

## **Alabama**

### Alabama Security Regulatory Board

The Alabama Security Regulatory Board licenses the state's security officers and armed security officers. Prospective security guards must clear background checks and meet training requirements.

An individual must be at least eighteen to work as a security officer, at least 21 to work as an armed security officer. An armed security officer will hold a Board-issued certification and a pistol permit issued by the county of residence (<http://www.asrb.alabama.gov/Law.aspx>). The latter will come from the sheriff.

The Alabama Board also recognizes Certified Trainers and Qualifying Agents. Qualifying Agents are professionals who take responsibility for regulated activities carried out by their Contract Security Company.

Web Site: <http://www.asrb.alabama.gov/>

## **Alaska**

### Alaska Department of Public Safety

#### Division of Statewide Services Permits and Licensing Unit

Alaska licenses security guards and armed security guards. Both must meet training and general eligibility requirements.

Web Site: <http://www.dps.alaska.gov/statewide/PermitsLicensing/securityguard.aspx>

## **Arizona**

### Dept. of Public Safety, Licensing

Arizona security guards are registered with the Department of Public Safety, or DPS. To be eligible, they must be at least eighteen years of age and authorized to work in the United States. The qualification process is based on background screening and pre-service training.

The Department of Public Safety recognizes multiple security-related job roles. Armed security guards must complete additional training. Professionals employed as corporate officers hold associate registration. The minimum age is 21 for "agency associate" and related roles.

Security guards must hold registration unless they fall under exemption categories identified in Arizona Revised Statute

(<http://www.azleg.state.az.us/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/32/02606.htm&Title=32&DocType=ARS>). Some employers who are exempt from registration requirements are still under DPS jurisdiction. Their security guards must go through a background check process. Armed guards must meet state-mandated training requirements.

Web Site: <http://www.dps.state.az.us/>

## **Arkansas**

### Arkansas State Police

Arkansas security guards are credentialed by the Arkansas Board of Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies, under the banner of the Arkansas State Police. They must hold credentials unless they fall under exemption categories described in state statute.

The Board recognizes different roles, including security officers, commissioned security officers, and professionals who own or manage security agencies. Training and education/ experience requirements vary. All applicants will go through thorough background checks.

Credentials must be renewed periodically. A background check is carried out again upon renewal.

Web Site: <http://asp.arkansas.gov/services-and-programs/detail/Private-Investigators-Security-Alarm-Installation-Monitoring>

## **California**

### Department Of Consumer Affairs, Licensing Division, Bureau of Security and Investigative Services

The California Bureau of Security & Investigative Services registers the state's security guards and proprietary private security officers.

Proprietary private security officers provide security services directly to their employer and are not contracted by another entity; they are typically unarmed professionals who interact with the public while on the job ([http://www.bsis.ca.gov/forms\\_pubs/ppso\\_fact.shtml](http://www.bsis.ca.gov/forms_pubs/ppso_fact.shtml)). Security guards, on the other hand, are authorized to work for companies that provide security services.

Both security guards and proprietary private security officers go through a background check process. The Bureau requires that individuals employed in either role be at least eighteen years of age.

Security guards have state-mandated training requirements. Some security guards will also need a firearm permit or baton permit; this entails additional training.

Security guards have continuing education requirements.

Web Site: <http://www.dca.ca.gov/bsis/>

## **Colorado**

The State of Colorado does not license security guards

(<http://www.advancecolorado.com/working-colorado/business-licensing/security-guard>). However, those who carry firearms will apply for permits from their local governments. Multiple jurisdictions within Colorado license security guards. Colorado Springs licenses private security officers while Denver licenses “merchant guards”

(<http://www.denvergov.org/businesslicensing/DenverBusinessLicensingCenter/BusinessLicenses/MerchantGuardIndividual/tabid/441692/Default.aspx>).

The companies that employ security guards may also be subject to various laws and regulations. Denver, for example, licenses “merchant guard companies”

(<http://www.denvergov.org/businesslicensing/DenverBusinessLicensingCenter/BusinessLicenses/MerchantGuardCompany/tabid/441673/Default.aspx>).

In many cases, the responsibility of the security guard is to meet the standards of the employer. Some employers choose to set requirements well above those that are required by law. A security guard may be hired by a company that provides security services to clients or may be hired directly by a business to patrol and/ or provide other security services. Some security officers work in the public sector.

All prospective security guards can expect thorough background screening. Other requirements vary a good deal from one industry or employer to the next.

## **Connecticut**

Dept. of Emergency Services and Public Protection

Connecticut regulates the security service industry. In order to be hired as a security guard by a security service or business, an individual must hold a security guard certification ID. Security guards must be registered by the security service that employs them; armed guards must be registered whether they work for a security service or a proprietary entity.

In order to be hired as a security guard, an individual must have reached the age of 18. In order to be hired as an armed security guard, he or she must have reached the age of 21. The applicant will need to demonstrate appropriate training and acceptable legal background.

Individuals can also be licensed in private security. Requirements for the private security service license are set higher. The private security licensing also entails payment of significantly higher fees.

Web Site: <http://www.ct.gov/despp/cwp/view.asp?a=4213&q=494628>

## **Delaware**

Delaware's private security employees are licensed by the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security. An individual qualifies after completing training, passing a competency test, and going through a background check process. A person must be at least eighteen to work as an unarmed guard, and at least 21 to work as an armed guard. The Department-issued private security license is not offered to current law enforcement employees. The Department issues a number of other licenses, including armored car guard.

Web Site: [http://dsp.delaware.gov/security\\_systems\\_protective\\_services\\_agencies.shtml](http://dsp.delaware.gov/security_systems_protective_services_agencies.shtml)

## **District of Columbia**

Security Officers Mgmt. Branch, Metro Police, Security Unit

DC security officers are certified by the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) in cooperation with the Security Officers Management Branch (SOMB). Security officers receive the same designation whether they work for security agencies or provide services directly to an employer.

To be license eligible, one must meet health and background screening requirements.

Certification also depends on completing mandatory training and passing an examination. Some aspects of the certification process are handled by a third party organization, Pearson VUE.

Security guards may receive temporary certification before all requirements have been met.

The District of Columbia recognizes a related occupation "special police". Special police have limited scope. They may work for corporations. Requirements are slightly higher than for security officers. Special police may be authorized to carry weapons. In this regard, there is some similarity between the DC "special police" designation and the "armed security guard" or "commissioned security guard" designation recognized in some other jurisdictions. DC special police, though, may be appointed to assist with special events like elections. Some special police are designated as campus security.

Website:

<https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/security-officers-management-branch-somb>

## **Florida**

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Licensing

Florida security guards are licensed by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Licensing. Security guards must be licensed unless they fall under exemption categories described in state statute. The basic security officer license for individuals is 'Class D'. A security officer who carries a firearm will also need a 'Class G' firearm license.

Florida also licenses professionals who provide management services for security agencies.

These professionals may hold a 'Class M' or 'Class MB' manager license; some security agency/branch officers will also need a Class G firearm license.

Web Site: <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Licensing/Private-Security>

## **Georgia**

State Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies

Georgia security guards are under the jurisdiction of the Georgia Board of Private Detectives and Security Agencies. Armed security guards must register with the state. They will undergo thorough background checks.

Unarmed guards do not have to register, but must meet training requirements set by the state.

Professionals who operate security agencies must also meet requirements set by the state.

Web Site: <http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/42>

## **Hawaii**

Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Hawaii's security guards are under the jurisdiction of the Board of Private Detectives and Guards, a part of Hawaii Professional and Vocational Licensing (PVL).

The licensing agency makes a distinction between individuals who are in business as security guards or are the "principal guard" of a firm and those who are merely employees. The former are licensed, the latter registered. Both are subject to state requirements. Licensed security guards must meet experience requirements.

Professional and Vocational Licensing has provided a list of job positions that are subject to registration requirements as well as a list of positions that are exempt

([http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/private/act\\_208\\_guard\\_employee/](http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/private/act_208_guard_employee/)).

Website: <http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/private>

## **Idaho**

The state of Idaho does not license armed or unarmed security guards. Individual municipalities,

however, do have regulations in place. Security guards in cities such as Boise and Lewiston answer to a city authority as well as an individual employer. Prospective security guards can expect to meet some standard requirements regardless of whether they are licensed. The minimum age is 18; this is the standard nationwide. Employees typically have background checks. Employers also look for a high school diploma or several years of meaningful work history.

## **Illinois**

### **Illinois Department of Professional Regulation**

Illinois recognizes security professionals in a variety of roles, including employees of security contractor agencies, employees of proprietary security forces, and private security contractors. Requirements vary according to employment circumstance. Some state mandates apply to professionals in multiple categories while others apply to only one.

Requirements are particularly stringent for private security contractors. They hold licensing as opposed to registration. In order to be license-eligible, security professionals must have supervisory experience. The licensing process is more expensive; licensees are required to carry insurance policies and pay higher fees.

An employee or guard who will be carrying a firearm will need an additional credential: a firearm control card.

Website: <http://www.idfpr.com/profs/SecurityCont.asp>

## **Indiana**

### **Indiana Professional Licensing Agency, (Attn: Private Detectives Licensing Board)**

Security guard employees are not required to hold licensing. However, they will need to be fingerprinted by the employing agency. The agency must have fingerprints on record. The licensing agency has stated that the "qualifier" or licensee is civilly responsible for employee conduct.

To head a private security business in Indiana, one must be state licensed. The Indiana Private Investigator and Security Guard Licensing Board has set a high set of standards for the responsible party of a security agency, whether proprietor or manager. The professional must have either 1) a baccalaureate degree in a field related to criminal justice or 2) two years of qualifying experience.

Security guard licenses do not authorize the use of firearms. Individuals are directed to the Indiana State Police with questions about the carrying of firearms

(<http://www.in.gov/pla/3087.htm>).

Website: <http://www.in.gov/pla/3766.htm>

## **Iowa**

### **Administrative Services Div., Iowa Dept. of Public Safety**

Iowa security officers are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Safety. Professionals who operate security agencies are licensed. Employees of security agencies are issued identification cards upon verification that they meet state mandates.

Both licensees and employees must meet character and background requirements. Additionally, licensees must take financial responsibility for business operations and conduct.

Security officers who will carry weapons must also obtain a firearms permit. For this, the Iowa legislature has set both general eligibility and training requirements.

Web Site: <http://www.dps.state.ia.us/asd/licensing.shtml>

## **Kansas**

### **Bureau of Investigation**

Kansas security guards draw their authority from local officials. In some cases, a security guard is not licensed. The security guard will instead need to meet the standards of the employer. The businesses itself, however, may be subject to various laws. Employers often set requirements beyond those required by law.

Security guards can expect to meet certain basic requirements. They will need to be at least 18 years old. They will also need to merit public trust. Background checks are typically a very

important part of the employment process; they may be comprehensive and include far more than just criminal history. The prospective employee may also be required to have a physical; this may include drug screening. Literacy skills are also important as security guards often take notes and write reports. Some national agencies administer personality or skill assessments.

Expectations vary by sector and setting. Some security guards interact with the public; in these instances, customer service is emphasized. In other cases, military or law enforcement training may be highly regarded. Security guards are typically not armed, but those that are can expect to meet additional standards. The minimum age is typically 21.

The following is a sampling of requirements, representing 2) several local jurisdictions 2) the Kansas public sector and 3) private security agencies that have recently sought employees in Kansas.

Website:

<https://ag.ks.gov/docs/publications/pi-licensing---statutes---private-detective-act-8-2012.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

### **Kentucky**

Kentucky does not license security guards, armed or unarmed. However, some may be subject to local regulations. Louisville, for example, licenses armed security guards.

There are, however, generally accepted standards that many security agencies follow. Some Kentucky positions are very competitive and above the national standard.

### **Louisiana**

Louisiana State Board of Private Security Examiners

Louisiana security guards are under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana State Board of Private Security Examiners. The Board issues multiple credentials, including registration cards for employees and licenses for qualifying agents (principal officers).

Background checks are required of both registrant and licensees. The background check will be carried out by the Louisiana State Police Bureau of Identification.

Web site: <http://www.lsbpie.com>

### **Maine**

Department of Public Safety, Licensing and Inspection Unit

Maine's private security guards are under the jurisdiction of the Special Investigations Unit of the Bureau of Maine State Police. The state has set requirements for contract security companies and employees who provide security services. These do not apply to proprietary security companies.

Licensure and registration are based on meeting general eligibility requirements. Maine does not currently mandate training or testing. Individuals who operate security agencies go through a licensing process. Licensees are responsible for making sure that their employees meet requirements set by the state.

Maine does not have a credentialing process for armed security officers. Gun laws are less restrictive than in many states. However, some employers may require permits even when not mandated by law.

Website: <http://www.maine.gov/dps/msp/licenses/pi.html>

### **Maryland**

Maryland State Police, Licensing Division

Maryland security guards are under the jurisdiction of the Maryland State Police Licensing Division. The Division recognizes multiple job roles including corporate officer.

Security guards who will be armed must also apply for handgun permits. Requirements are more stringent.

Website:

<http://mdsp.maryland.gov/Organization/Pages/CriminalInvestigationBureau/LicensingDivision/ProfessionalLicenses/SecurityGuardCertifications.aspx>

## **Massachusetts**

### **Massachusetts State Police, Special Licensing Unit**

In Massachusetts, licenses are issued to security agencies, not to individual security agency employees. However, employees are subject to state mandates. In many cases, these amount to only basic eligibility requirements, designed to screen out truly unsuitable candidates. Actual standards set by employers may be much higher.

Security guards who carry firearms are legally held to higher standards. They must hold licenses: not security licenses per se but firearms licenses. In order to qualify for a firearms license, an armed security guard must meet general eligibility requirements and training requirements.

Website: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/msp/prof-stds/cert-unit/pi-license-requirements.html>

## **Michigan**

### **Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards**

The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) regulates the state's private security industry. Michigan has set high standards for the proprietors and managers who head private security agencies.

The state is not currently involved in the screening process of security agency employees. This is left largely to the employers. Prospective security guard employees should be aware that licensed security agencies are headed by professionals who are not only knowledgeable but are bonded or insured; they are professionally and financially responsible for the conduct of their employees. High standards at the managerial level can translate to high standards at the employee level.

A number of nationally recognized security agencies advertise in Michigan. They are required to have Michigan-based resident managers.

Website: [http://www.michigan.gov/mcoles/0,4607,7-229-41626\\_42413---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mcoles/0,4607,7-229-41626_42413---,00.html)

## **Minnesota**

### **Board of Private Detective & Protective Agent Services**

Minnesota security guards are under the jurisdiction of the State of Minnesota Board of Private Detective and Protective Agent Services. Protective agent services encompass a variety of business, including those that provide guards, security personnel, and armored car personnel (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=326.338>). The professionals who run the security businesses, either as proprietors or 'qualified representatives', must hold state licensing.

Security agency employees are not licensed but must meet requirements set at the state level. Requirements are higher for employees who will be armed.

Website <https://dps.mn.gov/entity/pdb/Pages/default.aspx>

## **Mississippi**

Mississippi has a Board of Contractors (MSBOC).

Mississippi does not license the private security industry. Mississippi's armed security guards, however, must hold state credentials. They receive their firearms permits from the Department of Public Safety, or DPS. In order to receive the credential, they must go through a background check process, both at the time of initial credentialing and at the time of renewal. State statute prevents individuals who have had felony convictions from receiving permits. The application includes background questions that provide further opportunity for screening.

Employer expectations are often higher than those mandated by the state. The Mississippi State Personnel Board has provided job descriptions which may give a prospective security guard, whether armed or unarmed, an idea of employer expectations. Actual requirements will vary according to industry and job role.

They do not regulate or license Security Guards, Personal Protective Services, Residential Alarm Installation, Low-Voltage Wiring, CCTV Installation, Locksmithing, or Private Investigators at all. It's wide open.

Armed Guards over covered under state law.

Basically, it requires that a person be employed by a security company and be on duty. There are no state standards for training, etc., but they are required to get a permit.

Website: <http://www.msdoc.us/>

Mississippi Highway Patrol Firearms Permit Unit

<https://www.dps.state.ms.us/firearms/firearms-permit-unit/>

### **Missouri**

Missouri security guards are regulated at a local level. A number of cities, including St. Louis, Kansas City, and Columbia, license them. In some cases, a security guard may not hold licensing or registration, and will instead answer directly to the employer.

### **Montana**

Board of Private Security Officers & Investigators

Montana's private security guards are licensed by the Montana Board of Private Security. They must be licensed unless they fall under exemption categories identified in state statute (<http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/37/60/37-60-105.htm>).

Security guards who will carry firearms must pursue a firearms endorsement.

The Montana Board issues a number of other licenses, including resident manager. All contract security companies and proprietary security organizations are required to have an individual who serves in this role and who is typically present during weekday hours. Resident managers qualify through education and/ or employment experience.

### **Nebraska**

Secretary of State

Nebraska does not currently have a statewide licensing program for security officers. Prospective security officers answer to their employers.

Standards can vary a good deal, depending on job duties and budget; contract security agencies and governmental agencies often set standards quite high. A good background is fundamental. Prospective security guards may poise themselves for success through trainings and voluntary certifications.

Web Site: <http://www.sos.state.ne.us/>

### **Nevada**

Private Investigator's Licensing Board

Nebraska does not currently have a statewide licensing program for security officers. Prospective security officers answer to their employers.

Standards can vary a good deal, depending on job duties and budget; contract security agencies and governmental agencies often set standards quite high. A good background is fundamental. Prospective security guards may poise themselves for success through trainings and voluntary certifications.

Website: [http://www.sos.ne.gov/licensing/private\\_eye/index.html](http://www.sos.ne.gov/licensing/private_eye/index.html)

State Law: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NAC/NAC-648.html>

### **New Hampshire**

State Police, Div of Licenses and Permits

New Hampshire has an approval process for both armed and unarmed security guards who work as employees of security agencies. Unarmed security guards are not under Department jurisdiction if they are hired directly by businesses: for example, if someone is hired directly by a store to serve as a watchperson (<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/VII/106-F/106-F-2.htm>).

Licensure of unarmed guards is based primarily on background check results. Armed guards have additional training requirements.

The Support Services Bureau, Permits and Licensing Unit licenses security service providers.

One license category is for security agencies. Another is for individuals security guards who work for themselves and are not employees of security agencies. Self-employed security guards need to take greater financial responsibility than their counterparts who work as employees.

(Employees are covered under a licensee's surety bond, and have an employer who is responsible for their conduct.)

Website: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/nhsp/pluda.html>

### **New Jersey**

State Police, Dept. of Law & Public Safety, Private Detective Unit

New Jersey security officers must meet requirements promulgated under the Security Officer Registration Act (SORA). Individuals who operate security agencies are licensed. Employees and subcontractors are registered as security officers. They must meet background and training requirements. Even off-duty police officers are, in many instances, subject to SORA. Security officers who are employed by businesses other than security services to serve their own internal purposes, however, are not subject to the same rules.

Armed security guards will need to hold pistol permits. The process is separate. In many cases, the application will be submitted to a local authority.

Website: <http://www.njsp.org/private-detective/index.shtml>

Rules: [http://www.state.nj.us/lps/njsp/about/pdet\\_rules.html](http://www.state.nj.us/lps/njsp/about/pdet_rules.html)

### **New Mexico**

Private Investigator and Polygraph Board

New Mexico security guards are under the jurisdiction of the New Mexico Private Investigations Advisory Board. The Board registers security guards at multiple levels. In order to use devices that are regarded as nonlethal, a security guard must be at Level 2. The security guard must be at Level 3 to carry firearms.

A security professional at Level 3 may also be licensed as the manager of a private patrol (security) company; this is one of two eligibility routes to agency management.

The different levels of registration have differing general eligibility requirements as well as training requirements. All security guard applicants, however, must clear a background check and pass a jurisprudence examination.

Website: [http://www.rld.state.nm.us/boards/private\\_investigations.aspx](http://www.rld.state.nm.us/boards/private_investigations.aspx)

### **New York**

New York State Department of State, Division of Licensing Services

New York security guards are registered with the Division of Licensing Services. All security guards, armed or unarmed, must be registered with the Division unless they fall under exemption categories outlined in state statute (for example, current active status as a police officer).

In order to be eligible for registration, an individual must clear a criminal background check and meet general eligibility requirements such as being of majority age. He or she must complete mandatory training. Training requirements are higher for armed security guards.

Web Site: <https://www.dos.ny.gov/licensing/securityguard/squad.html>

### **North Carolina**

North Carolina Department of Justice, Private Protective Services

North Carolina security guards are regulated by the North Carolina Private Protection Services Board. Some security guards will fall under exemption categories outlined in state statute and will not need state credentialing; this is the case with governmental employees and with unarmed guards who are not agency employees but have been hired by a business to provide direct services.

Except as outlined in statute, credentialing is mandatory. Both unarmed and armed security guard employees are registered with the state. They begin as probationary employees; registration will take place if there is an intent to hire in a non-probationary capacity. The state has regulations in place even for probationary employees; they must, for example, receive some training within 20 days of placement on post.

The Board also licenses "qualifying agents" who are managers of security agencies. All security companies (with the exception of sole proprietorships) must have a qualifying agent.

Web Site:

<https://www.ncdps.gov/About-DPS/Boards-Commissions/Private-Protective-Services-Board>



## **North Dakota**

### **State of North Dakota Private Investigation and Security Board**

North Dakota security officers are under the jurisdiction of North Dakota Private Investigation and Security Board. All security officers must be credentialed unless they fall under exemption categories outlined in North Dakota Century Code.

Those who work as employees of security agencies are registered. Those who work for proprietary companies have the option of being registered.

There are multiple levels of registration including apprentice security officer, security officer, and commissioned security officer. A professional moves through the ranks by accruing work experience hours and instruction hours.

Security officers who provide services independently are licensed.

Armed security officers must meet a separate set of requirements.

Website: <http://www.state.nd.us/pisb/>

## **Ohio**

### **Private Investigator Security Guard Services**

Ohio security guards are regulated by Ohio Private Investigator Security Guard Services (PISGS). PISGS recognizes security professionals in various roles, including those who own security agencies, those who are hired to run security agencies, and those who are employed as guards. Those who are in the security business (whether sole proprietor, partnership, or corporation) are known as security providers. They are licensed. Officers may be designated as qualifying agents. Security guards who work as employees of security agencies are often referenced in statute simply as employees.

Licenses issued by Private Investigator Security Guard Services may be Class A, Class B, or Class C. If security is the only service provided, a Class C license will be issued.

Individuals must hold state credentials unless they are exempt under state statute. Individuals who are protecting the property of their own employers will not necessarily be defined as security providers under state statute (<http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/PSU0004.pdf>).

In order to carry firearms, one must hold a separate certification, also issued by PISGS. The firearm certification may be held by a licensee, qualifying agent, or employee.

One common requirement for all licenses and registrations: a background check.

Website: <http://www.pisgs.ohio.gov/pisgs.stm>

State Laws: <http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/PSU0004.pdf>

## **Oklahoma**

### **Council on Law Enforcement Education & Training**

Oklahoma security guards are regulated by the Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training, or CLEET. Both armed and unarmed guards hold state licenses.

First-time security guards go through a state-specific training and testing program. Oklahoma has provisions in place for reciprocity.

Website: [http://www.cleet.state.ok.us/Private\\_Security.htm](http://www.cleet.state.ok.us/Private_Security.htm)

State Law: [http://oklegal.onenet.net/oklegal-cgi/get\\_statute?98/Title.59/59-1750.1.html](http://oklegal.onenet.net/oklegal-cgi/get_statute?98/Title.59/59-1750.1.html)

## **Oregon**

### **Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training**

#### **Private Security Unit**

Oregon security professionals are licensed and certified by the Private Security Program. The Program credentials both armed and unarmed security guards. Security agency managers are also licensed.

Security guards qualify by meeting general eligibility requirements and completing mandatory training.

Website: <http://www.oregon.gov/dpsst/PS/Pages/Armed-Security-Professional.aspx>

## **Pennsylvania**

Pennsylvania regulates the private security industry at the state level. However, an individual may submit materials to a local/ county authority.

Like other states, Pennsylvania distinguishes between individuals who run security agencies and those who are employed by them. The Private Detective Act of 1953 (as amended) covers requirements for watch, patrol, and guard businesses. It also sets minimum hiring standards for employees.

Armed guards must conform to a separate, higher set of standards.

Website: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/US/PDF/1953/0/0361..PDF>

## **Rhode Island**

Rhode Island security guards are under the jurisdiction of the Office of Attorney General. The licensing agency distinguishes between individuals who are in business for themselves providing security services and those who are employed by security businesses. Security providers are licensed while employers are registered.

Security professionals must clear criminal background checks. If they will be armed, they must meet additional requirements.

Unarmed guard requirements set by individual employers may be significantly higher than those mandated by state statute.

State Law: <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE5/5-5.1/5-5.1-8.HTM>

## **South Carolina**

### **South Carolina Law Enforcement Division**

South Carolina regulates security businesses and the security officers that they employ. Contract security businesses are licensed. Proprietary companies are licensed as proprietary security businesses if they seek the services of security officers who are uniformed, licensed, and/ or have limited arrest powers. (Proprietary companies are free to employ gatekeepers or security officers provided they do not wear uniforms and are not granted regulated powers.)

Employees are issued registration. The chief executive officer or other designee is evaluated as part of the security business license application process.

Website: <http://www.sled.sc.gov/PI.aspx?MenuID=PI>

## **South Dakota**

South Dakota does not license security guards, though some local ordinances exist. The absence of licensing statutes means there could be security agencies in the state that impose standards lower than the norm. However, it doesn't mean that there are not employers setting very high standards.

In states that regulate the security industry tightly, registration often doesn't take place until after hiring. The first screening is done by the employer. Later the state validates that some basic requirements have been met. In some cases, this amounts to little more than ensuring that a background check is carried out and that the guard has work authorization. When it comes to the more competitive positions, the employer is the driving force.

## **Tennessee**

### **Private Protective Services Div., Dept. of Commerce & Insurance**

Tennessee regulates unarmed and armed security guards. The state also licenses contract security companies and proprietary security organizations. Organizations must have a qualifying agent or manager who meets state requirements.

Tennessee Private Protective Services makes some distinctions between guards or officers who work for security companies and those who work for proprietary organizations.

Web site: <http://www.tn.gov/commerce/section/private-protective-services>

## **Texas**

### **Texas Department of Public Safety – Private Security Bureau**

The Texas Department of Public Safety regulates both commissioned and noncommissioned security guards. Commissioned security guards are those who are authorized to carry firearms;

they must meet more stringent training and eligibility requirements than noncommissioned guards.

The Department also grants 'Class B' licenses to security businesses. Officers who oversee security functions must meet standards set by the Board. Although there may be multiple intermediate supervisors, only one individual will be designated as a manager for licensing purposes.

Website & Laws: <https://www.dps.texas.gov/rsd/psb/index.htm>

## **Utah**

Dept. of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal Identification

Utah licenses both security officers and security agencies. The Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL) recognizes three types of security officer: unarmed, armed, and armored car. Requirements include background check, training, and assessment.

The state also sets standards for qualifying agents: professionals who are responsible for the operations of security companies; these professionals may be proprietors or managers.

Qualifying agents must meet examination and experience requirements. The qualifying agent and other managers and major shareholders are fingerprinted.

Website: <https://bci.utah.gov/private-investigator-licensing/>

## **Vermont**

Board of Private Investigative and Armed Security Services, Office of Professional Regulation

The Vermont Board of Private Investigative and Security Services registers armed and unarmed security guards who work as employees; the Board licenses independent practitioners and professionals who serve as qualifying agents for security companies. Security guards must complete state-mandated training while qualifying agents must meet experience and examination requirements.

Website: <http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/26/059/03174>

Law: <http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/26/059>

## **Virginia**

Department of Criminal Justice Services, Private Security Section

Virginia security guards are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Criminal Justice Systems (DCJS). Both armed and unarmed guards are registered. Virginia's armed guards have limited powers of arrest; they must complete significantly longer training programs.

Virginia also certifies high-level managers as compliance agents; each private security services business must have a professional in this role. A compliance agent must meet experience requirements.

Website: <http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov>

## **Washington**

Department of Licensing , Master License

Washington licenses both unarmed and armed security guards. Guards must meet eligibility and training requirements.

The Department of Licensing (DOL) also licenses professionals who operate security businesses. The primary responsible party may be termed the 'qualifying principal' or 'company principal'. This may be a high level officer. In some cases, it will be an owner. In the case of partnerships, both partners must meet eligibility requirements for principals.

Web site: <http://www.dol.wa.gov/business/securityguards/sggetunarmed.html>

## **West Virginia**

Secretary of State, Private Investigator, Licensing Division

West Virginia licenses both private security guards and security firms.

Security guards who work as employees are generally not licensed. State code provides for exemptions for both individuals who are hired by licensed security firms and those who are hired to provide services directly to a single business (<http://www.sos.wv.gov/business->

[licensing/licensing/Pages/ExemptionsforSecurityGuards.aspx](#)). However, employees of licensed security companies must meet a stringent set of requirements. The focus is on character and background; training is left to employer discretion.

High-level supervisors (termed 'qualifying agents') must also meet state mandates. At this level, security professionals must have training or experience.

Website: <http://www.wvsos.com/licensing/piguard/main.htm>

## **Wisconsin**

### **Department of Regulation and Licensing**

Wisconsin regulates armed and unarmed security guards. They are termed "private security persons". An individual must be credentialed unless he or she is exempt under state law. An individual hired to provide security services directly to a business may be exempt. An individual who works for a security agency will be credentialed.

Security guards who will be armed will need firearms permits. Those who are in business for themselves must also apply for agency licenses. All credentials are issued by the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

Website: <http://drl.wi.gov/index.htm>