

SENATE THIRD READING
SB 1148 (Niello)
As Amended August 28, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Allows a security guard applicant to complete security skills training before the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS or Bureau) issues an initial registration, as specified.

Major Provisions

- 1) Authorizes a person who has completed a course in the exercise of the power to arrest and the appropriate use of force to complete training in security officer skills before BSIS registration is issued.

COMMENTS

BSIS. The BSIS licenses and regulates the alarm, locksmith, private investigator, private security services, and repossession industries through the administration and enforcement of six practice acts, including the Proprietary Security Services Act, which regulates PSEs and PSOs. A PSE is a person who employs PSOs. A PSE cannot subcontract its security services. PSOs are employees of a PSE who are required to wear a distinctive uniform that clearly identifies them as security officers and who are likely to interact with the public in the course of their duties. They cannot provide security services for any other entity or person, and they are not authorized to carry a firearm, nor any other weapon, such as a baton, chemical weapons, or stun guns. The Bureau also regulates PPOs and security guards through the Private Security Services Act. A PPO is a company that protects people or property or prevents theft. Security guards are employed by licensed PPOs or PSEs and contracted out to protect people or property or prevent theft. A security guard is not authorized to contract themselves out for private security services unless they also hold a PPO license. There are significantly more PPOs and security guards than PSE and PSO. Security guards make up most of the Bureau's licensee population.

Training. Before registering as a PSO or security guard, an applicant must complete an eight-hour course on the exercise of powers to arrest and the appropriate use of force. After registering with BSIS, PSOs and security guards must complete 32 hours of security skills training. Each course must include written material, a lecture, or exercises. There are four mandatory courses on the following subjects: Public Relations (Community and Customer); Observation and Documentation; Communication and its Significance; and Liability/Legal Aspects. Each course is four hours long for a total of 16 hours. PSOs and security guards are required to complete two mandatory courses within 30 days of BSIS registration or the first day of employment. The remaining two courses must be completed within six months.

PSOs and security guards are also required to complete 16 hours of elective training. Subjects include: Post Orders and Assignments; Employer Policies/Orientation; Evacuation Procedures; Officer Safety; Arrests, Search and Seizure; Access Control; Trespass; Laws, Codes, Regulations and Ordinances; First Aid/CPR; Handling Difficult People; Work Place Violence; Chemical Agents; Preserving the Incident Scene; Crowd Control; Driver Safety; Supervision; Courtroom Demeanor; Parking/Traffic Control; Radio Procedures; BSIS's Certified Course in Firearms Training; BSIS's Certified Course in Baton Training; School Security Guard Training; Introduction to Executive Protection; Annual Firearms Requalification; Fire Safety Course; and

Courses in the Use of a Stun Gun or Air Taser. Elective courses can be no longer than two, four, or eight hours, depending on the subject. Eight hours of elective courses must be completed within 30 days of BSIS registration or a PSO's or security guard's first day of employment. An additional eight hours of elective courses must be completed within six months. PSOs and security guards are also required to complete eight hours of continuing education annually and may fulfill that requirement by repeating previous courses or taking new ones.

Training may be provided by any BSIS-approved organization or school, or BSIS-licensed firearms training facility. Employers (PSEs and PPOs) may provide training to their direct employees. Training providers must issue a Certificate of Completion to the individual completing the course and the certification must identify the course(s) taken, the number of hours of training provided, the identification of the issuing entity, the name of the individual and the instructor, the date, and state that the course(s) comply with the DCA's Skills Training Course for PSOs and security guards. Training providers must maintain Certificates of Completion for at least two years.

This bill would allow a person who has completed power-of-arrest and appropriate use of force training to additionally complete security skills training before registering with BSIS.

According to the Author

"[This bill] introduces a simple but impactful change by allowing guards the option to complete the full 40 hours 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."

Arguments in Support

Securitas Security Services USA writes in support:

[This bill] provides clarity that the additional 32 hours of skills training may be completed prior to issuance of the initial registration. This makes sense for several reasons. First, from a qualifications standpoint, whether a security officer is fully trained before or after being issued a guard license makes no difference, as long as the training is completed no later than the proscribed deadlines. Second, permitting 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. Third, for private patrol operators such as Securitas USA that require security guards to complete all 40 hours of skills training prior to assignment, this will allow registration applicants to complete their training, and begin working once their registration is issued, without delay.

Arguments in Opposition

There is no opposition.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

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.

VOTES**SENATE FLOOR: 38-0-2**

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNeerney, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Menjivar, Seyarto

ASM BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS: 17-0-2

YES: Berman, Johnson, Addis, Ahrens, Alanis, Bauer-Kahan, Chen, Elhawary, Hadwick, Haney, Hart, Irwin, Jackson, Lowenthal, Macedo, Nguyen, Pellerin

ABS, ABST OR NV: Bains, Caloza

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

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