

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1522
Economic Matters

(Delegate Zirkin)

Security Guard Agencies - Licensing Requirements - Experience and Training

This bill alters the experience and training requirements for applicants for security guard agency licenses by providing that an applicant, whether an individual or a representative member of a firm, may meet these requirements with experience and training approved by the Secretary of State Police, including military experience, correctional experience, and other law enforcement experience.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues. Any initial increase in applications is assumed to be small and able to be handled with the existing budgeted resources of the State Police.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal. It is assumed that this bill alone would not give rise to any significant new business activity in the security guard industry.

Analysis

Current Law: To qualify for a security agency license, an individual applicant or a representative member of a firm must meet one of the following criteria:

- have at least five years experience as a full-time certified private detective;

- have at least five years of experience as a full-time police officer with an organized police agency and have successfully completed a police officer training course approved by the Maryland Police Training Commission;
- have at least three years of experience in an investigative capacity as a detective while serving as a police officer with an organized police agency;
- have at least three years of experience in an investigative capacity in any law enforcement unit of the United States, the State, or a county or municipal corporation of the State and have successfully completed the police officer training course approved by the Maryland Police Training Commission;
- have at least five years of experience as a full-time fire investigator for a fire department or law enforcement agency of the State or of a county or municipal corporation of the State and have successfully completed the training certified by the Maryland Police Training Commission or the Maryland Fire-Rescue Education and Training Commission; or
- have at least five years of experience as a full-time correctional supervisor in a correctional facility in the State and have successfully completed the training required by the Correctional Training Commission.

There are about 200 licensed security guard agencies in Maryland. Security guard agency licenses must be renewed every three years. Current license fees are as follows:

	<u>New</u>	<u>Renewal</u>
Individual applicants	\$200	\$200
Firms	\$375	\$400

State Fiscal Effect: It is assumed that the Secretary of State Police would only approve new requirements for persons with military experience, correctional experience, and other law enforcement experience to be consistent and comparable with the experience and training requirements already in place. Accordingly, the requirements of this bill should be able to be handled with the existing budgeted resources of the State Police.

If, however, after the new experience and training requirements are set, there is an unexpected “flood” of new applicants, the State Police could need one additional fiscal clerk to process the additional applications. In fiscal 2008, the cost of a new fiscal clerk, with one-time and ongoing operating expenses, would be about \$46,500. Future year expenditures would reflect: (1) a full salary with 4.6% annual increases and 3% employee turnover; and (2) 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

The potential for additional revenue from new license fees cannot be reliably estimated without any actual experience under the bill. If the above assumptions are correct, it would very likely be minimal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 13, 2006
ncs/ljm

Analysis by: Guy G. Cherry

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510