

# Public Safety and Security Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-968  
AN ACT REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR RENEWAL OF A  
**Title:** SECURITY OFFICER LICENSE.  
**Vote Date:** 3/16/2023  
**Vote Action:** JOINT FAVORABLE  
**PH Date:** 2/23/2023  
**File No.:** 243

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Safety and Security Committee

#### **Co-Sponsors:**

Sen. Herron Gaston, 23rd Dist.

Rep. Fred Gee, 126th Dist.

Rep. Robyn A. Porter, 94th Dist.

### REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill was proposed by Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in order to allow for Special Licensing and Firearms Unit (SLFU) to run a state and federal criminal background check for a security guard licensing request. Currently, the statute does not allow for a state or federal background check be done for security guard renewals. This bill would allow the background check on the renewal of security guard licenses and keep security guards that have been arrested from obtaining the renewal.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

#### **James Rovella, Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection**

Commissioner Rovella states DESPP is proposing this legislation. The current statutes do not allow for SLFU ((Special Licensing and Firearms Unit) to run background checks on security guard renewal applicants. This bill would allow for background checks be done on renewals. Recently it was brought to the attention of SLFU by Massachusetts State Police that a person in Massachusetts was having their pistol permit revoked because they were arrested in New Jersey for Unlawful possession of a Firearm/weapon and Resisting Arrest, without the inquiry from MA State Police this person could have obtained their security guard license in CT under current statute. This new legislation would remove this possibility.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

None Expressed

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut**

Ms. Zaccagnino writes on behalf of the ACLU-CT in opposition of this bill. The collateral consequences one faces when they have a criminal record can last a lifetime. Even after they finish the punishment, they continue to encounter barriers to societal participation. These consequences not only impact the person but their children, families and communities. ACLU-CT recommends a balanced approach which would allow these people to be looked at as individually, the evidence of rehabilitation, as well as the amount of time since conviction.

**James Ritchie**: Mr. Ritchie strongly opposes this bill. No other statement in testimony.

**Officer Gary Corigliano**: Officer Corigliano opposes all bills that are in violation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment in the United States Constitution.

**Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Assistant Clerk**

**Date: 3/16/23**