

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 683 (HB 921)

2026 Regular Session

Muscarello

Existing law provides relative to the licensing of private security examiners.

Prior law provided for purpose.

New law amends the purpose of existing and prior law.

Prior law was known and cited as the "Private Security Regulatory and Licensing Law".

New law instead provides that new law may be known and cited as "Louisiana Private Security Licensing and Regulatory Act".

Existing law provides for definitions.

New law amends the definitions of "armed security officer", "branch manager", "branch office", "licensee", "person", "principal corporate officer", "private security business", "registrant", and "registration card".

New law adds the definitions of "canine handler", "canine team", "detector canine", "digital credential", and "security canine".

Prior law provided that the board shall consist of nine members appointed by the governor. One member shall be appointed from and shall reside in each of the five public service commission districts established by law. Four members shall be appointed from the state at large. Each member shall be a citizen of the U.S., a resident of this state, at least 30 years of age, and shall have been actively engaged in the private security business for at least five years. One of the members appointed at large shall be a representative of a nationally operated security company. Each member shall be licensed or registered with the board or a corporate officer of a licensed company.

New law amends prior law and provides that the board shall consist of nine members, all domiciled in this state and approved by the governor. Each member shall be a citizen of the U.S., a resident of this state, and at least 30 years of age.

New law provides that five members will be members of the private security industry, appointed by the governor, and shall be either a company owner, a qualifying agent, or an instructor. Of the five members, one member shall reside in each of the five districts composed of certain parishes. One of the members shall be affiliated with a nationally operated security company. Each member shall be licensed with the board or serve as a corporate officer of a licensed security company, and shall have been actively engaged in the private security industry for a minimum of five years.

New law provides that four members will be appointed at-large from the following agencies:

- (1) One at-large member nominated from the tourism industry by the lieutenant governor.
- (2) One at-large member nominated from the insurance industry by the commissioner of the La. Dept. of Insurance.
- (3) One at-large member nominated from the law enforcement community by the superintendent of the office of state police.
- (4) One at-large member nominated from the Academy Directors Assoc. by the director of the La. Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

New law allows the governor to remove any or all members of the board for inefficiency or neglect of duty.

New law prohibits the board from adopting any rules or regulations that would impose additional eligibility requirements for membership.

Prior law required the board to:

- (1) Examine all applicants to be licensed and regulated under the provisions of prior and existing law.
- (2) Administer a written examination for prospective licensees at least twice each year.
- (3) Adopt rules and regulations to govern the practice of private security in the state of La.
- (4) Issue, suspend, modify, or revoke licenses or registration cards to provide private security in the state of La.
- (5) Report to the attorney general of the state of La. all persons violating the provisions of prior and existing law.
- (6) Report annually, no later than March 1, to the governor, the secretary of the department, and the legislature on its activities.
- (7) Adopt rules to authorize the assessment of administrative penalties in the form of fines not to exceed \$500 per violation and the cost of the board's proceedings.
- (8) Take other actions outlined in existing law.

New law amends prior law to require the board to:

- (1) Examine all applicants to be licensed and regulated in accordance with the provisions of existing and new law through written or digital application and verification systems.
- (2) Administer an examination for prospective licensees.
- (3) Adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to govern the practice of private security in this state in accordance with the APA.
- (4) Issue, suspend, modify, place on probation, or revoke digital or physical licenses or registration credentials authorizing private security services within this state.
- (5) Refer matters of potential criminal or civil violation to appropriate authorities as deemed necessary, in consultation with the board's legal counsel.
- (6) Report annually to the governor, the legislative auditor, and the commissioner of administration on its operations, finances, and regulatory activities.
- (7) Adopt rules to authorize the assessment of administrative penalties pursuant to existing and new law.
- (8) Take other actions outlined in existing law.

New law adds the requirement that the board shall adopt rules to regulate private security canine programs and deployments, including the licensing, training, certification, deployment, recertification, and discipline of canine handlers, security canines, and detector canines, in compliance with applicable state and federal law.

Prior law allowed the board to:

- (1) Prescribe and adopt regulations, standards, procedures, and policies governing the manner and conditions under which credit shall be given by the board for participation in a program of continuing professional education, such as the board may consider necessary and appropriate to maintain the highest standards of the private security industry in the state of La.

- (2) Authorize any member of the board to make any affidavit necessary for the issuance of any injunction or other legal process authorized under prior and existing law or under the rules and regulations of the board.
- (3) Issue subpoenas to require attendance and testimony and the production of documents, for the purpose of enforcing the laws relative to the private security industry and securing evidence of violations thereof.
- (4) Employ clerical assistance necessary to carry out the administrative work of the board.
- (5) Purchase or otherwise acquire any real or personal property, including making or entering into mortgages, as may be necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers in order to accomplish the purposes of prior and existing law. The board shall take title to and hold such property in its name as an agency of the state.
- (6) When a state of emergency has been declared in this state pursuant to prior and existing law, authorize the operation of out-of-state private security businesses within the state and the use of its employees within the state for the duration of the state of emergency or for a stipulated amount of time after declaration of the state of emergency, not to exceed 30 days from the last day of the declared state of emergency, if the private security business is licensed in another state in which the qualifications, insurance, training, and other similar requirements are at least equal to those required under prior and existing law and has notified the board that they intend to operate in the state and submits all information requested by the board.
- (7) Take other actions outlined in existing law.

New law amends prior law to instead allow the board to:

- (1) Prescribe and adopt regulations, standards, procedures, and policies in accordance with the APA, governing the manner and conditions in which credit may be granted by the board for participation in continuing professional education programs, when such requirements are reasonably related to maintaining professional competence and protecting public safety within the private security industry in this state.
- (2) Authorize the chairperson, executive director, or any designated member of the board to make any affidavit necessary for the issuance of any injunction or other legal process authorized pursuant to existing and new law or in accordance with the rules and regulations of the board.
- (3) Issue subpoenas or subpoenas duces tecum to require attendance, testimony, or production of records necessary to enforce existing and new law and obtain evidence of violations.
- (4) Employ staff as necessary to carry out the functions of the board.
- (5) Purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire any real or personal property, including making or entering into mortgages, as may be necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers in order to accomplish the purposes of existing and new law. The board shall take title to and hold such property in its name as an agency of the state, under the fiscal control of the division of administration and subject to state property management requirements.
- (6) When a state of emergency has been declared in this state pursuant to existing law authorize the temporary operation of out-of-state private security businesses within the state and the use of its employees within the state for the duration of the state of emergency or for a stipulated amount of time after declaration of the state of emergency, not to exceed 30 days from the last day of the declared state of emergency, if the private security business is licensed in another state in which the qualifications, insurance, and training are substantially equivalent to those of existing and new law and has notified the board of intent to operate and submits all required documentation requested by the board.

(7) Take other actions outlined in existing law.

Prior law provided that the board shall meet quarterly at regular meetings each year.

New law amends prior law and provides that the board shall meet every other month at regular meetings each year and adds that the board may conduct meetings by electronic means in accordance with existing law.

Prior and existing law provides for the duties of the executive secretary.

New law changes all references from "executive secretary" to "executive director" in existing and new law.

New law makes clarifying changes to the duties of the executive director and adds that the authority prescribed by the board can include oversight of licensing operations, technology systems, compliance programs, and enforcement of existing and new law.

New law provides that the executive director shall employ, supervise, and assign personnel as necessary and fix their compensation within the limits of the board's approved budget.

Prior law required the secretary to have no financial or business interests, contingent dealings or otherwise, in the security services investigative business, watch, guard, or patrol agency while so employed or for a period of five years thereafter.

New law instead provides that the director shall have no direct or indirect financial or business interest in any private security business while employed or for five years thereafter.

Existing law provides that the procedure of the board in approving or denying an application, if the grounds for denial are subject to correction by the applicant.

Prior law provided that if the application is denied, the applicant, within 30 days after receipt of notice of denial from the board, may request a hearing on the denial. Within 10 days after the filing of such request for hearing by the applicant, the board shall schedule a hearing to be held after due notice to the applicant. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the APA.

New law instead provides that if the application is denied, the applicant, within 30 days after receipt of notice of denial from the board, may request a hearing on the denial, pursuant to new law.

New law provides the processes for appeals, hearings, and due process for an applicant or licensee.

New law provides that the board shall conduct all adjudicatory proceedings in accordance with existing and new law and shall communicate to the applicant or licensee all denials, suspensions, orders, administrative penalties, and revocations in writing.

New law provides that upon written notice of adverse or disciplinary action from the board, the applicant or licensee has the right to elect to file a hearing with the board or the division of administrative law within 30 days from the receipt of the notice. New law further provides that if the applicant or licensee elects to have a hearing by the board and does not prevail, the ruling of the board may be appealable with the division of administrative law and if the applicant or licensee elects to have a hearing by the division of administrative law, the ruling shall be appealable by either the board or the applicant or licensee, whichever does not prevail.

New law provides that any party subject to a hearing may be represented by legal counsel and present evidence and testimony and has the right to due process.

New law requires all hearings to be recorded, and that a complete record of all proceedings shall be made and that the appellant shall assume all costs associated with appeals.

Prior and existing law provides for a security officer and security operations manager registrant card.

Prior law provided that the portion of the board application indicating temporary registration shall be carried by the applicant when he is within the scope of his employment until such time as he receives his permanent registration card from the board.

New law repeals prior law.

Prior law provided that individuals required to obtain a registration card under prior and existing law shall file for a registration card and, upon completion thereof, the licensee shall immediately forward the application to the board and that every applicant for a registration card shall make and deliver to the licensee a sworn application in writing upon a form prescribed by the board.

New law removes prior law and instead provides that an individual required to obtain a registration card shall submit a sworn application to the board for review and every applicant shall remit all required fees with the application to the board.

Prior law provided that actions by the board to approve or deny an application for a registration card shall be the same as the actions taken to deny or approve an application for license as provided in prior law.

New law amends prior law to instead outline the board's process to deny or approve an application for license in new law.

Prior law provided that registration cards issued by the board shall be valid for a period of two years and that the cardholder shall file a registration card renewal form with the board not less than 30 days prior to the expiration of the card, together with the fee for renewal.

New law removes the 30-day requirement.

Prior law provided that the board may refuse to renew a registration card, and shall promptly notify the cardholder of its intent to refuse to renew. The cardholder, within 15 days after receipt of such notice, may request a hearing on such refusal, in the same manner and in accordance with the same procedure as that provided in prior law.

New law instead provides that the hearing procedure shall be in a manner outlined in new law.

Prior law provided that any security officer employed after the effective date of prior and existing law shall complete, within 30 days of his first work assignment, either eight hours of classroom training or an approved curriculum-based training course under a licensed instructor and successfully pass an examination on the prescribed material.

New law removes prior law and instead provides that a security officer shall complete, prior to his first work assignment, a minimum of 16 hours of board-required training consisting of Security Officer Standards and Training, or S.O.S.T, by a board-licensed instructor and successfully pass an examination for each course.

Prior law provided that security officers shall have 60 days from the date of the first work assignment to complete either an additional eight hours of classroom training or an approved curriculum-based training course under a licensed instructor, as prescribed by the board, and successfully pass a 50-question test administered by the licensed instructor by achieving a minimum score of 70%.

New law deletes prior law and instead provides that security officers who are registered in other states with licensing requirements similar to this state, and law enforcement officers identified in existing and new law, may attend, prior to his first work assignment, four hours of board-required training consisting of Security Officer Standards and Training, or S.O.S.T, by a board-licensed instructor and successfully pass an examination.

Prior law provided that no more than two of the training requirements provided for may be conducted during a 24-hour period.

New law changes from two of the training requirements to 16 hours.

Existing law requires that all classroom training and all firearms training required by existing and new law shall be administered by a licensed instructor who meets certain requirements.

New law makes technical changes.

New law requires the board to license and regulate canine handlers and canine teams. New law further provides that the board shall be responsible for determining approval of any canine training program and the board shall establish minimum standards for certification and recertification of security canines, detector canines, and their handlers.

New law provides relative to detector canine programs.

New law provides for the reporting of positive indications of explosives or controlled dangerous substances.

New law requires each licensee employing canine teams to maintain liability insurance coverage.

Prior law provided that a licensee, within 15 days after receipt of notice of intent to refuse to renew a license, may request a hearing on such refusal.

New law increases the days to 30 and clarifies that the hearing shall be pursuant to new law.

Prior law provided that any person who is determined by the board, after reasonable notice and opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing held in accordance with the APA to have committed an egregious act that is a violation of prior and existing law or regulation or rule issued thereunder is subject to an administrative penalty of not more than \$5000 per violation per day and shall subject such person to revocation of his license. Such egregious acts shall include but not be limited to the following:

- (1) Knowingly operating a private security business without meeting the insurance requirements as provided for in prior and existing law.
- (2) Consistently operating a private security business in violation of the insurance requirements provided for in prior and existing law.
- (3) Submitting fraudulent documents to the board as required or requested by the board.
- (4) Forgery of any documentation submitted to the board.
- (5) Operating a private security business without obtaining the required firearms training.

New law amends prior law to instead provide that any person who is determined by the board, after reasonable notice and opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing conducted in accordance with the APA and new law, to have committed an egregious act or willful violation of existing and new law, or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant to, is subject to an administrative penalty of not more than \$5,000 per violation per day and shall subject such person to revocation of his license. The board may, upon written findings of fact and conclusions of law, impose probation, suspension, or revocation of any license or registration issued in accordance with existing and new law. Such egregious acts shall include but not be limited to the following:

- (1) Operating a private security business without maintaining the insurance requirements as provided for in existing and new law.
- (2) Repeatedly or deliberately operating a private security business in violation of the insurance requirements provided for in existing and new law.
- (3) Submitting fraudulent documents to the board as required or requested by the board or causing to be submitted false, forged, fraudulent, or materially misleading documents or information to the board.
- (4) Forgery of, altering, or falsifying any documentation or information submitted or required to be submitted to the board.

- (5) Operating a private security business without obtaining the required firearms training or allowing personnel to operate in a capacity requiring firearms authorization without the required firearms training, certification, or qualification.

Existing law provides that any person committing any non-egregious acts in violation of prior and existing law or any regulation or rule issued thereunder is subject to an administrative penalty of not more than \$1000 per violation per day.

New law adds that in lieu of a fine for a first-time, non-willful violation, the board may issue a written warning or require the violator to complete a corrective action plan within a prescribed time period.

Prior law allowed the board, in accordance with the APA, to adopt a schedule of administrative penalties for minor violations that can be assessed by the executive secretary when the violator waives the right to an administrative hearing.

New law instead requires the board and the division of administration to adopt a schedule of administrative penalties and corrective actions for minor violations.

Existing law provides for a restraining order for acts prohibited by prior and existing law.

New law amends the hearing process for restraining orders.

New law provides for applicability of new law relative to board membership.

New law provides for technical changes in existing law.

New law directs the La. State Law Institute to change all references of "executive secretary" to "executive director" throughout existing law.

New law directs the La. State Law Institute to change all references from "Private Security and Licensing Law" to "Louisiana Private Security Licensing and Regulatory Act" throughout the Revised Statutes.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 37:3270, 3271, 3272(A)(2), (5), (6), (9), (11), (13)-(15), (17), and (18), 3273(B) and (C), 3274(A)(1)-(5), (7), and (11), (B)(1)-(4), (6), (7), (10), and (11), (C), and (D), 3275, 3279(A)(3), 3283(A), (D), and (F)(1) and (2), 3284(B)(1), (4), and (5), (E), (F), and (J), 3287(C), 3288, and 3293(C)(1); Adds R.S. 37:3272(21)-(25), 3273(I), 3274(A)(12), 3279.1, 3284.1)