

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 60

To expedite State reviews of criminal records of applicants for private security officer employment, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To expedite State reviews of criminal records of applicants for private security officer employment, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Private Security Offi-
5 cer Quality Assurance Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) employment of private security officers in
2 the United States is growing rapidly;

3 (2) the private security industry provides nu-
4 merous opportunities for entry-level job applicants,
5 including individuals suffering from unemployment
6 due to economic conditions or dislocations;

7 (3) sworn law enforcement officers provide sig-
8 nificant services to the citizens of the United States
9 in its public areas, and are only supplemented by
10 private security officers who provide prevention and
11 reporting services in support of, but not in place of,
12 regular sworn police;

13 (4) given the growth of large private shopping
14 malls, and the consequent reduction in the number
15 of public shopping streets, the American public is
16 more likely to have contact with private security per-
17 sonnel in the course of a day than with sworn law
18 enforcement officers;

19 (5) regardless of the differences in their duties,
20 skill, and responsibilities, the public has difficulty in
21 discerning the difference between sworn law enforce-
22 ment officers and private security personnel; and

23 (6) the American public demands the employ-
24 ment of qualified, well-trained private security per-

1 sonnel as an adjunct, but not a replacement for
2 sworn law enforcement officers.

3 **SEC. 3. BACKGROUND CHECKS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—An association of employers of
5 private security officers, designated for the purpose of this
6 section by the Attorney General, may submit fingerprints
7 or other methods of positive identification approved by the
8 Attorney General, to the Attorney General on behalf of
9 any applicant for a State license or certificate of registra-
10 tion as a private security officer or employer of private
11 security officers. In response to such a submission, the At-
12 torney General may, to the extent provided by State law
13 conforming to the requirements of the second paragraph
14 under the heading “Federal Bureau of Investigation” and
15 the subheading “Salaries and Expenses” in title II of Pub-
16 lic Law 92–544 (86 Stat. 1115), exchange, for licensing
17 and employment purposes, identification and criminal his-
18 tory records with the State governmental agencies to
19 which such applicant has applied.

20 (b) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General may pre-
21 scribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out
22 this section, including measures relating to the security,
23 confidentiality, accuracy, use, and dissemination of infor-
24 mation and audits and recordkeeping and the imposition
25 of fees necessary for the recovery of costs.

1 (c) REPORT.—The Attorney General shall report to
2 the Senate and House Committees on the Judiciary 2
3 years after the date of enactment of this Act on the num-
4 ber of inquiries made by the association of employers
5 under this section and their disposition.

6 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that States should partici-
8 pate in the background check system established under
9 section 3.

10 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

11 As used in this Act—

12 (1) the term “employee” includes an applicant
13 for employment;

14 (2) the term “employer” means any person
15 that—

16 (A) employs one or more private security
17 officers; or

18 (B) provides, as an independent contrac-
19 tor, for consideration, the services of one or
20 more private security officers (possibly includ-
21 ing oneself);

22 (3) the term “private security officer”—

23 (A) means—

24 (i) an individual who performs secu-
25 rity services, full or part time, for consider-

1 ation as an independent contractor or an
2 employee, whether armed or unarmed and
3 in uniform or plain clothes whose primary
4 duty is to perform security services, or

5 (ii) an individual who is an employee
6 of an electronic security system company
7 who is engaged in one or more of the fol-
8 lowing activities in the State: burglar
9 alarm technician, fire alarm technician,
10 closed circuit television technician, access
11 control technician, or security system mon-
12 itor; but

13 (B) does not include—

14 (i) sworn police officers who have law
15 enforcement powers in the State,

16 (ii) attorneys, accountants, and other
17 professionals who are otherwise licensed in
18 the State,

19 (iii) employees whose duties are pri-
20 marily internal audit or credit functions,

21 (iv) persons whose duties may inciden-
22 tally include the reporting or apprehension
23 of shoplifters or trespassers, or

24 (v) an individual on active duty in the
25 military service;

1 (4) the term “certificate of registration” means
2 a license, permit, certificate, registration card, or
3 other formal written permission from the State for
4 the person to engage in providing security services;

5 (5) the term “security services” means the per-
6 formance of one or more of the following:

7 (A) the observation or reporting of intru-
8 sion, larceny, vandalism, fire or trespass;

9 (B) the deterrence of theft or misappro-
10 piation of any goods, money, or other item of
11 value;

12 (C) the observation or reporting of any un-
13 lawful activity;

14 (D) the protection of individuals or prop-
15 erty, including proprietary information, from
16 harm or misappropriation;

17 (E) the control of access to premises being
18 protected;

19 (F) the secure movement of prisoners;

20 (G) the maintenance of order and safety at
21 athletic, entertainment, or other public activi-
22 ties;

23 (H) the provision of canine services for
24 protecting premises or for the detection of any
25 unlawful device or substance; and

1 (I) the transportation of money or other
2 valuables by armored vehicle; and

3 (6) the term “State” means any of the several
4 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth
5 of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands,
6 American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of
7 the Northern Mariana Islands.

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