

Testimony of Nathan Anderson, Red River Security Operations Manager.

Senate Bill No. 2051

Senate Industry and Business Committee

March 5th, 2025

Chairman Barta and members of the Committee, thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. My name is Nathan Anderson, Operations Manager for Red River Security based in Grand Forks, ND. My licensing currently includes, Commissioned Security Officer Armed and Security Trainer. It has come to my attention that the North Dakota Private Investigative and Security Board (NDPISB) wishes to increase their fees by more than double. I wish to protest this sharp and burdensome increase in costs. I would ask that the Committee consider action to protect myself and the agency I work for from any retaliatory actions, as the testimony I am submitting will not always paint Mr. John Shorey and the NDPISB in a positive light.

In the draft of the bill, I have received, the NDPISB is asking to double current fees as well and add new fees for items that were not previously charged. This places a large burden on small security agencies like Red River security who are already struggling to make profits. Such an increase would be unfriendly to small businesses and may cause some small agencies to close. In my opinion the justifications presented by NDPISB fall flat.

The NDPISB includes in their justification for new fees for security trainers and instructors the following: "The Board found that this was not a very effective method of handling trainer and instructor 2 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." This is easily mitigated by requiring that security trainers and instructors are either actively licensed security officers or have an ND Post license. This eliminates the need to run a new background on renewals for security trainers and instructors as the pertinent questions are addressed in renewing of security officer's licenses or POST certification. I am the Security trainer for my agency and I am also a Commissioned Security Officer. I would guess that most Security Trainers are also active officers who do training as a collateral duty. Can the NDPISB quantify how many Security Trainers are not also licensed Security officers?

The NDPISB has also claimed that they do not have the manpower to clear the backlogs of renewal applications. It is true that they are grossly behind on issuing renewal licenses. However, it is not, in my opinion, strictly a manpower issue. The last physical license I received was in May of 2021 (for renewals submitted in September of 2020). I should have received that card the previous September. Red River Security and other agencies have made numerous complaints to NDPISB about this issue. Every time Mr. Shorey said he would be caught up in a few months. I have gotten so used to Mr. Shorey saying he would be caught up soon that I just don't believe him anymore. We pay our renewal fees every year and Mr. Shorey fails to issue renewal licenses. If a client were to ask to see my license and notice that it expired in 2021, the client would have every right to breach the contract and we would have a claim to file for monetary loss. The renewal season runs from August to the end of September. Rather than hiring a full-time executive assistant who is only needed for a couple of months, perhaps members of the NDPISB could give some time to help Mr. Shorey keep up with his work.

I do not doubt the legal costs have gone up during Mr. Shorey's tenure as director. I have read the briefs on the law suits the NDPIBS has defended. However, the increase in legal fees was largely unnecessary and it should not be a reason to pass that cost on to Private Investigation and Security agencies in the state.

I agree that the NDPIBS application process should be modernized thus making the process more streamlined and reducing mistakes. However, I do not understand why Mr. Shorey would need such a large increase in funding to make some phone calls and research on google how they would go about implementing the changes. There must be several services online who would be glad to help him with that for reasonable fees. When Red River Security was looking to streamline our time clock, scheduling and reporting we found many affordable options. It shouldn't take more than an afternoons work to come up with a cost range to upgrade NDPIBS applications.

I think it is also worth noting that Mr. Shorey is running his own Private Investigation and Security Company while at the same time serving as Director of the NDPIBS. This puts him in a position of regulating companies that he is in direct competition with. Many people may view that as a conflict of interest.

In summary, the NDPIBS wishes to increase the costs for agencies operating within the state by over 100%. I see nothing in their proposal that quantifies or justifies such a sharp increase in costs to agencies. In fact, Mr. Shorey fails to quantify anything specifically. I see no actual accounting anywhere in the public documents. Thus far Mr. Shorey has only offered general indications of costs, while failing to accept his own responsibility for the situation the NDPIBS finds itself in. I think it would be wise to demand a full audit of the NDPIBS. I also believe that the NDPIBS could reduce their costs by adopting a ethical, judicious and hard working approach that made North Dakota a great place to live and work. What I have witnessed of Mr. Shorys leadership is not that. In all honesty, knowing what I know about Mr. Shorey, I would not hire him as a security officer.

Respectfully: Nathan Anderson

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