



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter**

**In Favor of SB760 Security Guard Agencies, Security Guard Employers, and Security Guards – Standards and Certifications**

**Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**on March 8, 2023**

**Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee:**

- **SB760 requires an individual who provides security guard services to be certified as a security guard; regulates certain security guard employers; alters the certification and renewal standards for security guards; requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to identify or establish certain training programs for the certification of security guards; requires security guards to complete certain security training programs; and prohibits a “security guard employer” from employing a security guard to provide security guard services unless the security guard is certified.**
- **In Maryland, if an establishment employs security guards, they are most likely unlicensed and unregulated. If the establishment contracts with a private security agency to**

**provide security services, the security guards are required to have a Maryland State Police issued license. There is no training requirement in either situation unless the security guard applies for a handgun. There is also no tracking requirement/tracking system regarding a security guard's use of force.**

- SB760 will change existing Maryland law by establishing minimal standards and oversight of private security. It will require all security guards to be licensed, and would establish minimum training standards – a curriculum that teaches appropriate use of force, de-escalation tactics, and basic criminal law. It will also require security guards and security agencies to report to the Maryland State Police when force is used against an individual.**
- In the past two (2) years, three (3) people have been killed by security guards in Baltimore City; two (2) of those security guards have been charged with murder. There are other uses of force that did not result in the death of an individual, but otherwise resulted in harm to the public. For example, a stun gun was deployed on a woman in a wheelchair. Perhaps those uses of force would not have occurred if the security guards had been subject to minimum training standards – a curriculum that teaches appropriate use of force, de-escalation tactics, and basic criminal law. None of these uses of force were required to be reported to anyone.**
- As a result, there is currently no accountability when a security guard uses force against someone, other than possible criminal charges when the force used is grossly excessive.**

- **Being a security guard officer is a very public facing job that will necessitate all types of interaction with the public. Sometimes it's a friendly hello and an ID check at the entrance to an office building. Other times, it can be a more tense interaction. For these reasons, a trained security professional should be the minimum requirement for the safety of the public.**
- **The bottom line is that security guards who interact with the public on a daily basis, with whom they may be engaged in confrontational situations, should be vetted more extensively, receive training, especially on the appropriate use of force, de-escalation tactics, and basic criminal law. This is in the best interests of the State of Maryland, the security guard, and most importantly, the individuals that have an encounter with the security guard.**
- **A security guard is often a first responder. With today's threats—workplace violence issues, school shootings—you want this person to be prepared and well trained. Bringing someone in with little or no training is of no value. Instead, it's more of a detriment, and it can be the difference between life and death.**

**For these reasons, I urge a favorable report of SB760.**

**Sincerely,**



**Jill P. Carter, Esq.**