

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

To: Honorable House Representative

From: Evan Avnet, CEO USTASC & Vice President – of Security, Maryland Investigators and Security Association (MISAHQ.com)

2029 Northwood Drive, Salisbury, MD 21801

Re: HB 0430 - Security guard and private investigators exemption

Hello,

In reference to HB0430, although the bill allows for police officers to be exempt, it does not allow for security officers or private detectives whom a security company employs to be exempt.

Per COMAR Sec. 29.04.01.01. Agency Licenses “E. An applicant for a license who intends to employ at least five individuals as security guards shall submit with the application proof of liability insurance in an amount not less than \$1,000,000.”

Therefore, security guards who are appropriately licensed and working for an adequately licensed security guard company are already insured to carry a firearm by their employer. To obtain licensing approval by the Maryland State Police, a copy of the insurance coverage must be supplied. Otherwise, this requirement would place an undue burden on all armed security guards throughout the state.

This bill would require all security guards to carry their personal firearm liability policy despite already being covered by the agency policy.

Regarding SB760, there is an issue with security guards working directly for a property rather than that of a licensed security agency. Although now under SB760, every security guard working on private property, except unarmed bar security, must be licensed, it does not require the property, if they employ their own security personnel directly, to carry firearms liability on their officers, only general liability. Therefore, it is feasible to require the property or management company to employ the security guard directly to provide the required insurance.

Therefore, I request that the following wording be added under line 18, THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO the bill: “5. A person who is employed by a licensed security agency, who is a licensed security guard or private detective, under the business and occupations Title 19 - Security Guard Agencies and Security Guard Certification, and who possesses a handgun permit, and whose agency is insured for the minimum amounts required by Title 19.”

Respectfully Submitted,



Evan Avnet, CEO USTASC

Vice President - Security, Maryland Investigators and Security Association (misahq.com)