

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 1446
 SPONSOR: Senator Crist
 SUBJECT: Private Security Officers
 DATE: January 31, 2002 REVISED: 2/26/02 _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Vaccaro	Caldwell	RI	Fav/1 amendment
2.			GO	
3.			AGG	
4.			AP	
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

Senate Bill 1446 creates a committee under the direction of the Secretary of State for the purpose of recommending minimum qualifications and training standards for a new class of private security officer specializing in terrorism prevention.

This bill creates an unnumbered section of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Regulation of private security services, is governed by part III of ch. 493, F.S. General provisions regarding regulation are set forth in part I of ch. 493, F.S. The Florida Department of State provides regulation through its Division of Licensing. Part III of ch. 493, F.S., provides for several licensure classes including: security agency, branch office, manager, security officer, school, and instructor. Security officers, as defined by s. 493.6101, F.S., provide bodyguard services or otherwise guard persons and property, and attempt to prevent theft or unlawful taking of goods, wares, and merchandise. The term “security guard” includes armored car personnel and personnel engaged in the transportation of prisoners.

Security officers are designated Class “D” licensees. Section 493.6303, F.S., requires that applicants receive 40 hours of professional training at a school or training facility licensed by the department. Applicants may complete 24 hours of training prior to licensure and 16 hours upon the first renewal. Section 493.6105(6), F.S., provides that licensees are permitted to bear firearms (Class “G” license) upon successful completion of 28 hours of firearms instruction by a licensed Class “K” firearms instructor.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 creates a committee under the direction of the Secretary of State for the purpose of recommending minimum qualifications and training standards for a new class of private security officer specializing in terrorism prevention. The bill provides for 15 committee members, 7 of whom will be appointed by the Governor, 3 of whom will be appointed by the President of the Senate, and 3 of whom will be appointed by the Speaker of the House. The Chief Health Officer of the state and the Secretary of State, or their designees, will also serve as members.

Appointments are to be made by July 1, 2002, and will include one representative from each of the following:

- The Florida Department of Law Enforcement;
- The Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management Services;
- The Florida National Guard;
- The University of South Florida Center for Biological Defense;
- The Florida Sheriffs Association;
- The Florida Police Chiefs Association;
- The Association of Private Sector Security;
- The Florida Fire Chiefs Association; and
- The Florida Association of Firefighters;

Appointees will also include four representatives from companies that provide contra-terrorism training. The committee may also seek the advice of federal agencies, and the bill requires that all agencies under the control of the Governor provide assistance.

The committee is charged with providing recommendations to:

- Establish different types of security officers;
- Establish different requirements for each type of officer;
- Identify facilities that will benefit from protection;
- Determine the appropriate type of officer for each identified facility;
- Determine the length of time to implement the certification program; and
- Establish applicable penalties for failure to comply with the program.

This bill requires that the first committee meeting be held on August 1, 2002, and establishes procedures for voting and filling committee vacancies. Committee members are entitled to per diem and travel expenses, as provided in ch. 112, F.S. Public officers and employees will be reimbursed by their respective agencies, as provided in ch. 112, F.S.

The committee is required to provide a written report containing its recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House by December 1, 2002. The bill also provides that the committee will continue in existence until its objectives are achieved, but not later than December 31, 2002.

Section 2 appropriates \$36,000 from the General Revenue Fund to administer the provisions of the act.

Section 3 provides that the bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

There is no direct private sector impact, but the committee may recommend changes in the regulation of private security officers that could affect the private security industry and the public.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The sum of \$36,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to administer the provisions of the act.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

#1 by Regulated Industries:
Technical amendment.