

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 1148 (Niello) – As Amended July 1, 2026

Policy Committee: Business and Professions

Vote: 17 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill allows a security guard or a proprietary private security officer who has completed a course in the exercise of the power to arrest and the appropriate use of force to complete their training in security officer skills before initial registration is issued by the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS).

FISCAL EFFECT:

BSIS anticipates minor and absorbable special fund costs to update public facing and internal materials to reflect the bill's revised timeframe requirements, including updates to the BSIS website, applications, factsheets, FAQs, training syllabi, training manuals, and internal job aids.

BSIS also anticipates minor and absorbable special fund costs for the Complaint Resolution Unit to address an unknown, but likely small number of additional complaints from security guards and proprietary private security officers if an employer requires subject-specific skills training that differs from previously completed training, and potentially from applicants who complete training but are denied licensure due to criminal history.

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Office of Information Services (OIS) estimates one-time IT costs of approximately \$2,000 for text updates in BreEZe, ADA review and posting of the revised paper application, and website language updates. OIS indicates these costs can be absorbed through existing maintenance resources.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

[This bill] introduces a simple but impactful change by allowing guards who have completed a course in the exercise of the power to arrest and the appropriate use of force the option to complete their skills training before receiving their guard card. By authorizing training to occur prior to registration, the bill allows prospective guards to enter the job market fully certified. The bill does not change the content or quality of the training, nor does it remove the BSIS oversight of training providers; it merely adjusts the calendar to better reflect the needs of the industry.

This bill is supported by Securitas and the California Association of Licensed Investigators. There is no known opposition.

- 2) **Background.** Existing law establishes BSIS within DCA to license and regulate the private security industry, private investigators, locksmiths, repossessioners, and alarm companies. BSIS administers and enforces six practice acts, including the Proprietary Security Services Act, which provides for the registration and regulation of, among others, proprietary private security officers and private security guards.

Prior to registration as a security guard (but not as a proprietary private security officer), an applicant must complete an eight-hour course in the exercise of powers to arrest and the appropriate use of force. After registering with BSIS, a proprietary private security officer or a security guard must complete 32 hours of security skills training within six months from the date the initial registration is issued, or within six months of employment by a proprietary private security employer, including two mandatory courses within 30 days of BSIS registration or the first day of employment. In addition, a proprietary private security officer or security guard must complete eight hours of continuing education annually. Existing law requires DCA to develop and establish a standard course and curriculum, including the minimum hours of instruction, for the security officer skills training.

This bill allows an individual who has completed a course in the exercise of the power to arrest and the appropriate use of force to complete the required security skills training before registering with BSIS as a proprietary private security officer or a security guard.

Securitas USA, a licensed private patrol operator providing uniformed security officer and patrol services asserts:

Allowing applicants to complete their skills training while awaiting issuance of their registration allows them to be more fully trained and prepared prior to being placed on post to execute their duties. At times, the processing of submitted registration applications is delayed for various reasons, up to several weeks or months. Rather than having to first wait until the registration is issued to complete their training, applicants can use that time to continue and complete their training, so they are fully prepared to start their assignment once their registration is issued.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** SB 1203 (Smallwood-Cuevas), among other items, requires proprietary private security officers to complete a course in the exercise of the power to arrest and the appropriate use of force as a condition registration with BSIS. SB 1203 also requires proprietary private security officers and security guards to complete eight hours of deescalation training and two hours of employee-rights training after BSIS registration, and an additional eight hours of deescalation training annually. SB 1203 is pending in this committee.