

1 HOUSE BILL 259  
2 **56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

3 INTRODUCED BY  
4 William "Bill" R. Rehm  
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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO LICENSING; AMENDING THE PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS ACT;  
12 REQUIRING REGISTRATION FOR INSTRUCTORS AND PRIVATE PATROL  
13 EMPLOYEES; REQUIRING COURSEWORK TO PROVIDE TRAFFIC CRASH  
14 RECONSTRUCTION SERVICES; SPECIFYING LIMITATIONS ON UNLICENSED  
15 PERSONS; PRESCRIBING LICENSE FEES; PROVIDING FOR BIENNIAL  
16 RENEWAL OF LICENSES; CHANGING THE SUNSET DATES FOR THE PRIVATE  
17 INVESTIGATIONS ADVISORY BOARD; REPEALING A COMPILED TEMPORARY  
18 PROVISION.  
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

21 SECTION 1. Section 61-27B-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993,  
22 Chapter 212, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

23 "61-27B-3. LICENSE OR REGISTRATION REQUIRED.--It is  
24 unlawful for an individual to:

25 A. act as a private investigator, private patrol

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1 operator, security guard, private investigations employee,  
2 private investigations manager or private patrol operations  
3 manager or to make any representation as being a licensee or  
4 registrant unless the individual is licensed by the department  
5 pursuant to the Private Investigations Act;

6 B. render physical protection for remuneration as a  
7 bodyguard unless the individual is licensed as a private  
8 investigator or a private patrol operator;

9 C. continue to act as a private investigator,  
10 private patrol operator, security guard, private investigations  
11 employee, private investigations manager or private patrol  
12 operations manager if the individual's license issued pursuant  
13 to the Private Investigations Act has expired;

14 D. falsely represent that the individual is  
15 employed by a licensee; [ø±]

16 E. practice polygraphy for any remuneration without  
17 a license issued by the department in accordance with the  
18 Private Investigations Act; or

19 F. provide instruction to individuals to qualify  
20 for licensure as security guards or private patrol operators or  
21 any other person who is required to have professional training  
22 to be licensed, certified or registered pursuant to the Private  
23 Investigations Act without a registration in good standing  
24 issued by the department in accordance with the Private  
25 Investigations Act."

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1           SECTION 2. Section 61-27B-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993,  
2 Chapter 212, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

3           "61-27B-4. PERSONS EXEMPTED--LIMITATIONS ON UNLICENSED  
4 ACTIVITIES.--

5           A. As used in this section, "temporary" means a  
6 period of time not to exceed the duration of one private event  
7 or one school or nonprofit organization event, as described in  
8 Paragraphs (2) and (3) of Subsection B of this section.

9           B. The Private Investigations Act does not apply  
10 to:

11                   (1) an individual employed exclusively and  
12 regularly by one employer in connection with the affairs of  
13 that employer, provided that the individual patrols or provides  
14 security only on the premises of the employer as limited by the  
15 employer;

16                   (2) an individual employed exclusively to  
17 provide temporary security at a private event that is not open  
18 to the public;

19                   (3) individuals providing temporary security  
20 at athletic or other youth events and where the events occur  
21 under the auspices of a public or private school or a nonprofit  
22 organization;

23                   (4) an attorney licensed in New Mexico or the  
24 attorney's employee conducting private investigations while  
25 engaged in the practice of law;

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1 (5) an officer or employee of the United  
2 States or this state or a political subdivision of the United  
3 States or this state while that officer or employee is engaged  
4 in the performance of the officer's or employee's official  
5 duties;

6 (6) a person engaged exclusively in the  
7 business of obtaining and furnishing information concerning the  
8 financial rating of persons;

9 (7) a charitable philanthropic society or  
10 association duly incorporated under the laws of this state that  
11 is organized and maintained for the public good and not for  
12 private profit;

13 (8) a licensed collection agency or an  
14 employee of the agency while acting within the scope of  
15 employment while making an investigation incidental to the  
16 business of the agency, including an investigation of the  
17 location of a debtor or the debtor's property;

18 (9) admitted insurers, adjusters, agents and  
19 insurance brokers licensed by the state performing duties in  
20 connection with insurance transactions by them; or

21 (10) an institution subject to the  
22 jurisdiction of the director of the financial institutions  
23 division of the department or the comptroller of currency of  
24 the United States.

25 C. A private investigator licensed in New Mexico

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1 shall not offer or provide traffic crash reconstruction in New  
2 Mexico unless the private investigator has successfully  
3 completed a traffic crash reconstruction course referenced by  
4 the department of transportation. A person, other than a  
5 certified and commissioned law enforcement officer, who wishes  
6 to offer or provide traffic crash reconstruction in New Mexico  
7 must be licensed as a private investigator and meet the  
8 requirements of this subsection.

9 D. Skip tracing in New Mexico shall be offered or  
10 provided only by:

11 (1) an employee of a New Mexico state or local  
12 law enforcement agency;

13 (2) a private investigator; or

14 (3) an attorney licensed to practice in New  
15 Mexico or the attorney's employee."

16 SECTION 3. Section 61-27B-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993,  
17 Chapter 212, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

18 "61-27B-5. ADMINISTRATION OF ACT--RULES.--

19 A. The department shall enforce and administer the  
20 provisions of the Private Investigations Act in accordance with  
21 the Uniform Licensing Act.

22 B. The department shall keep a record of each  
23 individual licensee.

24 C. The department shall promulgate rules in  
25 accordance with the State Rules Act and enforce those rules

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1 necessary to carry out the provisions of the Private  
2 Investigations Act, including establishing professional ethical  
3 standards.

4 D. The department shall promulgate rules regarding:

5 (1) licensing private investigators, private  
6 investigations managers, private investigation companies,  
7 private patrol operators, private patrol operations managers,  
8 private patrol employees and polygraph examiners;

9 (2) registering private investigations  
10 employees, security guards, ~~and~~ private patrol employees and  
11 instructors;

12 (3) establishing minimum training and  
13 educational standards for licensure and registration;

14 (4) establishing continuing education  
15 requirements;

16 (5) establishing and operating a branch  
17 office;

18 (6) creating a policy on reciprocity with  
19 other licensing jurisdictions of the United States;

20 (7) providing permits for security guards for  
21 special events; and

22 (8) conducting background investigations."

23 SECTION 4. Section 61-27B-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993,  
24 Chapter 212, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

25 "61-27B-7. REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR

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1 LICENSURE.--

2 A. The department shall issue a license as a  
3 private investigator to an individual who files a completed  
4 application accompanied by the required fees and who submits  
5 satisfactory evidence that the applicant has met all  
6 requirements set forth by the department in rule, including  
7 that the applicant:

8 (1) is at least twenty-one years of age;

9 [~~(2)~~] ~~is of good moral character;~~

10 ~~(3)~~] (2) has successfully passed an  
11 examination as required by department rule;

12 [~~(4)~~] (3) has not been convicted of a felony  
13 offense, an offense involving dishonesty or an offense  
14 involving an intentional violent act or the illegal use or  
15 possession of a deadly weapon and has not been found to have  
16 violated professional ethical standards as defined by the  
17 department; and

18 [~~(5)~~] (4) has at least three years' experience  
19 that has been acquired within the five years preceding the  
20 filing of the application with the department of actual work  
21 performed in:

22 (a) investigation for the purpose of  
23 obtaining information with reference to a crime or wrongs done  
24 or threatened against the United States;

25 (b) investigation of persons;

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1 (c) the location, disposition or  
2 recovery of lost or stolen property;

3 (d) the cause or responsibility for  
4 fire, losses, motor vehicle or other accidents or damage or  
5 injury to persons or property; or

6 (e) securing evidence to be used before  
7 a court, administrative tribunal, board or investigating  
8 committee or for a law enforcement officer.

9 B. Years of qualifying experience and the precise  
10 nature of that experience shall be substantiated by written  
11 certification from employers and shall be subject to  
12 independent verification by the department as it deems  
13 warranted. The burden of proving necessary experience is on  
14 the applicant."

15 SECTION 5. A new section of the Private Investigations  
16 Act is enacted to read:

17 "[NEW MATERIAL] REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AS  
18 INSTRUCTOR--CURRICULUM APPROVAL--FIREARMS TRAINING.--

19 A. Every individual seeking to register as an  
20 instructor shall complete an application on a form provided by  
21 the department and submit the required application fee. The  
22 application shall include:

23 (1) fingerprints and other information for a  
24 state and federal criminal history background check submitted  
25 in accordance with rules of the department;

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1 (2) proof of instructor certification issued  
2 by a law enforcement academy, federal government entity, the  
3 military or the federal law enforcement training centers or one  
4 year of verifiable training experience or the equivalent to be  
5 reviewed and recommended by the private investigations advisory  
6 board and approved by the department;

7 (3) proof of further qualifying training  
8 specific to advanced levels of training the instructor is  
9 applying for as provided by rule of the department; and

10 (4) any other information sought by the  
11 department.

12 B. The department shall register each successful  
13 instructor applicant.

14 C. A level two or level three registered instructor  
15 may teach individuals who are seeking licensure as a level one  
16 security guard. A registered instructor shall not teach above  
17 the instructor's registration level. The department may  
18 suspend, revoke or refuse to renew the registration of an  
19 instructor who teaches above the instructor's registration  
20 level.

21 D. If a level three instructor offers firearms  
22 certification, the instructor shall provide proof of the  
23 instructor's current firearms certification to the department.

24 E. The department shall approve the curriculum for  
25 level one, two and three security guard training. The private

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1 investigations advisory board shall review curricula submitted  
2 for approval and make recommendations to the department for  
3 final action.

4 F. The registration of an instructor registered  
5 with the department on the effective date of this section shall  
6 remain in effect until renewal unless the department suspends,  
7 revokes or refuses to renew the registration."

8 SECTION 6. Section 61-27B-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2007,  
9 Chapter 115, Section 8) is amended to read:

10 "61-27B-8. PRIVATE INVESTIGATION COMPANY--REQUIREMENTS  
11 FOR LICENSURE.--

12 A. The department shall issue a license for a  
13 private investigation company to a person that files a  
14 completed application accompanied by the required fees and that  
15 submits satisfactory evidence that the applicant:

16 [~~(1) if an individual, is of good moral~~  
17 ~~character; or if a legal business entity, the owners, officers~~  
18 ~~or directors of the entity are of good moral character;~~

19 ~~(2)] (1) if an individual, has not been~~

20 convicted of a felony offense, an offense involving dishonesty,  
21 an offense involving an intentional violent act or the illegal  
22 use or possession of a deadly weapon and has not been found to  
23 have violated professional ethical standards; or if a legal  
24 business entity, the owners, officers or directors of the  
25 entity, either singly or collectively, have not been convicted

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1 of a felony offense or an offense involving intentional violent  
2 acts or the illegal use or possession of deadly weapons and  
3 have not been found to have violated professional ethical  
4 standards;

5 ~~[(3) maintains a surety bond in the amount of~~  
6 ~~ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); however, private investigators~~  
7 ~~who provide personal protection or bodyguard services shall~~  
8 ~~maintain general liability insurance as specified in the~~  
9 ~~Private Investigations Act in lieu of the surety bond required~~  
10 ~~by the provisions of this paragraph;~~

11 ~~(4)]~~ (2) has an owner or a licensed private  
12 investigations manager who is licensed as a private  
13 investigator and who manages the daily operations of the  
14 private investigation company;

15 ~~[(5)]~~ (3) maintains a physical location in New  
16 Mexico where records are maintained and made available for  
17 department inspection;

18 ~~[(6)]~~ (4) maintains a New Mexico registered  
19 agent if the applicant is a private investigation company  
20 located outside of New Mexico; and

21 ~~[(7)]~~ (5) meets all other requirements set  
22 forth in the rules of the department.

23 B. ~~[The owner or the chief executive officer of]~~ A  
24 private investigation company ~~[that provides personal~~  
25 ~~protection or bodyguard services]~~ shall maintain a general

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1 liability certificate of insurance in an amount required by the  
2 department. The department shall suspend the license issued  
3 pursuant to this section of a private investigation company  
4 that fails to maintain an effective general liability  
5 certificate of insurance as required. The department shall not  
6 reinstate the license of a private investigation company that  
7 has had its license suspended pursuant to this subsection until  
8 an application is submitted to the department with the  
9 necessary fees and a copy of the private investigation  
10 company's general liability certificate of insurance in effect.  
11 The department may deny an application for reinstatement of a  
12 private investigation company's license, notwithstanding the  
13 applicant's compliance with this subsection for:

14 (1) a reason that would justify a denial to  
15 issue a new private investigation company license or that would  
16 be cause for a suspension or revocation of a private  
17 investigation company's license; or

18 (2) the performance by the applicant of an act  
19 requiring a license issued pursuant to the Private  
20 Investigations Act while the applicant's license is under  
21 suspension for failure to maintain the applicant's general  
22 liability certificate of insurance in effect."

23 SECTION 7. Section 61-27B-14 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2007,  
24 Chapter 115, Section 14) is amended to read:

25 "61-27B-14. PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS OR PRIVATE PATROL

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1 EMPLOYEE--REGISTRATION--REQUIREMENTS.--

2 A. [~~On or after July 1, 2007~~] Every individual who  
3 seeks employment or is currently employed as a private  
4 investigations employee or who provides services on a contract  
5 basis to a private investigation company shall file an  
6 application for registration as a private investigations  
7 employee with the department.

8 B. Every individual who seeks employment as or is  
9 currently employed as a private patrol employee or who provides  
10 services on a contract basis to a private patrol company shall  
11 file an application for registration as a private patrol  
12 employee with the department.

13 [~~B.~~] C. The department shall issue a registration  
14 for a private investigations or private patrol employee to an  
15 individual who files a completed application accompanied by the  
16 required fees and who submits satisfactory evidence that the  
17 applicant:

- 18 (1) is at least twenty-one years of age;
- 19 [~~(2) is of good moral character;~~
- 20 ~~(3)] (2) possesses a high school diploma or~~
- 21 its equivalent;
- 22 [~~(4)] (3) has successfully completed an~~
- 23 examination as required by department rule;
- 24 [~~(5)] (4) has not been convicted of a felony~~
- 25 involving an intentional violent act or the illegal use or

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1 possession of a deadly weapon and has not been found to have  
2 violated professional ethical standards;

3 [~~(6)~~] (5) shall be employed by, or shall  
4 contract with a private investigation company to provide  
5 investigation services for, a private investigation company,  
6 under the direct control and supervision of a private  
7 investigator or shall be employed by, or shall contract with a  
8 private patrol company to provide private patrol services for,  
9 a private patrol company under the direct control and  
10 supervision of a private patrol operations manager or a level  
11 three security guard, as applicable; and

12 [~~(7)~~] (6) meets other requirements set forth  
13 in rules of the department.

14 [~~(6)~~] D. If the contract or employment of a private  
15 investigations employee with a private investigation company or  
16 a private patrol employee with a private patrol company  
17 terminates for any reason, the registration of the individual  
18 as a private investigations employee or private patrol employee  
19 immediately terminates. The private investigations employee or  
20 private patrol employee shall turn over the employee's  
21 registration to the private investigation company or private  
22 patrol company upon ceasing employment with that company.

23 [~~(D)~~] E. A private investigation company or private  
24 patrol company shall notify the department within thirty days  
25 from the date of termination of employment of a private

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1 investigations employee or private patrol employee, as  
2 applicable, of the employment termination and return the  
3 employee's registration to the department."

4 SECTION 8. Section 61-27B-18 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2007,  
5 Chapter 115, Section 18) is amended to read:

6 "61-27B-18. SECURITY GUARD--LEVEL THREE--REGISTRATION--  
7 REQUIREMENTS.--

8 A. [~~On or after July 1, 2007~~] Every individual  
9 seeking employment or employed as a level three security guard  
10 shall file an application for registration with the department.

11 B. The department shall issue a registration for a  
12 level three security guard to an individual who files a  
13 completed application accompanied by the required fees and who  
14 submits satisfactory evidence that the applicant:

- 15 (1) is at least twenty-one years of age;
- 16 (2) meets the requirements to be granted  
17 registration as a level two security guard and maintains in  
18 good standing a current registration as a level two security  
19 guard;
- 20 (3) has successfully completed an examination  
21 as required by department rule;
- 22 (4) possesses a high school diploma or its  
23 equivalent;
- 24 (5) in addition to the training required to be  
25 registered as a level two security guard and before the

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1 applicant shall be placed for the first time at a guard post as  
2 a level three security guard, has completed a curriculum  
3 approved by the department consisting of the minimum training  
4 for firearm certification prescribed by the department;  
5 provided that the additional training required by the  
6 department is provided by:

7 (a) a public educational institution in  
8 New Mexico or an educational institution licensed by the higher  
9 education department pursuant to the Post-Secondary Educational  
10 Institution Act;

11 (b) an in-house training program  
12 provided by a licensed private patrol company using a  
13 curriculum approved by the department;

14 (c) the New Mexico law enforcement  
15 academy; or

16 (d) any other department-approved  
17 educational institution using a curriculum approved by the  
18 department and complying with department standards set forth in  
19 department rules;

20 (6) is firearm certified by the New Mexico law  
21 enforcement academy or the national rifle association;

22 (7) is employed by a private patrol company  
23 under the direct supervision of a licensed private patrol  
24 operator, another level three security guard or a private  
25 patrol operations manager; and

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1                    [~~(8)~~] beginning on July 1, 2009, has  
2                    successfully passed a psychological evaluation as prescribed by  
3                    the department to determine suitability for carrying firearms;  
4                    and

5                    ~~(9)~~] (8) meets other requirements set forth in  
6                    department rules.

7                    C. A private patrol company shall notify the  
8                    department within thirty days from the date of termination of a  
9                    level two security guard of the employment termination."

10                    SECTION 9. Section 61-27B-20 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2007,  
11                    Chapter 115, Section 20, as amended) is amended to read:

12                    "61-27B-20. FEES.--~~[A.]~~ Except as provided in Section  
13                    61-1-34 NMSA 1978, the department shall establish a schedule of  
14                    reasonable fees as follows:

15                    [~~(1)~~] A. private investigator fees:

16                    [~~(a)~~] (1) application fee, not to exceed one  
17                    hundred dollars (\$100);

18                    [~~(b)~~] (2) initial private investigator's  
19                    license fee or license renewal fee, not to exceed three hundred  
20                    dollars (\$300); and

21                    [~~(c)~~] (3) initial private investigations  
22                    manager license fee or license renewal fee, not to exceed two  
23                    hundred dollars (\$200);

24                    [~~(2)~~] B. private patrol operator fees:

25                    [~~(a)~~] (1) application fee, not to exceed one

1 hundred dollars (\$100);

2 [~~(b)~~] (2) initial private patrol operator's  
3 license fee or license renewal fee, not to exceed three hundred  
4 dollars (\$300); and

5 [~~(e)~~] (3) initial private patrol operations  
6 manager license fee or license renewal fee, not to exceed two  
7 hundred dollars (\$200);

8 C. private investigations employee or private  
9 patrol employee, initial registration fee or registration  
10 renewal fee, not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100);

11 D. private investigation company or private patrol  
12 company, initial license fee or renewal license fee, not to  
13 exceed three hundred dollars (\$300);

14 [~~(3)~~] E. security guard fees:

15 [~~(a)~~] (1) level one or level two security  
16 guard registration fee or registration renewal fee, not to  
17 exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00); and

18 [~~(b)~~] (2) level three security guard  
19 registration fee or registration renewal fee, not to exceed  
20 seventy-five dollars (\$75.00);

21 [~~(4)~~] F. polygraph examiners:

22 [~~(a)~~] (1) application fee, not to exceed one  
23 hundred dollars (\$100);

24 [~~(b)~~] (2) initial polygraph examiner's license  
25 fee or license renewal fee, not to exceed four hundred dollars

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1 (\$400); and

2 [(e)] (3) examination fee, not to exceed one  
3 hundred dollars (\$100); ~~and~~

4 G. instructors:

5 (1) application fee, not to exceed one hundred  
6 dollars (\$100); and

7 (2) initial registration or registration  
8 renewal, not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100); and

9 [(5)] H. other fees applying to private  
10 investigators, private patrol operators, ~~and~~ polygraph  
11 examiners and instructors:

12 [(a)] (1) change in license fee, not to exceed  
13 two hundred dollars (\$200);

14 [(b)] (2) late fee on license or registration  
15 renewals, not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100);

16 [(e)] (3) special event permit fee, not to  
17 exceed one hundred dollars (\$100); and

18 [(d)] (4) special event license fee for a  
19 private patrol company, not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00).

20 [~~B. Fees charged by the department shall not be~~  
21 ~~increased prior to fiscal year 2009.]"~~

22 SECTION 10. Section 61-27B-21 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2007,  
23 Chapter 115, Section 21) is amended to read:

24 "61-27B-21. LICENSE AND REGISTRATION RENEWAL.--

25 A. A license or registration granted pursuant to

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1 the provisions of the Private Investigations Act shall be  
2 renewed by the department [~~annually~~] biennially unless the term  
3 of the license is set by the department in rule to be a longer  
4 period.

5 B. A licensee or registrant with an expired license  
6 or registration shall not perform an activity for which a  
7 license or registration is required pursuant to the Private  
8 Investigations Act until the license or registration has been  
9 renewed or reinstated.

10 C. The department may require proof of continuing  
11 education credits or other proof of competency as a requirement  
12 of renewal or reinstatement of a license or registration.

13 D. A license or registration issued to a person  
14 pursuant to the Private Investigations Act shall not be  
15 transferred or assigned."

16 SECTION 11. Section 61-27B-24 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993,  
17 Chapter 212, Section 11, as amended) is amended to read:

18 "61-27B-24. [~~BOND REQUIRED~~] LIABILITY INSURANCE.--

19 [~~A. A private investigation company shall file with~~  
20 ~~the department a surety bond in the amount of ten thousand~~  
21 ~~dollars (\$10,000) executed by a surety company authorized to do~~  
22 ~~business in this state.~~

23 [~~B. The owner or the chief executive officer of] A~~  
24 ~~private investigation company [that provides personal~~  
25 ~~protection or bodyguard services or the owner or the chief~~

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1 ~~executive office of]~~ or a private patrol company shall maintain  
2 a general liability certificate of insurance in an amount  
3 required by the department.

4 ~~[G. A surety bond in the amount of ten thousand~~  
5 ~~dollars (\$10,000) or a general liability certificate of~~  
6 ~~insurance executed and filed with the department pursuant to~~  
7 ~~the Private Investigations Act shall remain in force until the~~  
8 ~~surety company issuing the bond or the certificate has~~  
9 ~~terminated future indemnity by notice to the department.]"~~

10 SECTION 12. Section 61-27B-31 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2007,  
11 Chapter 115, Section 31) is amended to read:

12 "61-27B-31. FIREARMS.--A private investigator, a private  
13 patrol operator, a private investigations employee, a level  
14 three security guard or a private patrol [~~operations~~] employee  
15 may carry a firearm upon successful completion of [~~the~~]  
16 mandatory firearm training required by rules of the department  
17 and successfully passing a psychological evaluation prescribed  
18 by the department to determine suitability for carrying a  
19 firearm."

20 SECTION 13. Section 61-27B-36 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2007,  
21 Chapter 115, Section 35, as amended) is amended to read:

22 "61-27B-36. TERMINATION OF AGENCY LIFE--DELAYED REPEAL.--  
23 The private investigations advisory board is terminated on July  
24 1, [~~2023~~] 2029 pursuant to the Sunset Act. The board shall  
25 continue to operate according to the provisions of the Private

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1 Investigations Act until July 1, [2024] 2030. Effective July  
2 1, [2024] 2030, Chapter 61, Article 27B NMSA 1978 is repealed."

3 SECTION 14. REPEAL.--Section 61-27B-35 NMSA 1978 (being  
4 Laws 2007, Chapter 115, Section 36) is repealed.

5 SECTION 15. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
6 provisions of this act is July 1, 2023.