

CURRENT CONNECTICUT PRIVATE SECURITY LAWS AND PROPOSED CHANGES

STATISTICAL DATA-INFORMATIONAL FACTS

There are approximately 3.7 million private security officers in the U.S. which is more than three times the number of all law enforcement officers combined nationwide according to federal data.

Each year, more than *86,000 assaults and more than 100 on duty deaths of private security officers* are reported.

The State of Connecticut averages between 2-5 deaths of security officers yearly.

Security officer confrontations, assaults, injuries and deaths continue to increase as do the number of excessive and deadly force complaints against private security which frequently are directly related to poor or no training given to the security officer.

**** Connecticut currently requires only 8 hours of training for proprietary or contract security officers and an additional eight hour hours of firearms training for those who are armed.**

There is currently no requirement for continuing education or re-certification.

Of the 43 states that have mandated training requirement, Connecticut is in the bottom percent based on requirements of training and certification.

Several studies by US and international universities have shown, and ten years of statistical data collection by our organization has confirmed, that the private security industry is under a rapid evolution as police agencies have had budgets and manpower slashed and the common belief among the public at large is that crime is rampant even though for the past five years violent crimes have decreased according to the U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI Uniform Crime Reports.

Property crimes, mainly theft/larceny, burglaries, identity theft and check and credit card related crimes have seen an increase nationally. Such crimes are often responded to and investigated by internal security agents, investigators and security officers and coupled with the steady growth of the physical/uniform area of private security, the industry is expected to grow between 20-27% for the foreseeable future according to a 2012 report by the Department of Labor.

Since the 9-11 tragedy and more noticeably during the past five years, numerous states including Virginia, California, Oklahoma, Texas and Florida and others, have increased security officer training and certification requirements, added yearly recertification and made continuing education mandatory for all levels of the private security.

In addition, a number of states including California and Virginia switched their private security licensing agencies from a law enforcement branch such as the state police, to a designated regulatory agency within the Criminal Justice Services or the Department of Justice giving them a broader range of authority to regulate, inspect company records and employee training records, issue fines and other enforcement power.

This has added a greater level of accountability for both the regulatory agency and the private security firm.

Because of the expanded duties, responsibilities and authority of a security officer, beyond the standard "Observe and Report" that is often used as a way for companies to deflect their own liability, all states with the exception of seven, have current statutory requirements in place for the security industry.

Current laws include:

The security agency or proprietary/in-house department must be licensed and meet specific criteria
All security officers must be licensed/certified and must complete a background and drug test
Security officers shall also pass the required training for unarmed and armed positions
Bodyguard or personal protection, private investigator, bail enforcement or bond agent must also complete required training

There are currently no federal laws that require security officer or law enforcement training but the law enforcement sector does have national "minimal standards" in place which requires a certain curriculum to be taught during a police trainee's academy training. The security industry has no such requirements and varies greatly from state to state.

However the median training requirements nationally are:

Unarmed 16 -24 hrs.

Armed 24-80 hrs.

Many states also require additional training and certification for security personnel who use OC Spray, Tasers shotguns or long guns.

Here are the links for some states that have training requirements in place:

Virginia- <http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/pss/howto/registrations/unarmedSecurityOfficer.cfm>

New York- <http://www.dos.ny.gov/licensing/securityguard/sgtraining.html>

Texas-<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/rsd/psb//>

California- <http://www.bsis.ca.gov>

Proposed legislative changes for the State of Tennessee:

We recommend a minimum of 24 hours of training for unarmed security officers with a yearly recertification.

We recommend a minimum of 40 hours of training for armed security officers with a yearly recertification.

About Us:

Private Officer International is a private security and law enforcement member based association, national training school, media and news source and statistical data clearinghouse since 2004.
POI also offers regional chapters, officer assistance, and award, counseling and mentoring programs.
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