

# *Tennessee Criminal Law Updates 2025-2026*

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# *Table of Content*

↘ Introduction

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↘ New Deep Fake Images Law

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↘ DUI and Vehicular Offense

---

↘ Enhanced Child Protection

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↘ Public Safety and Protection

---

↘ Additional Updates

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# *Introduction*

This presentation covers significant updates to Tennessee criminal law, focusing on new legislation and amendments effective in 2025 and 2026.



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# *Deep Fakes*

## Effective Date

July 1, 2025

## Definition

Deepfakes mean videos, images, or audio files that have been generated or manipulated by artificial intelligence to realistically portray something that did not actually occur



# *Penalties*

Class E felony: 1 to 6 years and Up to \$10,000 fine

Class C felony if it affects governmental proceedings, elections, or facilitates violence

# *Technology for Child Exploitation*

⌵ Prohibits possession, distribution, or production of technology designed to create material showing minors in sexual activity

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⌵ Penalties: Possession: Class E Felony,  
Distribution: Class C Felony,  
Production: Class B Felony





*Lowered Blood  
Alcohol Thresholds*

↘ Previous Standard:

0.20% blood alcohol level

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↘ New Standard:

0.15% blood alcohol level

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↘ Applies to:

Aggravated vehicular assault and  
aggravated vehicular homicide

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# *Unlawful Photography*

Effective Date

July 1, 2025

Intent

Clarifies law and enhances penalties for photographing individuals without consent





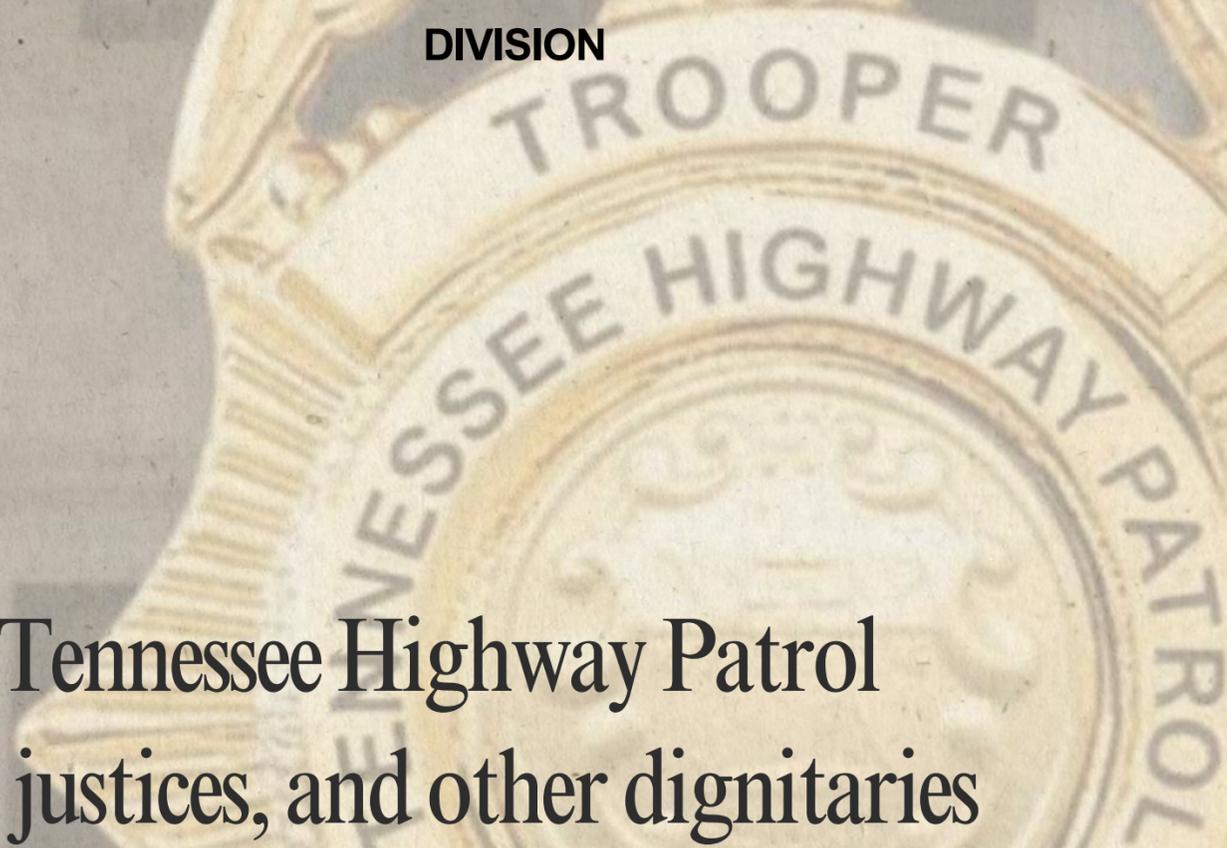
KEY PROVISIONS

## What are the provisions?

- Covers situations where individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy
- Includes photographs taken for sexual arousal or to embarrass victims
- Mandatory: Trial judge SHALL order sexual offender registration
- Statute of limitations is tolled until discovery by victim

# *Public Safety*

PROTECTIVE SERVICES  
DIVISION



Established in 2012 within the Tennessee Highway Patrol

Protects the governor, legislators, justices, and other dignitaries

Provides Capitol and state employee protection

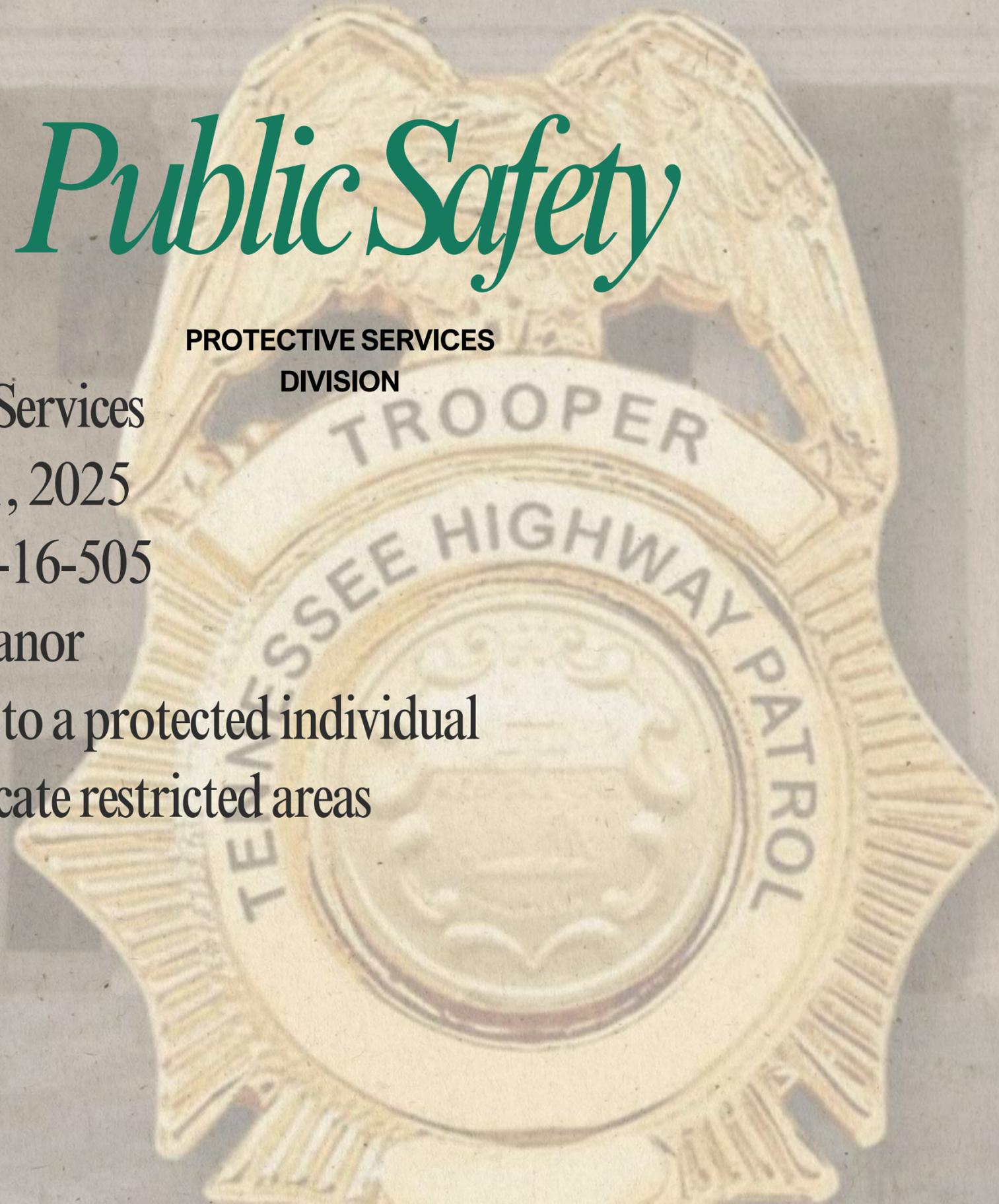
# *Public Safety*

PROTECTIVE SERVICES  
DIVISION

Impeding Protective Services

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

- Statute: T.C.A. § 39-16-505
  - Class A misdemeanor
- Class E felony if person poses a threat to a protected individual
  - Class E felony for refusing to vacate restricted areas



# *Public Safety*

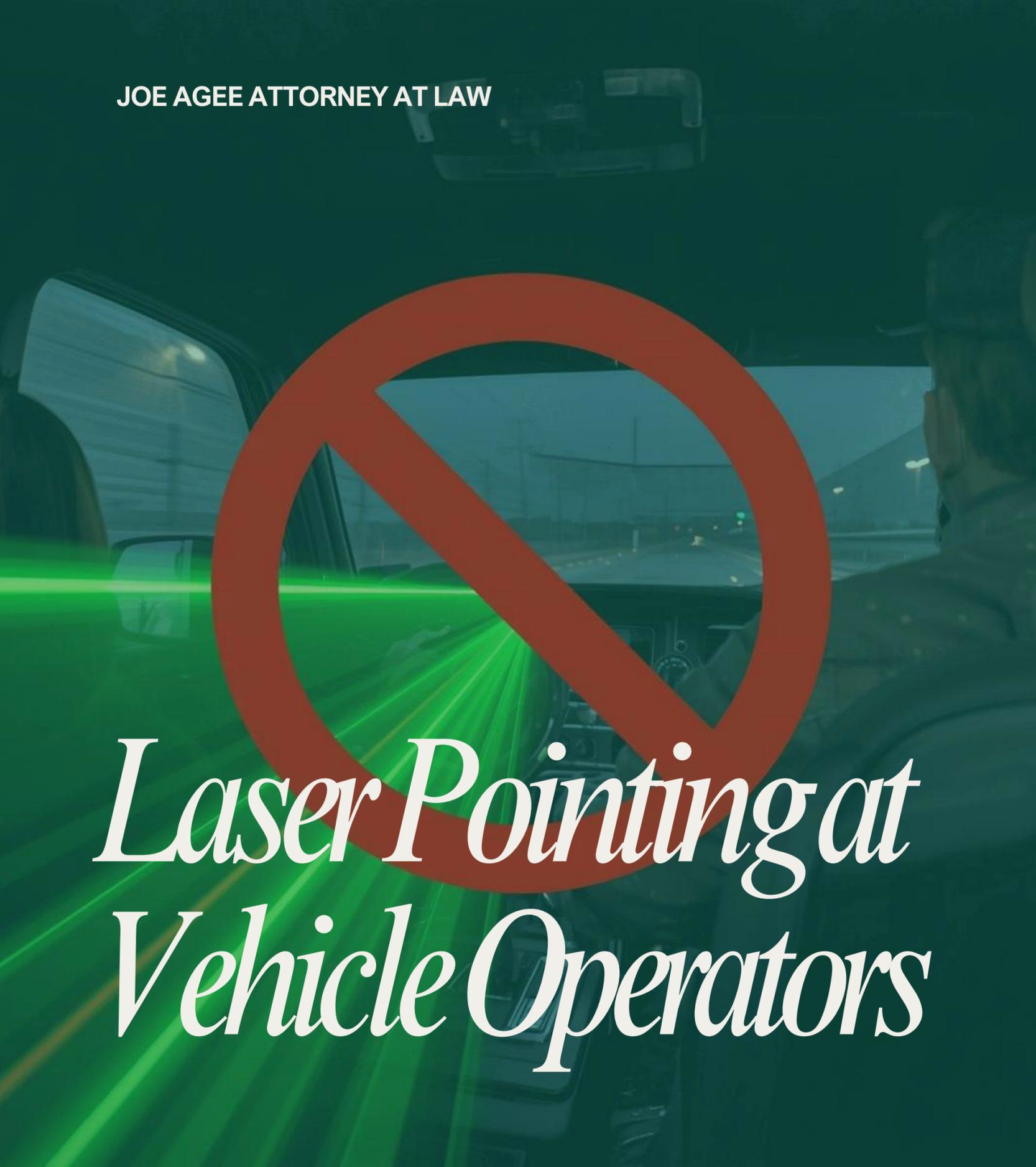
PROTECTIVE SERVICES  
DIVISION

## Approaching Law Enforcement Officers

- Effective Date: July 1, 2025
- Statute: T.C.A. § 39-16-612
- Prohibits approaching within 25 feet after the officer orders the person to stop or retreat
  - Penalty: Class B misdemeanor
- Applies during traffic stops, crime scene investigations, and public safety threats



*Additional Criminal  
Law Updates*



# *Laser Pointing at Vehicle Operators*



## What is it

Prohibits pointing laser devices at persons operating automobiles, boats, aircraft, or motor vehicles

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# *Human Smuggling*

## ↘ Effective Date

July 1, 2025

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## ↘ Statute

T.C.A. § 39-17-118

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## ↘ Penalty

Class E felony, Class A felony if illegal immigrant is under 13

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# *Fentanyl Exposure of Children*

An illustration showing several fentanyl pills and a pile of white powder on a light-colored surface. One pill is prominently labeled 'FENTANYL'. The scene is set against a dark, textured background.

## ↘ Effective Date

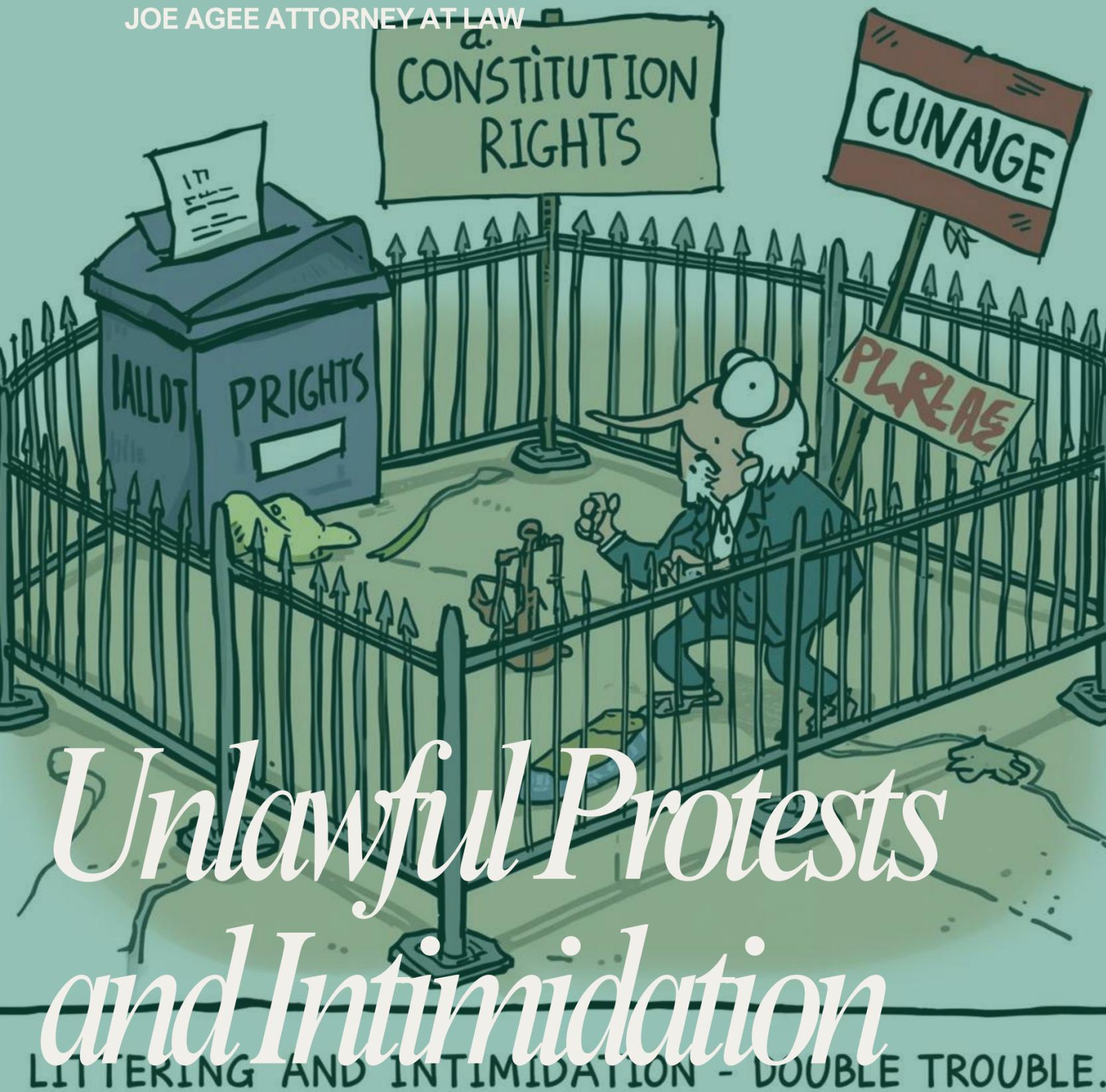
July 1, 2025

## ↘ Statute

T.C.A. § 29-15-401(d)(2)

## ↘ Penalty

Class E felony, Class B felony if child is 8 years old or younger



# *Unlawful Protests and Intimidation*

LITTERING AND INTIMIDATION - DOUBLE TROUBLE.

## Effective Date

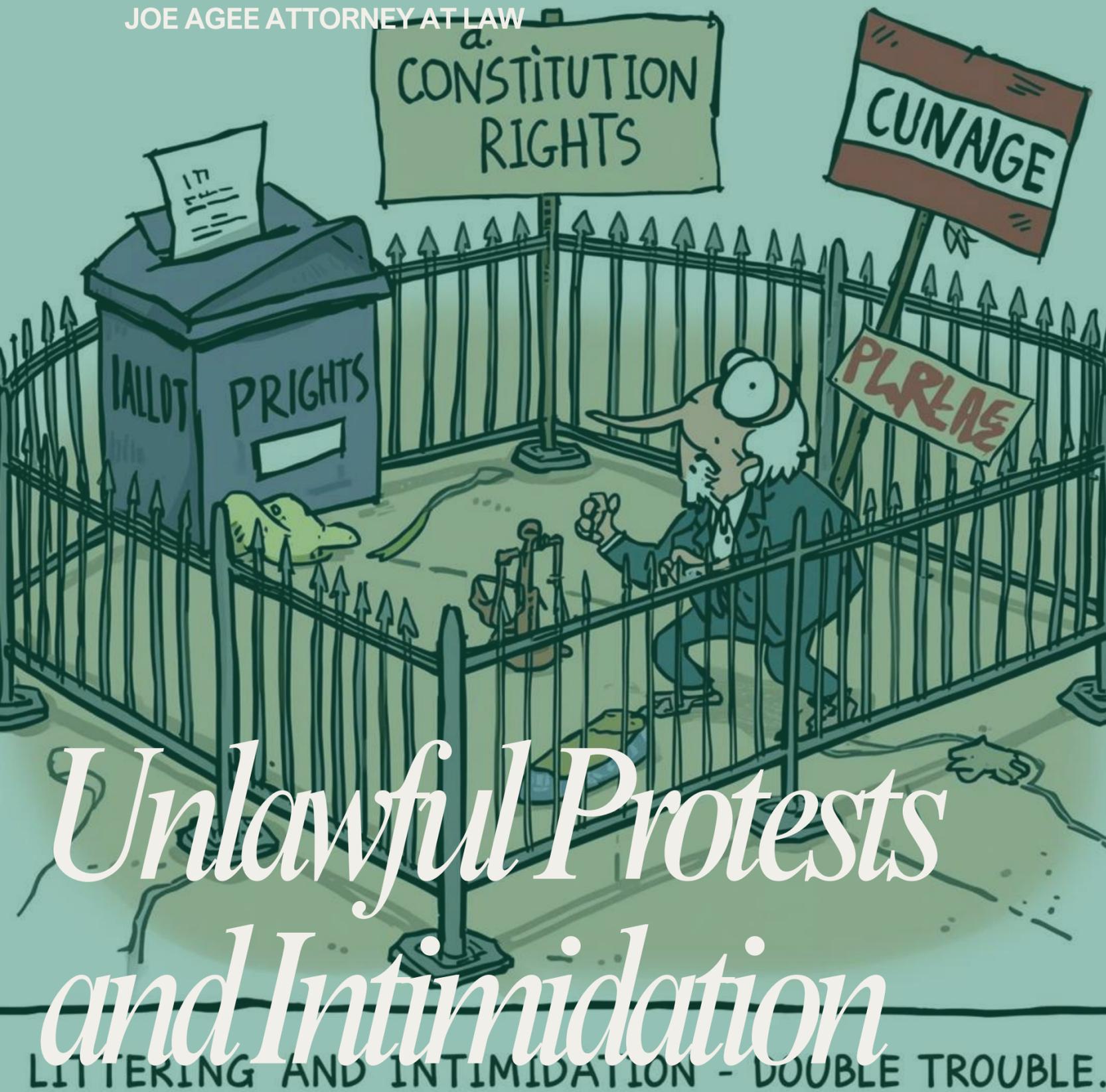
July 1, 2025

## Statute

T.C.A. § 39-17-309(b)(5)-(6)(d)  
and (f)

## Penalty

Class D felony



# *Unlawful Protests and Intimidation*

LITTERING AND INTIMIDATION - DOUBLE TROUBLE.

Effective Date

July 1, 2025

Statute

T.C.A. § 39-17-309(b)(5)-(6)(d)  
and (f)

Penalty

Class D felony



# *Tobacco and Hemp Sales*



## What?

Hemp-derived cannabinoids must be inaccessible to persons under 21

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## What do you need to know?

Age verification required for purchasers appearing 50 years old or less

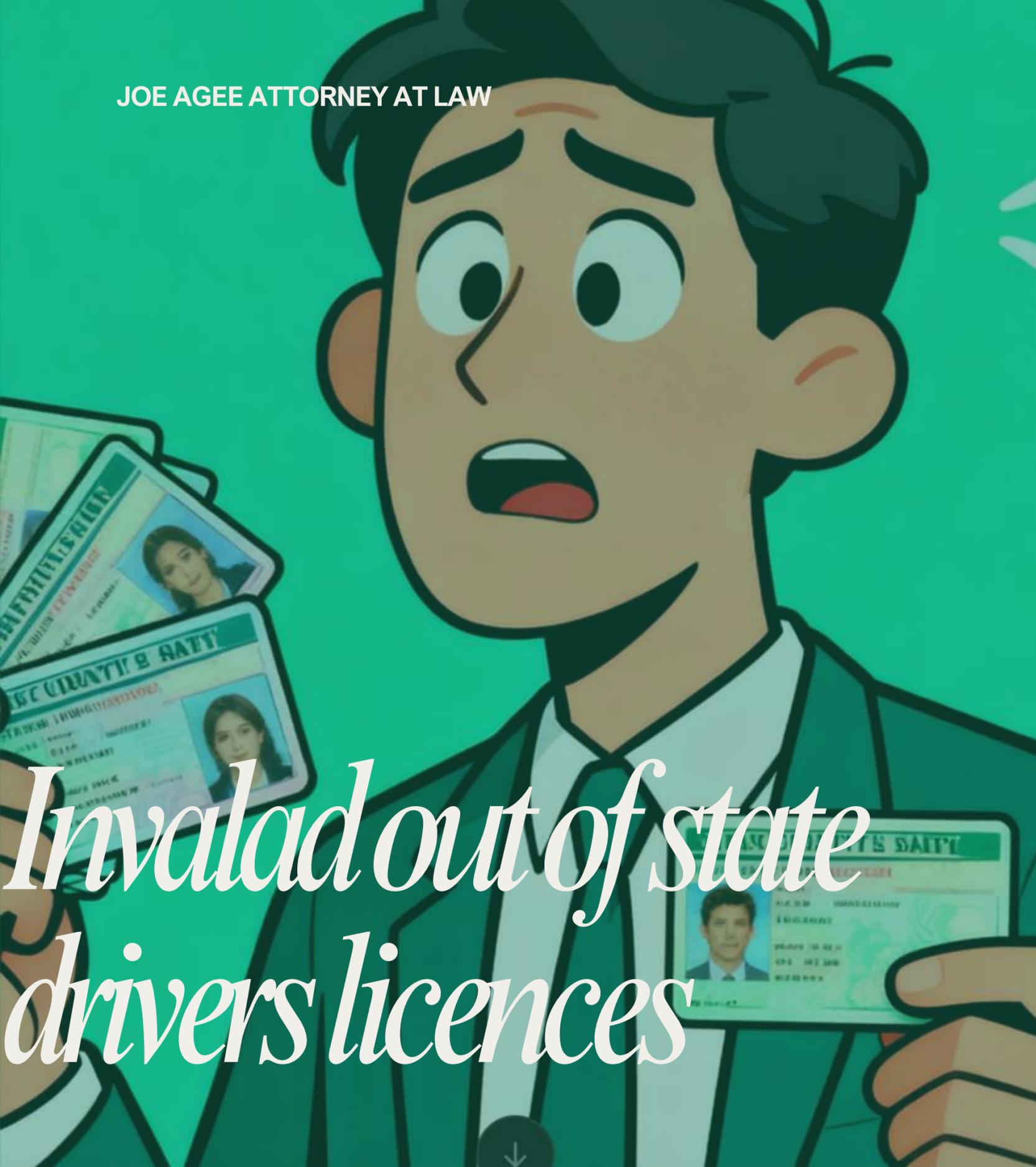
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## Penalties

Class A misdemeanor with 48-hour minimum jail time and \$500 minimum fine

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# *Invalid out of state drivers licences*

↘ Effective Date  
January 1, 2026

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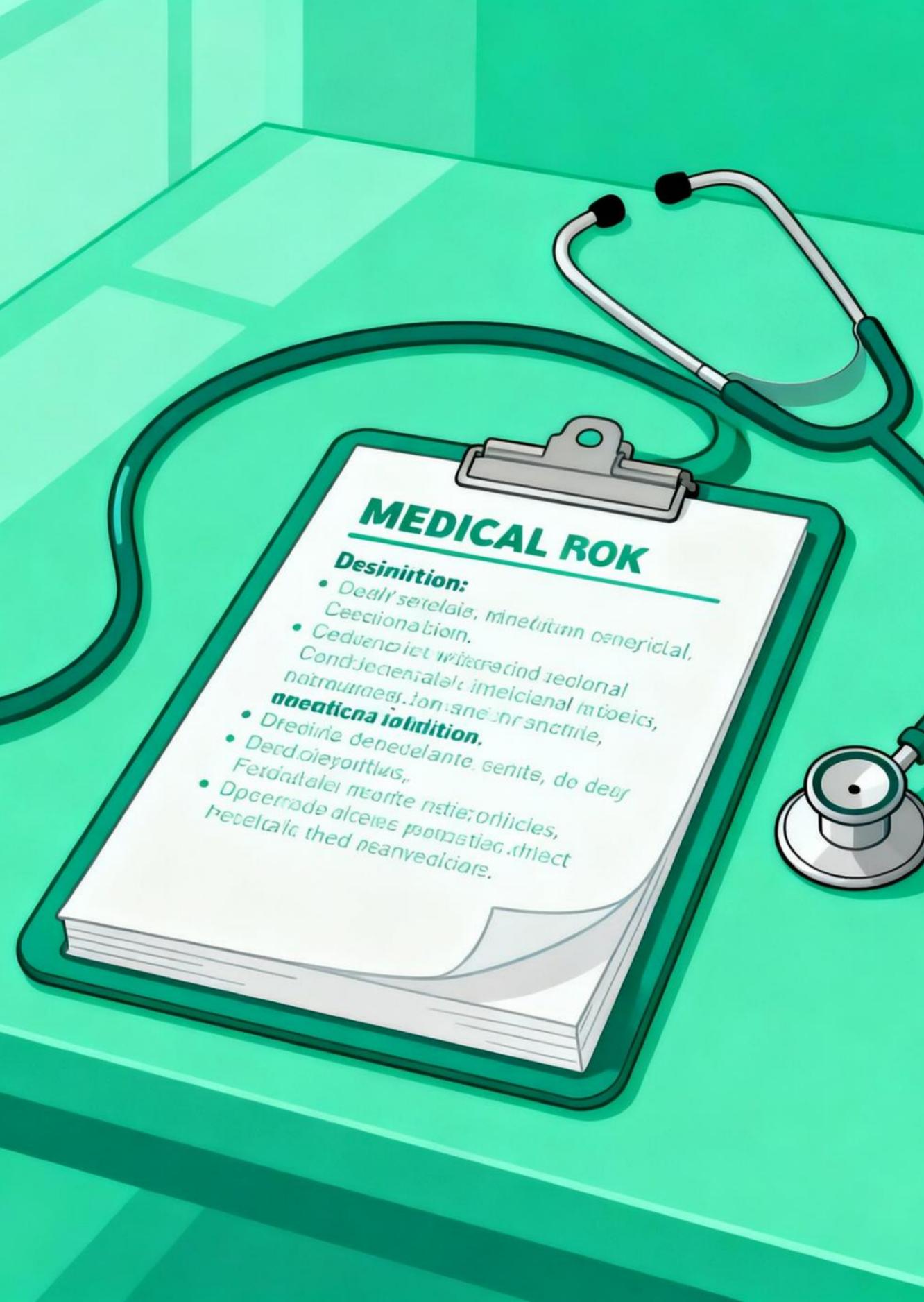
↘ Statute  
T.C.A § 55-50-356

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↘ Need to know  
The Department will publish list of invalid out-of-state licenses issued to illegal aliens

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# Abortion Terminology Updates



## Definition

Defines "inevitable abortion" and "serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment."

## Exemption

Provides medical exceptions for licensed physicians in specific circumstances

# *Summary of Key Effective Dates*

July 1, 2025: All laws mentioned unless otherwise noted.

January 1, 2026: Implied consent law changes, Invalid out-of-state driver's license provisions

Other Dates: April 17, 2025: Abortion terminology updates, May 5, 2025: Implied consent



# *Most Critical Updates*



*Thank You*

