

Chairperson:Ray AguilarCommittee:Government, Military and Veterans AffairsDate of Hearing:February 20, 2008

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The purpose of LB 1043 is to license persons working as security guards, to require an armed security guard to be trained in firearm use, and to prohibit such companies and guards from using equipment and uniforms that look like local law enforcement or the Nebraska State Patrol.

To apply for a license to engage in business as a contract security company or a security guard, the applicant must be a United States citizen and cannot have been convicted of any felony or any misdemeanor involving child abuse or neglect. The age requirement for an applicant for an unarmed guard is 18; for an armed guard it is 21. Applicants are also subjected to criminal background checks performed through the Nebraska State Patrol. Additional requirements are placed on persons applying for an armed security guard license.

The act assigns the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (commission) the duty of administering the act and establishing rules and regulations for licensure.

Each license will expire three years after its issuance. The license application fee for a contract security company is \$250, and the renewal fee is \$200. For an armed or unarmed security guard, the license application fee or license renewal fee is \$100.

A licensed may be canceled, suspended, or revoked for failure to comply with the act or the rules and regulations promulgated by the commission or for good cause shown. A license for an armed security guard will be automatically revoked under certain circumstances. The bill outlines the administrative process for revocation of a license.

The bill also prohibits a security guard or contract security company from using a uniform, shield, or vehicle that would lead a reasonable person to believe the security guard is a law enforcement officer.

Finally, the bill creates the Security Services Advisory Council which will serve in an advisory capacity to the executive director of the commission.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Ray Aguilar