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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1718**

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 12, 2015

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 9.1-139 of the Code of Virginia, relating to private investigators; personal protection specialists; independent contractors.*

Patrons—LeMunyon and Simon

Referred to Committee on Militia, Police and Public Safety

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 9.1-139 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 9.1-139. Licensing, certification, and registration required; qualifications; temporary licenses.**

A. No person shall engage in the private security services business or solicit private security business in the Commonwealth without having obtained a license from the Department. No person shall be issued a private security services business license until a compliance agent is designated in writing on forms provided by the Department. The compliance agent shall ensure the compliance of the private security services business with this article and shall meet the qualifications and perform the duties required by the regulations adopted by the Board. A compliance agent shall have either a minimum of (i) three years of managerial or supervisory experience in a private security services business; with a federal, state or local law-enforcement agency; or in a related field or (ii) five years of experience in a private security services business; with a federal, state or local law-enforcement agency; or in a related field.

B. No person shall act as private security services training school or solicit students for private security training in the Commonwealth without being certified by the Department. No person shall be issued a private security services training school certification until a school director is designated in writing on forms provided by the Department. The school director shall ensure the compliance of the school with the provisions of this article and shall meet the qualifications and perform the duties required by the regulations adopted by the Board.

C. No person shall be employed by a licensed private security services business in the Commonwealth as armored car personnel, courier, armed security officer, detector canine handler, unarmed security officer, security canine handler, private investigator, personal protection specialist, alarm respondent, locksmith, central station dispatcher, electronic security sales representative, electronic security technician's assistant, or electronic security technician without possessing a valid registration issued by the Department, except as provided in this article. *Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, a licensed private security services business may hire as an independent contractor a personal protection specialist or private investigator who has been issued a registration by the Department.*

D. A temporary license may be issued in accordance with Board regulations for the purpose of awaiting the results of the state and national fingerprint search. However, no person shall be issued a temporary license until (i) he has designated a compliance agent who has complied with the compulsory minimum training standards established by the Board pursuant to subsection A of § 9.1-141 for compliance agents, (ii) each principal of the business has submitted his fingerprints for a National Criminal Records search and a Virginia Criminal History Records search, and (iii) he has met all other requirements of this article and Board regulations.

E. No person shall be employed by a licensed private security services business in the Commonwealth unless such person is certified or registered in accordance with this chapter.

F. A temporary registration may be issued in accordance with Board regulations for the purpose of awaiting the results of the state and national fingerprint search. However, no person shall be issued a temporary registration until he has (i) complied with, or been exempted from the compulsory minimum training standards established by the Board, pursuant to subsection A of § 9.1-141, for armored car personnel, couriers, armed security officers, detector canine handlers, unarmed security officers, security canine handlers, private investigators, personal protection specialists, alarm respondents, locksmiths, central station dispatchers, electronic security sales representatives, electronic security technician's assistants, or electronic security technicians, (ii) submitted his fingerprints to be used for the conduct of a National Criminal Records search and a Virginia Criminal History Records search, and (iii) met all other requirements of this article and Board regulations.

G. A temporary certification as a private security instructor or private security training school may be issued in accordance with Board regulations for the purpose of awaiting the results of the state and national fingerprint search. However, no person shall be issued a temporary certification as a private security services instructor until he has (i) met the education, training and experience requirements

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59 established by the Board and (ii) submitted his fingerprints to be used for the conduct of a National  
60 Criminal Records search and a Virginia Criminal History Records search. No person shall be issued a  
61 temporary certification as a private security services training school until (a) he has designated a training  
62 director, (b) each principal of the training school has submitted his fingerprints to be used for the  
63 conduct of a National Criminal Records search and a Virginia Criminal History Records search, and (c)  
64 he has met all other requirements of this article and Board regulations.

65 H. A licensed private security services business in the Commonwealth shall not employ as an  
66 unarmed security officer, electronic security technician's assistant, unarmed alarm respondent, central  
67 station dispatcher, electronic security sales representative, locksmith, or electronic security technician,  
68 any person who has not complied with, or been exempted from, the compulsory minimum training  
69 standards established by the Board, pursuant to subsection A of § 9.1-141, except that such person may  
70 be so employed for not more than 90 days while completing compulsory minimum training standards.

71 I. No person shall be employed as an electronic security employee, electronic security technician's  
72 assistant, unarmed alarm respondent, locksmith, central station dispatcher, electronic security sales  
73 representative, electronic security technician or supervisor until he has submitted his fingerprints to the  
74 Department to be used for the conduct of a National Criminal Records search and a Virginia Criminal  
75 History Records search. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to an out-of-state central  
76 station dispatcher meeting the requirements of subdivision 19 of § 9.1-140.

77 J. The compliance agent of each licensed private security services business in the Commonwealth  
78 shall maintain documentary evidence that each private security registrant and certified employee  
79 employed by his private security services business has complied with, or been exempted from, the  
80 compulsory minimum training standards required by the Board. Before January 1, 2003, the compliance  
81 agent shall ensure that an investigation to determine suitability of each unarmed security officer  
82 employee has been conducted, except that any such unarmed security officer, upon initiating a request  
83 for such investigation under the provisions of subdivision A 11 of § 19.2-389, may be employed for up  
84 to 30 days pending completion of such investigation. After January 1, 2003, no person shall be  
85 employed as an unarmed security officer until he has submitted his fingerprints to the Department for  
86 the conduct of a National Criminal Records search and a Virginia Criminal History Records search. Any  
87 person who was employed as an unarmed security officer prior to January 1, 2003, shall submit his  
88 fingerprints to the Department in accordance with subsection B of § 9.1-145.

89 K. No person with a criminal conviction for a misdemeanor involving (i) moral turpitude, (ii) assault  
90 and battery, (iii) damage to real or personal property, (iv) controlled substances or imitation controlled  
91 substances as defined in Article 1 (§ 18.2-247 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title 18.2, (v) prohibited sexual  
92 behavior as described in Article 7 (§ 18.2-61 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2, or (vi) firearms, or any  
93 felony shall be (a) employed as a registered or certified employee by a private security services business  
94 or training school, or (b) issued a private security services registration, certification as an unarmed  
95 security officer, electronic security employee or technician's assistant, a private security services training  
96 school or instructor certification, compliance agent certification, or a private security services business  
97 license, except that, upon written request, the Director of the Department may waive such prohibition.

98 L. The Department may grant a temporary exemption from the requirement for licensure,  
99 certification, or registration for a period of not more than 30 days in a situation deemed an emergency  
100 by the Department.

101 M. All private security services businesses and private security services training schools in the  
102 Commonwealth shall include their license or certification number on all business advertising materials.

103 N. A licensed private security services business in the Commonwealth shall not employ as armored  
104 car personnel any person who has not complied with, or been exempted from, the compulsory minimum  
105 training standards established by the Board pursuant to subsection A of § 9.1-141, except such person  
106 may serve as a driver of an armored car for not more than 90 days while completing compulsory  
107 minimum training standards, provided such person does not possess or have access to a firearm while  
108 serving as a driver.