

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 399

(Senator Shank)

Finance

Economic Matters

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Security Systems Services - Complaint Investigations

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This bill requires the Secretary of State Police to conduct an investigation that relates to any complaint alleging that an unauthorized person has provided security systems services. A complaint must (1) be in writing and under oath; (2) state specifically the facts on which the complaint is based; and (3) be filed with the Secretary.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The Department of State Police can handle the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not materially affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapter 362 of 1994 established licensing of security systems agencies, and Chapter 520 of 1997 established registration of technicians. The licensing and regulation of the business of providing security systems services is the responsibility of the Department of State Police (DSP). "Providing security systems services" means providing, on the premises of a person's residential or commercial property, the service of (1) surveying the property for purposes of installing a security system; (2) physically installing, maintaining, or repairing a security system for the customer; or (3) responding to a distress call or an alarm sounding from a security system. A person may not engage, attempt to engage, offer to engage, or solicit to engage in a business of providing security systems services in the State unless licensed by the Secretary. Unless authorized to

engage in the business of providing security systems services, a person may not represent to the public, by use of the title “security systems agency” or “security systems technician” or by description of services, methods, or procedures, or otherwise, that the person is authorized to engage in the business of providing security systems services in the State. A person may not willfully make a false statement on any application form or other document submitted to the Secretary under this title.

DSP enforces licensing and registration of security systems agencies and technicians by regulations, which include a schedule of fines for violations that may be assessed by the Secretary. In addition, a violator of any of these regulatory provisions is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to maximum penalties of imprisonment for one year and/or a fine of \$1,000. The fines assessed under certain provisions may not exceed \$5,000 per violation and must be paid to the Secretary within 10 days after final adjudication of any hearing or the waiver of any hearing.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 19, 2014  
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