations expire two years from the date of registration or upon issuance of registration as a registered pharmacy technician, whichever is earlier.

(c) Initial registration for pharmacy technicians.

- (1) Each applicant for pharmacy technician registration shall:

(A) have a high school or equivalent diploma (e.g., GED), or be working to achieve a high school or equivalent diploma. For the purpose of this clause, an applicant for registration may be working to achieve a high school or equivalent diploma for no more than two years; and

(B) either have:

(i) taken and passed a pharmacy technician certification examination approved by the board and have a current certification certificate; or

(ii) been granted an exemption from certification by the board as specified in §297.7 of this title (relating to Exemption from Pharmacy Technician Certification Requirements); and

(C) complete the Texas application for registration that includes the following information:

(i) name;

(ii) addresses, phone numbers, date of birth, and social security number; and

(iii) any other information requested on the application.

(D) meet all requirements necessary in order for the Board to access the criminal history record information, including submitting fingerprint information and paying the required fees; and

(E) pay the registration fee specified in §297.4 of this title (relating to Fees).

(2) Once an applicant has successfully completed all requirements of registration, and the board has determined there are no grounds to refuse registration, the applicant will be notified of registration as a registered pharmacy technician and of his or her pharmacy technician registration number. If the pharmacy technician applicant was registered as a pharmacy technician trainee at the time the pharmacy technician registration is issued, the pharmacy technician trainee registration expires.

(d) Renewal.

(1) All applicants for renewal of a pharmacy technician registration shall:

(A) complete the Texas application for registration that includes the following information:

(i) name;

(ii) addresses, phone numbers, date of birth, and social security number;

(iii) meet all requirements necessary in order for the Board to access the criminal history record information, including submitting fingerprint information and being responsible for all associated costs; and

(iv) any other information requested on the application.

(B) pay the renewal fee specified in §297.4 of this title; and

(C) complete 20 contact hours of continuing education per renewal period as specified in §297.8 of this title (relating to Continuing Education).

(2) A pharmacy technician registration expires on the last day of the assigned expiration month.

(3) As specified in §568.004 of the Act, if the completed application and renewal fee are not received in the board's office on or before the last day of the assigned expiration month, the person's pharmacy technician registration shall expire. An expired registration shall be renewed according to the following schedule.

(A) If a pharmacy technician registration has expired for 90 days or less, the person may become registered by making application and paying to the board a renewal fee that is equal to one and one-half times the renewal fee for the registration as specified in §297.4 of this title (relating to Fees).

(B) If a pharmacy technician registration has been expired for more than 90 days but less than one year, the person may become registered by making application and paying to the board a renewal fee that is equal to two times the renewal fee for the registration as specified in §297.4 of this title.

(C) If a pharmacy technician registration has expired for more than one year, the pharmacy technician may not renew the registration and must complete the requirements for initial registration as specified in subsection (c) of this section.

(4) After review, the board may determine that paragraph (3)(C) of this subsection does not apply if the registrant is the subject of a pending investigation or disciplinary action.

(e) An individual may use the title "Registered Pharmacy Technician" or "Ph.T.R." if the individual is registered as a pharmacy technician in this state.

§297.4 Fees

(a) Pharmacy technician trainee. The fee for registration shall be \$55 for a two-year registration.

(b) Pharmacy technician.

- (1) Biennial Registration. The board shall require biennial renewal of all pharmacy technician registrations provided under Chapter 568 of the Act.
- (2) Initial Registration Fee. The fee for initial registration shall be \$83 for a two-year registration.
- (3) Renewal Fee. The fee for biennial renewal shall be \$80 for a two-year registration.

§297.5 Pharmacy Technician Trainees

- (a) A person designated as a pharmacy technician trainee shall be registered with the board prior to beginning training in a Texas licensed pharmacy.
- (b) A person may be designated as a pharmacy technician trainee for no more than two years and the requirements for registration as a pharmacy technician must be completed within the two year period.

§297.6 Pharmacy Technician and Pharmacy Technician Trainee Training

- (a) Pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees shall complete initial training as outlined by the pharmacist-in-charge in a training manual. Such training:
 - (1) shall meet the requirements of subsections (d) or (e) of this section; and
 - (2) may not be transferred to another pharmacy unless:
 - (A) the pharmacies are under common ownership and control and have a common training program; and
 - (B) the pharmacist-in-charge of each pharmacy in which the pharmacy technician or pharmacy technician trainee works certifies that the pharmacy technician or pharmacy technician trainee is competent to perform the duties assigned in that pharmacy.
- (b) The pharmacist-in-charge shall assure the continuing competency of pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees through in-service education and training to supplement initial training.
- (c) The pharmacist-in-charge shall document the completion of the training program and certify the competency of pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees completing the training. A written record of initial and in-service training of pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees shall be maintained and contain the following information:
 - (1) name of the person receiving the training;
 - (2) date(s) of the training;
 - (3) general description of the topics covered;
 - (4) a statement that certifies that the pharmacy technician or pharmacy technician trainee is competent to perform the duties assigned;
 - (5) name of the person supervising the training; and
 - (6) signature of the pharmacy technician or pharmacy technician trainee and the pharmacist-in-charge or other pharmacist employed by the pharmacy and designated by the pharmacist-in-charge as responsible for training of pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees.
- (d) A person who has previously completed the training program outlined in subsection (e) of this section, a licensed nurse, or physician assistant is not required to complete the entire training program outlined in subsection (e) of this section if the person is able to show competency through a documented assessment of competency. Such competency assessment may be conducted by personnel designated by the pharmacist-in-charge, but the final acceptance of competency must be approved by the pharmacist-in-charge.
- (e) Pharmacy technician and pharmacy technician trainee training shall be outlined in a training manual. Such training manual shall, at a minimum, contain the following:
 - (1) written procedures and guidelines for the use and supervision of pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees. Such procedures and guidelines shall:
 - (A) specify the manner in which the pharmacist responsible for the supervision of pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees will supervise such personnel and verify the accuracy and completeness of all acts, tasks, and functions performed by such personnel; and
 - (B) specify duties which may and may not be performed by pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees; and
 - (2) instruction in the following areas and any additional areas appropriate to the duties of pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees in the pharmacy:
 - (A) Orientation;

- (B) Job descriptions;
- (C) Communication techniques;
- (D) Laws and rules;
- (E) Security and safety;
- (F) Prescription drugs:
 - (i) Basic pharmaceutical nomenclature;
 - (ii) Dosage forms;
- (G) Drug orders:
 - (i) Prescribers;
 - (ii) Directions for use;
 - (iii) Commonly-used abbreviations and symbols;
 - (iv) Number of dosage units;
 - (v) Strengths and systems of measurement;
 - (vi) Routes of administration;
 - (vii) Frequency of administration; and
 - (viii) Interpreting directions for use;
- (H) Drug order preparation:
 - (i) Creating or updating patient medication records;
 - (ii) Entering drug order information into the computer or typing the label in a manual system;
 - (iii) Selecting the correct stock bottle;
 - (iv) Accurately counting or pouring the appropriate quantity of drug product;
 - (v) Selecting the proper container;
 - (vi) Affixing the prescription label;
 - (vii) Affixing auxiliary labels, if indicated; and
 - (viii) Preparing the finished product for inspection and final check by pharmacists;
- (I) Other functions;
- (J) Drug product prepackaging;
- (K) Written policy and guidelines for use of and supervision of pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees; and
- (L) Confidential patient medication records.

(f) Pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees compounding non-sterile pharmaceuticals shall meet the training and education requirements specified in the rules for the class of pharmacy in which the pharmacy technician or pharmacy technician trainee is working.

(g) Pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees compounding sterile pharmaceuticals shall meet the training and education requirements specified in the rules for class of pharmacy in which the pharmacy technician or pharmacy technician trainee is working.

§297.7 Exemption from Pharmacy Technician Certification Requirements

(a) Purpose. This section outlines procedures to petition the board for an exemption to the certification requirements established by §568.002 of the Act (relating to Pharmacy Technician Registration Required). The board will consider petitions for exemption on a case by case basis.

(b) Long-term exempt pharmacy technicians. Long-term exempt pharmacy technicians are pharmacy technicians who, on September 1, 2001, had been continuously employed as a pharmacy technician in this state for at least 10 years and who received an exemption from the board.

(c) Rural county exempt pharmacy technicians. Rural county exempt pharmacy technicians are pharmacy technicians working in counties with a population of 50,000 or less and meet the following requirements.

(1) Eligibility. An individual may petition the board for an exemption from the certification requirements established by §568.002 of the Act (relating to Pharmacy Technician Registration Required) if the individual works in a county with a population of 50,000 or less.

(2) Petition process.

- (A) An individual shall petition the board for the exemption. The petition shall contain the following:
 - (i) name of the individual;
 - (ii) name, address, and license number of the pharmacy where the individual is employed;

- (iii) name of the county in which the pharmacy is located and the most recent official population estimate for the county from the Texas State Data Center;
- (iv) a notarized statement signed by the individual stating:
 - (I) the reason(s) the individual is asking for the exemption, including reason(s) the individual has not taken and passed a pharmacy technician certification examination approved by the board; and
 - (II) that the information provided in the petition is true and correct; and
- (v) a notarized statement signed by the pharmacist-in-charge of the pharmacy the individual is currently working, stating that the:
 - (I) pharmacist-in-charge supports the individual's petition for exemption;
 - (II) individual has completed the pharmacy technician training program at the pharmacy; and
 - (III) pharmacist-in-charge has personally worked with and observed that the individual is competent to perform the duties of a pharmacy technician.

(B) Each petition shall be considered on an individual basis. In determining whether to grant the exemption, the board shall consider the information contained in the petition and additional information including the following:

- (i) the accuracy and completeness of the petition;
- (ii) reason(s) the individual is asking for the exemption;
- (iii) the population of the county;
- (iv) the number of pharmacies located in the county and adjacent counties and the number of pharmacy technicians working in these pharmacies;
- (v) unemployment rate in the county and adjacent counties; and
- (vi) the following information concerning the pharmacy where the individual is currently working:
 - (I) the degree of compliance on previous compliance inspections; and
 - (II) history of disciplinary action by the board or other regulatory agencies against the licenses held by the pharmacy or pharmacists working at the pharmacy.

(C) After review of the petition, the individual and the pharmacist-in-charge of the pharmacy where the individual is working shall be notified in writing of approval or denial of the petition.

(D) If the petition is approved, the individual shall register with the board as a pharmacy technician.

(3) Limitations.

(A) The exemption granted under this subsection may only be used at the pharmacy noted in the petition and may not be transferred to another pharmacy. If the pharmacy technician ceases employment at the pharmacy or changes employment, the exemption is canceled.

(B) If the population of the county exceeds 50,000, the board shall cancel the exemption. The pharmacy technician and the pharmacist-in-charge of the pharmacy shall be notified when an exemption is canceled.

(C) If the exemption granted under subparagraphs (A) or (B) of this paragraph is cancelled, the pharmacy technician's registration is void and the registration certificate must be surrendered to the Board.

§297.8 Continuing Education Requirements

(a) Pharmacy Technician Trainees. Pharmacy technician trainees are not required to complete continuing education.

(b) Pharmacy Technicians.

(1) All pharmacy technicians shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements during their initial registration period.

(2) All pharmacy technicians must complete and report 20 contact hours of approved continuing education obtained during the previous renewal period in pharmacy related subjects in order to renew their registration as a pharmacy technician. No more than 5 of the 20 hours may be earned at the pharmacy technician's workplace through in-service education and training under the direct supervision of the pharmacist(s).

(3) A pharmacy technician may satisfy the continuing education requirements by:

- (A) successfully completing the number of continuing education hours necessary to renew a registration as specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection;

(B) successfully completing during the preceding license period, one credit hour for each year of the renewal period, in pharmacy related college course(s); or

(C) taking and passing a pharmacy technician certification examination approved by the board during the preceding renewal period, which shall be equivalent to the number of continuing education hours necessary to renew a registration as specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(4) To renew a registration, a pharmacy technician must report on the renewal application completion of at least twenty contact hours of continuing education. The following is applicable to the reporting of continuing education contact hours:

(A) at least one contact hour of the 20 contact hours specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection shall be related to Texas pharmacy laws or rules;

(B) any continuing education requirements which are imposed upon a pharmacy technician as a part of a board order or agreed board order shall be in addition to the requirements of this section; and

(C) for renewals received after August 31, 2020 and before September 1, 2022, a pharmacy technician must have completed the human trafficking prevention course required in §116.002 of the Texas Occupations Code.

(5) Pharmacy technicians are required to maintain records of completion of continuing education for three years from the date of reporting the hours on a renewal application. The records must contain at least the following information:

(A) name of participant;

(B) title and date of program;

(C) program sponsor or provider (the organization);

(D) number of hours awarded; and

(E) dated signature of sponsor representative.

(6) The board shall audit the records of pharmacy technicians for verification of reported continuing education credit. The following is applicable for such audits.

(A) Upon written request, a pharmacy technician shall provide to the board copies of the record required to be maintained in paragraph (5) of this subsection or certificates of completion for all continuing education contact hours reported during a specified registration period. Failure to provide all requested records by the specified deadline constitutes prima facie evidence of a violation of this rule.

(B) Credit for continuing education contact hours shall only be allowed for programs for which the pharmacy technician submits copies of records reflecting that the hours were completed during the specified registration period(s). Any other reported hours shall be disallowed.

(C) A pharmacy technician who submits false or fraudulent records to the board shall be subject to disciplinary action by the board.

(7) The following is applicable if a pharmacy technician fails to report completion of the required continuing education.

(A) The registration of a pharmacy technician who fails to report completion of the required number of continuing education contact hours shall not be renewed and the pharmacy technician shall not be issued a renewal certificate for the license period until such time as the pharmacy technician successfully completes the required continuing education and reports the completion to the board.

(B) A person shall not practice as a pharmacy technician without a current renewal certificate.

(8) A pharmacy technician who has had a physical disability, illness, or other extenuating circumstances which prohibits the pharmacy technician from obtaining continuing education credit during the preceding license period may be granted an extension of time to complete the continued education requirement. The following is applicable for this extension:

(A) The pharmacy technician shall submit a petition to the board with his/her registration renewal application which contains:

(i) the name, address, and registration number of the pharmacy technician;

(ii) a statement of the reason for the request for extension;

(iii) if the reason for the request for extension is health related, a statement from the attending physician(s) treating the pharmacy technician which includes the nature of the physical disability or illness and the dates the pharmacy technician was incapacitated; and

(iv) if the reason for the request for the extension is for other extenuating circumstances, a detailed explanation of the extenuating circumstances and if because of military deployment, documentation of the dates of the deployment.

(B) After review and approval of the petition, a pharmacy technician may be granted an extension of time to comply with the continuing education requirement which shall not exceed one license renewal period.

(C) An extension of time to complete continuing education credit does not relieve a pharmacy technician from the continuing education requirement during the current license period.

(D) If a petition for extension to the reporting period for continuing education is denied, the pharmacy technician shall:

(i) have 60 days to complete and report completion of the required continuing education requirements; and

(ii) be subject to the requirements of paragraph (6) of this subsection relating to failure to report completion of the required continuing education if the required continuing education is not completed and reported within the required 60-day time period.

(9) The following are considered approved programs for pharmacy technicians.

(A) Any program presented by an Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) approved provider subject to the following conditions.

(i) Pharmacy technicians may receive credit for the completion of the same ACPE course only once during a renewal period.

(ii) Pharmacy technicians who present approved ACPE continuing education programs may receive credit for the time expended during the actual presentation of the program. Pharmacy technicians may receive credit for the same presentation only once during a license period.

(iii) Proof of completion of an ACPE course shall contain the following information:

(I) name of the participant;

(II) title and completion date of the program;

(III) name of the approved provider sponsoring or cosponsoring the program;

(IV) number of contact hours awarded;

(V) the assigned ACPE universal program number and a "T" designation indicating that the CE is targeted to pharmacy technicians; and

(VI) either:

(-a-) a dated certifying signature of the approved provider and the official ACPE logo; or

(-b-) the Continuing Pharmacy Education Monitor logo.

(B) Pharmacy related college courses which are part of a pharmacy technician training program or part of a professional degree program offered by a college of pharmacy.

(i) Pharmacy technicians may receive credit for the completion of the same course only once during a license period. A course is equivalent to one credit hour for each year of the renewal period. One credit hour is equal to 15 contact hours.

(ii) Pharmacy technicians who teach these courses may receive credit towards their continuing education, but such credit may be received only once for teaching the same course during a license period.

(C) Basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) courses which lead to CPR certification by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association or its equivalent shall be recognized as approved programs. Pharmacy technicians may receive credit for one contact hour towards their continuing education requirement for completion of a CPR course only once during a renewal period. Proof of completion of a CPR course shall be the certificate issued by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association or its equivalent.

(D) Advanced cardiovascular life support courses (ACLS) or pediatric advanced life support (PALS) courses which lead to initial ACLS or PALS certification by the American Heart Association or its equivalent shall be recognized as approved programs. Pharmacy technicians may receive credit for twelve contact hours towards their continuing education requirement for completion of an ACLS or PALS

course only once during a renewal period. Proof of completion of an ACLS or PALS course shall be the certificate issued by the American Heart Association or its equivalent.

(E) Advanced cardiovascular life support courses (ACLS) or pediatric advanced life support (PALS) courses which lead to ACLS or PALS recertification by the American Heart Association or its equivalent shall be recognized as approved programs. Pharmacy technicians may receive credit for four contact hours towards their continuing education requirement for completion of an ACLS or PALS recertification course only once during a renewal period. Proof of completion of an ACLS or PALS recertification course shall be the certificate issued by the American Heart Association or its equivalent.

(F) Attendance at Texas State Board of Pharmacy Board Meetings shall be recognized for continuing education credit as follows.

(i) Pharmacy technicians shall receive credit for three contact hours towards their continuing education requirement for attending a full, public board business meeting in its entirety.

(ii) A maximum of six contact hours are allowed for attendance at a board meeting during a renewal period.

(iii) Proof of attendance for a complete board meeting shall be a certificate issued by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.

(G) Participation in a Texas State Board of Pharmacy appointed Task Force shall be recognized for continuing education credit as follows.

(i) Pharmacy technicians shall receive credit for three contact hours towards their continuing education requirement for participating in a Texas State Board of Pharmacy appointed Task Force.

(ii) Proof of participation for a Task Force shall be a certificate issued by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.

(H) Attendance at programs presented by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy or courses offered by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy as follows:

(i) Pharmacy technicians shall receive credit for the number of hours for the program or course as stated by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.

(ii) Proof of attendance at a program presented by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy or completion of a course offered by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy shall be a certificate issued by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.

(I) Pharmacy technicians shall receive credit toward their continuing education requirements for programs or courses approved by other state boards of pharmacy as follows:

(i) Pharmacy technicians shall receive credit for the number of hours for the program or course as specified by the other state board of pharmacy.

(ii) Proof of attendance at a program or course approved by another state board of pharmacy shall be a certificate or other documentation that indicates:

(I) name of the participant;

(II) title and completion date of the program;

(III) name of the approved provider sponsoring or cosponsoring the program;

(IV) number of contact hours awarded;

(V) a dated certifying signature of the provider; and

(VI) documentation that the program is approved by the other state board of pharmacy.

(J) Completion of an Institute for Safe Medication Practices' (ISMP) Medication Safety Self-Assessment for hospital pharmacies or for community/ambulatory pharmacies shall be recognized for continuing education credit as follows.

(i) Pharmacy technicians shall receive credit for three contact hours towards their continuing education requirement for completion of an ISMP Medication Safety Self-Assessment.

(ii) Proof of completion of an ISMP Medication Safety Self-Assessment shall be:

(I) a continuing education certificate provided by an ACPE approved provider for completion of an assessment; or

(II) a document from ISMP showing completion of an assessment.

(K) Programs approved by the American Medical Association (AMA) as Category 1 Continuing Medical Education (CME) and accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education subject to the following conditions.

(i) Pharmacy technicians may receive credit for the completion of the same CME course only once during a license period.

(ii) Pharmacy technicians who present approved CME programs may receive credit for the time expended during the actual presentation of the program. Pharmacy technicians may receive credit for the same presentation only once during a license period.

(iii) Proof of completion of a CME course shall contain the following information:

(I) name of the participant;

(II) title and completion date of the program;

(III) name of the approved provider sponsoring or cosponsoring the program;

(IV) number of contact hours awarded; and

(V) a dated certifying signature of the approved provider.

(L) In-service education provided under the direct supervision of a pharmacist shall be recognized as continuing education as follows:

(i) Pharmacy technicians shall receive credit for the number of hours provided by pharmacist(s) at the pharmacy technician's place of employment.

(ii) Proof of completion of in-service education shall contain the following information:

(I) name of the participant;

(II) title or description of the program;

(III) completion date of the program;

(IV) name of the pharmacist supervising the in-service education;

(V) number of hours; and

(VI) a dated signature of the pharmacist providing the in-service education.

§297.9 Notifications

(a) Change of Address and/or Name.

(1) Change of address. A pharmacy technician or pharmacy technician trainee shall notify the board electronically or in writing within 10 days of a change of address, giving the old and new address and registration number.

(2) Change of name.

(A) A pharmacy technician or pharmacy technician trainee shall notify the board in writing within 10 days of a change of name by sending a copy of the official document reflecting the name change (e.g., marriage certificate, divorce decree, etc.).

(B) An amended registration and/or certificate reflecting the new name of the pharmacy technician or pharmacy technician trainee will be issued by the board.

(b) Change of Employment. A pharmacy technician or pharmacy technician trainee shall report electronically or in writing to the board within 10 days of a change of employment giving the name and license number of the old and new pharmacy and registration number.

§297.10 Registration for Military Service Members, Military Veterans, and Military Spouses

(a) Definitions. The following words and terms, when used in this section, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) Active duty--Current full-time military service in the armed forces of the United States or active duty military service as a member of the Texas military forces, or similar military service of another state.

(2) Armed forces of the United States--The army, navy, air force, coast guard, or marine corps of the United States or a reserve unit of one of those branches of the armed forces.

(3) Military service member--A person who is on active duty.

(4) Military spouse--A person who is married to a military service member.

(5) Military veteran--A person who has served on active duty and who was discharged or released from active duty.

(b) Alternative registration procedure. For the purpose of §55.004, Occupations Code, an applicant for a pharmacy technician registration who is a military service member, military veteran, or military spouse may complete the following alternative procedures for registering as a pharmacy technician.

(1) An applicant who holds a current registration as a pharmacy technician issued by another state but does not have a current pharmacy technician certification certificate shall meet the requirements for registration as a pharmacy technician trainee as specified in §297.3 of this chapter (relating to Registration Requirements).

(2) An applicant who held a pharmacy technician registration in Texas that expired within the five years preceding the application date who meets the following requirements may be granted a pharmacy technician registration. The applicant:

(A) shall complete the Texas application for registration that includes the following:

(i) name;

(ii) addresses, phone numbers, date of birth, and social security number; and

(iii) any other information requested on the application;

(B) shall provide documentation to include:

(i) military identification indicating that the applicant is a military service member, military veteran, or military dependent, if a military spouse; and

(ii) marriage certificate, if the applicant is a military spouse; applicant's spouse is on active duty status;

(C) be exempt from the application fees paid to the board set forth in §297.4(a) and (b)(2) of this chapter (relating to Fees);

(D) shall meet all necessary requirements in order for the board to access the criminal history records information, including submitting fingerprint information and such criminal history check does not reveal any charge or conviction for a crime that §281.64 of this title (relating to Sanctions for Criminal Offenses) indicates a sanction of denial, revocation, or suspension; and

(E) is not required to have a current pharmacy technician certification certificate.

(c) Expedited registration procedure. For the purpose of §55.005, Occupations Code, an applicant for a pharmacy technician registration who is a military service member, military veteran or military spouse and who holds a current registration as a pharmacy technician issued by another state or who held a pharmacy technician registration in Texas that expired within the five years preceding the application date may complete the following expedited procedures for registering as a pharmacy technician.

(1) The applicant shall:

(A) have a high school or equivalent diploma (e.g., GED), or be working to achieve a high school or equivalent diploma. For the purpose of this clause, an applicant for registration may be working to achieve a high school or equivalent diploma for no more than two years; and

(B) have taken and passed a pharmacy technician certification examination approved by the board and have a current certification certificate; and

(C) complete the Texas application for registration that includes the following information:

(i) name;

(ii) addresses, phone numbers, date of birth, and social security number; and

(iii) any other information requested on the application.

(D) meet all requirements necessary in order for the Board to access the criminal history record information, including submitting fingerprint information and paying the required fees;

(E) shall be exempt from the registration fee as specified in §297.4(b)(2) of this chapter.

(2) Once an applicant has successfully completed all requirements of registration, and the board has determined there are no grounds to refuse registration, the applicant will be notified of registration as a registered pharmacy technician and of his or her pharmacy technician registration number.

(3) All applicants for renewal of an expedited pharmacy technician registration issued to a military service member, military veteran, or military spouse shall comply with the renewal procedures as specified in §297.3 of this chapter.

(d) License renewal. As specified in §55.003, Occupations Code, a military service member who holds a pharmacy technician registration is entitled to two years of additional time to complete any requirements related to the renewal of the military service member's registration as follows:

(1) A military service member who fails to renew their pharmacy technician registration in a timely manner because the individual was serving as a military service member shall submit to the board:

- (A) name, address, and registration number of the pharmacy technician;
- (B) military identification indicating that the individual is a military service member; and
- (C) a statement requesting up to two years of additional time to complete the renewal.

(2) A military service member specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be exempt from fees specified in §297.3(d)(3) of this chapter.

(3) A military service member specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection is entitled to two additional years of time to complete the continuing education requirements specified in §297.8 of this title (relating to Continuing Education Requirements).

(e) Interim registration for military spouse. In accordance with §55.0041, Occupations Code, a military spouse who is currently registered in good standing by a jurisdiction with registration requirements that are substantially equivalent to the registration requirements in this state may be issued an interim pharmacy technician registration. The military spouse:

- (1) shall provide documentation to include:
 - (A) a notification of intent to practice form including any additional information requested;
 - (B) proof of the military spouse's residency in this state;
 - (C) a copy of the military spouse's military identification card; and
 - (D) verification from the jurisdiction in which the military spouse holds an active pharmacy technician registration that the military spouse's registration is in good standing;
- (2) may not engage in pharmacy technician duties in this state until issued an interim pharmacy technician registration;
- (3) may hold an interim pharmacy technician registration only for the period during which the military service member to whom the military spouse is married is stationed at a military installation in this state, but not to exceed three years from the date of issuance of the interim registration; and
- (4) may not renew the interim pharmacy technician registration.

§297.11 Temporary Emergency Registration

(a) Definitions. The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) Emergency situation--An emergency caused by a natural or manmade disaster or any other exceptional situation that causes an extraordinary demand for pharmacist services.

(2) State--One of the 50 United States of America, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

(b) Emergency Temporary Pharmacy Technician Registration. In an emergency situation, the board may grant a pharmacy technician who holds a current registration in another state an emergency temporary pharmacy technician registration to practice in Texas. The following is applicable for the emergency temporary pharmacy technician registration.

(1) An applicant for an emergency temporary pharmacy technician registration under this section must hold a current pharmacy technician registration in another state and that registration and other registrations held by the applicant in any other state may not be suspended, revoked, canceled, surrendered, or otherwise restricted for any reason.

(2) To qualify for an emergency temporary pharmacy technician registration, the applicant must submit an application including the following information:

- (A) name, address, and phone number of the applicant; and
- (B) any other information the required by the board.

(3) An emergency temporary pharmacy technician registration shall be valid for a period as determined by the board not to exceed six months. The executive director of the board, in his/her discretion, may renew the registration for an additional six months, if the emergency situation still exists.

(c) Exception. This section is not applicable to pharmacy technicians enrolled in a volunteer health registry maintained by the Texas Department of State Health Services.