
CONSENT

Bill No: SB 1148
Author: Niello (R)
Introduced: 2/18/26
Vote: 21

SENATE BUS., PROF. & ECON. DEV. COMMITTEE: 9-0, 3/23/26
AYES: Wahab, Choi, Archuleta, Caballero, Grayson, Niello, Smallwood-Cuevas,
Strickland, Umberg
NO VOTE RECORDED: Arreguín, Menjivar

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Security guards: training

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill authorizes applicants for registration as a security guard with the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (Bureau) to complete all 40 hours of required training before their registration is issued.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Contains the Private Security Services Act (Act), which establishes the Bureau within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA or Department) and provides for Bureau regulation of private patrol operators (PPOs) that employ private security guards and security patrolpersons. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§ 7580, *et seq.*)
- 2) Prohibits any person from engaging in a business regulated by the Act or assuming to act as, or representing himself or herself to be, a licensee unless he or she is licensed under the Act; and prohibits any person from falsely representing that he or she is employed by a licensee. (BPC § 7582)
- 3) Defines a PPO as a person who agrees to furnish, or furnishes, a watchman, guard, patrolperson, or other person to protect persons or property or to prevent

the theft, unlawful taking, loss, embezzlement, misappropriation, or concealment of any goods, wares, merchandise, money, bonds, stocks, notes, documents, papers, or property of any kind; or performs the service of a watchman, guard, patrolperson, or other person, for any of these purposes. (BPC § 7582.1(a))

- 4) Defines a security guard or security officer as an employee of a PPO or an employee of a lawful business or public agency who performs the functions described above in 3) on or about the premises owned or controlled by the customer of the PPO or by the guard's employer or in the company of persons being protected. (BPC § 7582.1(e))
- 5) Requires each applicant for a security guard registration to complete a course in the exercise of the power to arrest and the appropriate use of force as a condition for the issuance of the registration. Specifies that the training must be administered and certified by a single course provider and must be completed within six months preceding the date the application is submitted to the Bureau (BPC § 7583.6)
- 6) Requires security guard registrants to complete no less than 32 hours of training in security officer skills within six months from the date an initial registration is issued and specifies that 16 of the 32 hours must be completed within 30 days from the date the registration is issued. (BPC § 7583.6 (b))
- 7) Authorizes the trainings specified above in 5) to be administered, tested, and certified by one of the following:
 - a) Any licensee, provided that the licensee provides the training only to their applicants for employment and to direct employees;
 - b) Any training facility certified pursuant to this chapter; or
 - c) Any organization or school approved by the bureau so long as the bureau approves any instructor of an organization or school who will administer the trainings specified in this section to ensure that the organization or school complies with the requirements of the Act, as well as any applicable regulations. (BPC § 7583.6(f))
- 8) Requires each licensee to maintain at the principal place of business or branch office a record for each of its registrant employees verifying completion of the trainings required by BPC § 7583.6 for the duration of the registrant's employment and to make the records available for inspection by the Bureau upon request. (BPC § 7583.6(g)(2))

- 9) Requires the course of training in the exercise of the power to arrest and the appropriate use of force to be administered, tested, and certified by any licensee or by any organization or school approved by the Department. The course of training is required to be approximately eight hours in length and cover 24 individual topics, as specified. (BPC § 7583.7(a))
- 10) Requires the following use of force topics to be taught through traditional classroom instruction where the instructor is physically present with students in a classroom for a minimum of 50% of the course and is available at all times, including during instruction provided through distance learning or remote platforms, to answer students' questions while providing the required training:
 - a) Legal standards for use of force;
 - b) Duty to intercede;
 - c) The use of objectively reasonable force;
 - d) Supervisory responsibilities;
 - e) Use of force review and analysis;
 - f) De-escalation and interpersonal communication training, including tactical methods that use time, distance, cover, and concealment, to avoid escalating situations that lead to violence;
 - g) Implicit and explicit bias and cultural competency;
 - h) Skills, including de-escalation techniques, to effectively, safely, and respectfully interact with people with disabilities or behavioral health issues;
 - i) Use of force scenario training, including simulations of low-frequency, high-risk situations and calls for service, shoot-or-don't-shoot situations, and real-time force option decision making;
 - j) Mental health and policing, including bias and stigma; and
 - k) Active shooter situations. (BPC § 7583.7(b))
- 11) Specifies that, among other requirements, an application to the Bureau include a statement that the applicant completed the training course in the exercise of power to arrest and the appropriate use of force within six months preceding the date the application is submitted to the Bureau. (BPC § 7583.10)

This bill authorizes, for the 32 hours of required training in 6) above, the training to be completed before six months from the date an initial registration is issued and

authorizes 16 of the 32 hours currently required to be completed within 30 days from the date of registration issuance to be completed before 30 days of the date of registration issuance.

Background

BSIS and Private Security. The private security industry in the U.S. dates back to the 19th century, with private citizens performing many duties associated with today's federal and state law enforcement. Growth in the number of individuals and breadth of activities performed, including guarding railroad shipments, detective work to investigate crimes, tracking down and apprehending criminals, and providing security advice to banks was integral to supporting regulation of the industry.

Regulatory oversight of the private security industry in California began in 1915 with the creation of the Detective Licensing Board (Board) under the State Board of Prison Directors, which licensed and regulated private detectives. The Detective Licensing Board went through several iterations, structures, and scope changes until AB 936 (Rainey, Chapter 1263, Statutes of 1993) formally renamed the Bureau as its current identifier, the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services. The Bureau currently licenses approximately 3,000 PPOs and registers approximately 313,000 security guards who are employed by the PPOs.

The Act requires any security guard applicant to complete an eight-hour course in the exercise of Powers to Arrest and the Appropriate Use of Force as a requirement of registration. Within six months of obtaining a Bureau registration, the security guard applicant must complete an additional 32 hours of security guard skills training, for a total of 40 hours of training.

To provide security guard training to security guard and security officer applicants and registrants, the organization or school must be approved by the Bureau (BPC § 7583.6). To obtain approval, organizations and schools must submit a letter to the Bureau with a request to this effect and include the name of the organization or school; the location where the training will take place; the location where all training records will be maintained; and the names and resumes for all related instructors.

Conversely, PPOs that provide the required security guard training to their own employees are not required to obtain approval or notify the Bureau. PPOs are required to maintain at the principal place of business or branch office a record for each of its registrant employees verifying completion of the Powers to Arrest and Appropriate Use of Force trainings for the duration of the registrant's employment.

The Bureau may inspect the records of any PPO to ensure compliance. If an employee's training is not provided by the employer or an approved training provider, the Bureau cannot ensure that the training provider complies with the requirements of the Act or its implementing regulations.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 4/14/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 4/14/26)

None received

Prepared by: Yeaphana La Marr / B., P. & E.D. / 916-651-4104
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