

Testimony of the North Dakota Private Investigative and Security Board (NDPISB)
Senate Bill No. 2051
Senate Industry and Business Committee
January 8th, 2025

Chairman Barta and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 2051. My name is John Shorey, Executive Director of the North Dakota Private Investigative and Security Board, otherwise known as the NDPISB. My public testimony today is advocating for passage of Senate Bill 2051 as proposed by the Board, and to answer any questions the Committee has on the bill.

COMMENTS ON BILL DRAFT

Senate Bill 2051 does two things 1) changes fee categories charged by the Board, and 2), changes the private security training certificate from one-time fee to an initial fee with a renewal and late fees. All of these changes are under section 43-30-16 of the North Dakota Century Code.

1) The fee categories changes are broken down below:

<u>Current</u>		<u>Proposed</u>
Examination Applicant Fee*	\$100	\$200
PI & Security Provider License*	\$150	\$300
Late Fee PI & Security Provider License#	\$50	\$100
Agency Application Fee*	\$100	\$200
Agency License*	\$300	\$600
Late Fee Agency #	\$100	\$200
Security Trainer (one-time fee) *	\$25	\$60 (initial & renewal)
Late Fee-Security Trainer (new) #		\$20
Armed Certification*	\$30	\$60
Late Fee-Armed Certification#	\$10	\$20
Duplicate License*	\$20	\$40
PI and Security Registration*	\$30	\$60
Late Fee-PI and Security Registration#	\$10	\$20
Armed First Responder Course Initial*	\$400	\$800
Armed First Responder Course Renewal *	\$300	\$600

* Denotes the language “may not exceed” is included

Denotes the language “not to exceed” is included

2) The changes to the private security training certificate include changing the fee from a one-time fee of \$25.00 to an initial fee of \$60 with a renewal fee of \$60 and a late fee of \$20. Starting in the year 2019, the Board required security trainers and weapons instructors to complete a renewal application with no fee attached to that renewal. Prior to this the Board contacted trainers and instructors asking if they were still active each renewal season and if they were, would keep the file active, and if not, would inactive the file. The Board found that this was not a very effective method of handling trainer and instructor

renewals nor did it capture pertinent information as far as if the trainer or instructor had any criminal convictions or pending criminal actions since they initially applied to the Board. These two reasons were behind the rationale for the Board requiring trainers and instructors to submit a renewal application. The Board believes since they are processing these renewal applications currently, with no fees assessed to cover Board staff time and expenses, that it would be appropriate to make the proposed changes.

As the Committee is likely aware, the Board does not receive annual appropriations to fund its operations. All funding is derived from the licensing and certification fees the Board assesses. This amendment reflects the increased costs of administrating the licensing and certification of private investigative and private security providers. Senate Bill 2051 would help address those costs and support continued Board administrative functions.

Historically the Board has had two employees, the Executive Director and an administrative assistant. For the last four years the Board has been operating with one employee mainly due to budget constraints. This has led to a backlog in certain Board operations, mainly the processing of renewal applications, due in-part to a lack of staffing. The Board would like to use the increased revenue to hire a part-time administrative assistant to assist in clearing the backlog, and after that, to assist with day-to-day operations of the Board.

The Board has seen increased legal and operating expenses. This includes out of – ordinary expenses related to the Board’s response to the DAPL situation and administrating the Armed First Responder Training Program. The Board’s total expenses for the last several years have been more than its total revenue.

Lastly, the Board would like to explore the possibility of moving its application process from paper based to electronic. This is something the industry has asked for also. With the lack of funds to do so, the Board has not done any research in this area. With the increased revenue, it would allow the Board to explore this as a possibility, and implement it if feasible.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present this testimony. We, the North Dakota Private Investigative and Security Board, urge you to issue a do pass recommendation on Senate Bill 2051. I would stand for any questions you may have.

John Shorey,
Executive Director, North Dakota Private Investigative and Security Board.