

P.O. 704 Law Enforcement Role

Effective From:	7-15-2012	Effective To:	Current
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D. P.O. 704 - Law Enforcement Role

1. LEGISLATION

- i) The DPS Police operates in the executive branch of state government as an office of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, hereinafter referred to as the DPS Police.
- ii) DPS Police officers are granted formal authority to perform acts related to making arrests, serving warrants, and conducting investigations. Court decisions serve as limits to the use of the powers. It is this combination of laws and decisions which establish police authority.
- iii) DPS Police authority is of such importance that it must be accompanied by a method of accountability. In the exercise of this authority, the DPS Police is accountable to the:
 - a) Governor.
 - b) Legislature.
 - c) Judicial bodies.
 - d) Public.

2. DPS POLICE SERVICE

- i) The overall purpose of the DPS Police is the protection of life and property. This is accomplished through enforcing all state laws. Specifically, the role of the DPS Police is to:
- ii) Provide physical security at the State Police headquarters compound and the State Capitol Complex.
- iii) Oversee the physical security at the Louisiana State Police Joint Emergency Training Center (JESTC) and inmate barracks at that location.
- iv) Operate the DPS Weights and Standards Section.
- v) Operate within the Louisiana State Police Towing and Recovery Section.
- vi) Provide specialized assistance when a massive application of manpower is needed during a critical incident.
- vii) Provide assistance to persons who are unable to help themselves, are in danger or are in need of other emergency services.
- viii) Identify criminal activity and apprehend criminals.
- ix) Meet any responsibility designated by the Superintendent of State Police.

3. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

- i) Act 21 of 1932 gives DPS officers the right to "exercise all powers of police and peace officers," including the right to carry arms and serve all legal processes lawfully issued by the courts, by the Department, or by any other legally constituted authority.
- ii) [LRS 40:1379](#), Duties and powers of police employees.
- iii) The police employees of the division shall prevent and detect crime, apprehend criminals, enforce the criminal and traffic laws of the state, keep the peace and good order in the state in the enforcement of the state's police powers, and perform any other related duties imposed upon them by the legislature.
- iv) Police employees of the division are peace officers and, any provision of the law to the contrary notwithstanding, except [LRS 40:1386](#), they have, in any part of the state, the same powers with respect to criminal matters and the enforcement of the law relating thereto as sheriffs, constables, and police officers have in their respective jurisdictions. They have all the immunities and matters of defense now available or hereafter made available to sheriffs, constables, and any police officers in any suit brought against them in consequence of acts done in the course of their employment.

- v) Any warrant of arrest or other process issued by the legislature or either house thereof, or any court of the state may be served and executed by any police employee of the division in any part of the state according to the tenor thereof without endorsement.