
Consumer Protection & Business Committee

SSB 6605

Brief Description: Licensing security guards.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Labor & Commerce (originally sponsored by Senators Holy and Pedersen).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Requires the license fee for an armed private security guard to be itemized on the application and renewal form.
- Requires the Department of Licensing DOL to conduct an investigation on license renewals for private security guards, armed private security guards, and private security companies.

Hearing Date: 2/25/20

Staff: Serena Dolly (786-7150).

Background:

The Department of Licensing (DOL) licenses and regulates security guards, including private security guards, armed private security guards, and private security companies.

To obtain a private security guard license, an applicant must meet the following minimum requirements:

- be at least eighteen years of age;
- be a citizen of the United States or a resident alien;

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- not have been convicted of a crime in any jurisdiction.If the Director of the DOL (Director) determines that the applicant's particular crime directly relates to the applicant's capacity to perform the duties of a private security guard, and the Director determines that the license should be withheld to protect Washington's citizens;
- be employed by or have an employment offer from a licensed private security company or be licensed as a private security company;
- satisfy the training requirements established by the Director;
- submit a set of fingerprints;
- pay the required nonrefundable fee for each application; and
- submit a fully completed application that includes proper identification on a form prescribed by the Director for each company of employment.

To obtain an armed private security guard license, an applicant must meet the following minimum requirements:

- be licensed as a private security guard;
- be at least 21 years of age;
- have a current firearms certificate issued by the Criminal Justice Training Commission; and
- pay the fee established by the Director.

In addition to meeting the minimum requirements to obtain a license as a private security guard, an applicant or qualifying agent must meet the following requirements to obtain a license to own or operate a private security company:

- possess three years' experience as a manager, supervisor, or administrator in the private security business or a related field, or be at least 21 years of age and pass an examination to measure the person's knowledge and competence in the private security business;
- meet the insurance requirements; and
- pay any additional fees established by the Director.

After receiving a license application for a private security guard, armed private security guard, or private security company, the Director must conduct an investigation that includes a national criminal history records check for the applicant and a request for comments from the chief law enforcement officer of the city or county where the employer is located.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

The license fee for an armed private security guard license must be clearly itemized on each application and renewal form. The Director must conduct an investigation of each applicant, including a national criminal history records check, at each license renewal.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on November 6, 2020.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.