

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 154 (The Speaker) (Department of Legislative Services)
Commerce and Government Matters Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs

**Licensing and Regulation of Security Systems Technicians - Sunset Extension
and Program Evaluation**

This bill continues the licensing and regulation of security systems technicians in accordance with the Program Evaluation Act (Sunset Law) by extending until July 1, 2016 the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Secretary of State Police to license and regulate security systems technicians. The bill requires the next sunset evaluation pertaining to the licensing and regulation of security systems technicians by July 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: State revenues and expenditures would be maintained because the bill proposes to continue the regulation of security system technicians by the State Police. All licensing and regulatory activities relating to security systems technicians are performed by the Licensing Division of the Department of State Police and are handled by the existing budgeted resources of the department.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person may not engage, or solicit to engage, in the business of providing security systems services in the State unless the person meets specified

statutory and regulatory requirements applicable to this business occupation under the authority of the Secretary of State Police. This statutory and regulatory authority is due to expire after September 30, 2004.

Background: During the 1994 session, the General Assembly created a new licensing procedure for security systems technicians under the Maryland State Police. The public had expressed many concerns regarding the access to residential homes granted to individuals involved in the security system industry. The concern was particularly acute in 1994 in light of the activities of the so-called crossbow rapist in the Washington Metropolitan area who posed as a security system consultant to gain information about and access to his victims. In 1995 the General Assembly delayed the effective date for licensure of security systems technicians until June 1, 1996. This delay allowed the security system industry and the Department of State Police to resolve technical difficulties that had arisen related to implementation.

As of June 30, 2001, 715 security system agencies/companies were licensed by the State, with a total of 5,508 registered employees. An additional 246 employees of those companies are on probationary status, awaiting clearance from the required National Criminal Records Check. In addition, another 39 agencies, with a total of 326 employees, have applied for new licenses. The complete schedule of fees for agencies and employees is shown in **Exhibit 1**. During calendar 2000, a total of \$32,338 was deposited to the general fund as a result of the payment by agencies and employees of application and renewal fees.

Exhibit 1
Schedule of Fees: Licensing and Regulation of
Security Systems Technicians

Initial application/registration fee for agencies/companies 2-year license*	\$150
Agency/company renewal fee (every 2 years)*	\$100
Initial application/registration fee for employee/registrant	\$57
Employee/registrant renewal fee (every 2 years)	\$34

*Of that amount, \$42 goes toward National Criminal Records Check costs with a distribution of \$18 to the State Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) and \$24 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The remainder is deposited to the general fund.

Source: Department of State Police

All licensing and regulatory activities relating to security systems technicians are performed by the Licensing Division of the Department of State Police and are handled

by the existing budgeted resources of the department. In addition to security system technician agencies and employees, the Licensing Division oversees the licensing and regulation of private detectives and agencies, security guards and agencies, special police commissions, railroad police commissions, canine registration for certified police dogs, and handgun permits. Currently, two uniformed staff personnel of the Licensing Division are assigned to the licensing and regulation of security system technicians.

In November 2001, the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommended that the Legislative Policy Committee waive the Licensing and Regulation of Security Systems Technicians from full evaluation and that legislation be enacted to extend the termination date by 12 years to July 1, 2016.

Additional Comments: Under the provisions of Title 18, security systems technicians' appeals from regulatory decisions of the Superintendent of State Police are forwarded to the Office of Administrative Hearings for hearing and recommendation. The Security Technicians Advisory Panel, established under the regulatory authority of the State Police applicable to this industry, has no statutory authority for action and has never met. Therefore, DLS also recommended that the State Police submit a follow-up report to the Legislative Policy Committee by October 1, 2002, on the continuing need, if any, for the Security Technicians Advisory Panel as well as its progress in implementing all new responsibilities related to security systems under Chapter 649, Acts of 2001. If the Department of State Police determines there is no continuing need for the advisory panel, the department should also submit departmental legislation to repeal the advisory panel.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 125 (The President) (Department of Legislative Services) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

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