

Hobart, Jamie

From: Glenn.Macintyre@securitasinc.com
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 3:14 PM
To: pstestimony
Subject: Proposed legislation on Security Officers

I recently read a copy of a letter to the Public Safety Committee that has really excited me as well as concerned me as a Security Professional. Mr. Riccio who wrote the letter excited me because he is trying to improve the level of training here in Connecticut for Security Officers. What is in place right now is not sufficient. What he is proposing, though, concerns me and many of my colleagues and he is obviously just trying to generate revenue for his own training academy, not taking into account what is best for the Security industry as a whole here in CT.

To require all security officers to be trained in pepper-spray, batons, etc. is NOT the route. As a matter of fact, I stopped teaching baton myself because my baton instructor trainer, at the time, even said to my instructor class (last time I took it): "very few police departments carry them anymore". It is an antiquated tool. I truly believe pepper-spray is a great self-defense option, however, most of my client locations do not allow us carrying this. For those that do want/require us to carry anything, we provide that training on an as needed basis (minimum 4 hours for *each* level of force). However, too many people believe once they get that defense "tool" they can now use it at will, despite their training.

The facts in Mr. Riccio's letter also need a little more scrutiny. He states that there are only two states that lag behind Connecticut in Security Officer Training. Connecticut and Vermont are the only states in New England that have any state requirements for Security Officer Training. Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire do not have training requirements (although NH is the only other state in New England that requires a "license" for Security Officers, there is no training required to receive that license). According to my calculations, that is four states and I am only talking about New England.

- In Pennsylvania, there are no set rules as to the type of training or experience required. It is ultimately up to the judge.
- I cannot find any training requirements for Maryland
- South Carolina is a 4 hour minimum

I believe that is 7 states behind Connecticut.

To be fair:

- Minnesota has 12 hour minimum
- North Carolina has 40 hours
- Florida has 40 hours
- New York has 24 hours pre-hire, 8 hours every year

That is all I had time to research.

One more observation: instead of relying on one or two people, what Connecticut needs to do is change the law from a single State Police employee to a Board (like Vermont and some other states) that includes a State Police Officer as well as other stakeholders, so there are no "agendas" that benefit one entity over the industry.

I try to be impartial, in order to benefit the industry that I have made a career. I even volunteer to teach this program at a high school, and I accept NO payment for it (not even a T-shirt). I would be more than happy to discuss further, in person with any/all legislative committees, individual legislators, etc.

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