

Chapter 702

(House Bill 1347)

AN ACT concerning

~~Cannabis Agents – Registration – Security Guards~~ and Security Guard
Employers – Registration, Certification, and Regulation

FOR the purpose of providing that a cannabis agent who is employed to provide security services for a cannabis licensee or cannabis registrant as a security guard or by a security guard agency is not required to obtain a State or national criminal history records check if the cannabis agent is authorized to provide security guard services in accordance with certain provisions of law; ~~and generally relating to cannabis agent registration and security guards~~ altering the definition of “security guard employer” for purposes of provisions of law governing the regulation of security guards, security guard agencies, and security guard employers to exclude video lottery facilities, sports wagering facility licensees, and health care facilities; and generally relating to the registration, certification, and regulation of security guards and security guard employers.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis
Section 36–501
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2024 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Business Occupations and Professions
Section 19–101(a), (k), and (l), 19–201, and 19–401(c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Business Occupations and Professions
Section 19–101(m)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 9–1A–14(a) and (b) and 9–1E–03(a)(1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Alcoholic Beverages and Cannabis

36–501.

(a) A cannabis agent must be registered with the Administration before the agent may volunteer or work for a cannabis licensee or cannabis registrant.

(b) A cannabis agent registration is valid for 2 years.

(c) **(1) [To] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, TO** register as a cannabis agent with the Administration, an individual must:

[(1)] (I) be at least 21 years old; and

[(2)] (II) if the records are legally accessible, obtain a State and national criminal history records check in accordance with § 36–505 of this subtitle.

(2) A CANNABIS AGENT WHO IS EMPLOYED TO PROVIDE SECURITY SERVICES FOR A CANNABIS LICENSEE OR CANNABIS REGISTRANT AS A SECURITY GUARD OR BY A SECURITY GUARD AGENCY, AS DEFINED IN § 19–101 OF THE BUSINESS OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS ARTICLE, IS NOT REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A STATE OR NATIONAL CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECK IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 36–505 OF THIS SUBTITLE IF THE CANNABIS AGENT IS AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE SECURITY GUARD SERVICES UNDER TITLE 19, SUBTITLE 4 OF THE BUSINESS OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS ARTICLE.

(d) (1) The Administration may not register as a cannabis agent an individual who does not meet the criteria established under subsection (c) of this section.

(2) The Administration may disqualify an individual from registering as a cannabis agent if the individual has been convicted of or pleaded nolo contendere to a crime involving moral turpitude, whether or not any appeal or other proceeding is pending to have the conviction or plea set aside.

(e) The Administration may not deny a cannabis agent registration based on any cannabis–related offenses occurring before July 1, 2023.

(f) A cannabis licensee shall require each registered cannabis agent to complete an annual responsible vendor training program authorized under this title.

(g) A registration of a cannabis agent issued by the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission on or before July 1, 2023, shall:

(1) be valid under this title; and

(2) authorize the cannabis agent to be employed by or volunteer with a licensed cannabis business.

Article – Business Occupations and Professions

19–101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(k) “Security guard” means an individual who, regardless of whether the individual is described as a security guard, watchman, or private patrolman or by other title:

(1) (i) is an employee of a security guard agency; and

(ii) provides security guard services to another person on behalf of the security guard agency; or

(2) (i) is an employee of a security guard employer; and

(ii) provides security guard services to the security guard employer.

(l) (1) “Security guard agency” means a person who conducts a business that provides security guard services.

(2) “Security guard agency” does not include:

(i) a person that is primarily engaged in the business of owning, maintaining, or otherwise managing property; or

(ii) a security guard employer.

(m) (1) “Security guard employer” means a person who employs security guards only to provide security guard services to the person.

(2) “Security guard employer” does not include:

(I) a security guard agency;

(II) A VIDEO LOTTERY OPERATOR, AS DEFINED UNDER § 9–1A–01 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE;

(III) A SPORTS WAGERING FACILITY LICENSEE, AS DEFINED UNDER § 9–1E–01 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE; OR

(IV) A HEALTH CARE FACILITY, AS DEFINED UNDER § 19-114 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.

19-201.

Subject to the provisions of this title, the Secretary is responsible for the licensing of security guard agencies and the regulation of those persons who provide security guard services in the State.

19-401.

(c) Except as provided under subsection (d) of this section, a security guard employer may employ a security guard to provide security guard services only if the individual is certified by the Secretary as a security guard.

Article – State Government

9-1A-14.

(a) Unless an individual holds a valid video lottery employee license or temporary video lottery employee license issued by the Commission, the individual may not be employed by a video lottery operation licensee as a video lottery employee.

(b) Before issuance of a video lottery employee license, an applicant shall provide sufficient information, documentation, and assurances that the Commission may require.

9-1E-03.

(a) (1) Unless the context requires otherwise, the requirements under §§ 9-1A-04, 9-1A-06, 9-1A-07, 9-1A-08, 9-1A-12, 9-1A-14, 9-1A-18, 9-1A-19, 9-1A-20, and 9-1A-25 of this title apply to the authority, duties, and responsibilities of the Commission, a sports wagering licensee, and an employee or a contractor of a sports wagering licensee under this subtitle.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.