



Ohio Association of Security & Investigation Services

Dedicated to Serving Ohio Security and Investigative Professionals

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President of OASIS - Ohio Association of Security & Investigation Services
Oral Testimony - before Ohio House Federalism Committee
House Bill 178
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Good Morning Chairman Becker, Vice Chair Stoltzfus, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the Ohio House Federalism Committee. I am a proudly retired officer of the US Army and combat veteran, a former Columbus Police Officer - Detective, an International Security Contractor with service in the Middle East, and a Combat Skills Instructor at the Nigerian Command and General Staff College. I'm currently the agency owner of Ohio Special Services Group – a private investigations and security services agency here in the Columbus, Ohio area. I was also appointed by Governor Kasich to the Ohio Private Investigations and Security Services Commission from June 2014 to February 2018. I am here to testify as a “Proponent” for House Bill 178.

Our profession views this Bill as a positive first step. This Bill once signed into law would greatly benefit our profession. Our association has been in existence in Ohio since 1947 and represents over 25,000 registrants (i.e. employees) and over 700 provider companies. Ohio's Private Investigators and Security Officers who operate in an armed capacity have to attend and qualify on an Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) approved twenty (20) hour firearms course, they pass an Ohio BCI&I and FBI fingerprint background check (much like Ohio's Law Enforcement Officers do), and are maintained in [Ohio's Rapback system](#). We have to requalify annually much like Ohio LEO's do. Evidence of our successfully meeting all of those above requirements are placed on the rear of our Private Investigator or Security Officers State of Ohio issued registrant ID card in the form of a Firearms Bearer notation that we are mandated to carry on our person while working under [Ohio Revised Code 4749.10](#). As you can see, the requirements to obtain and maintain a Firearms Bearer notation greatly exceed that of obtaining an Ohio Concealed Handgun License (CHL). A loophole currently exists in Ohio's Concealed Handgun License law and in recent years some of Ohio's Private Investigators and Private Security Officers have been arrested by some within Ohio's Law Enforcement community around the state and charged with a career killing felony of either Carrying a Concealed Weapon or Improper Handling of a Firearm in a Motor Vehicle while they are working a contracted armed assignment for simply not having an Ohio Concealed Handgun License. Many of whom make less than \$15.00 per hour. In regards to our work capacity having that additional Ohio CHL is completely useless and a nonsensical redundant bureaucratic paperwork nightmare. We'd have to make application to our local Sheriff's Office, pay the required fee, get an additional Ohio BCI&I and FBI fingerprint



background check (with no Rapback), just to get an Ohio CHL. Prior to Ohio becoming a concealed carry state our profession has always been an armed one utilizing the Firearms Bearer notation on the rear of our State of Ohio issued registrant ID card alone. Ohio abolishing the requirement to have an Ohio CHL for our profession is a step in the right direction to fix a law that has been a detriment to our profession. It has truly become the “law of unintended consequences”.

As I stated earlier this is a good first step. The full measure should be adding in protections for our profession such as, add registrants armed under [ORC 4749.10](#) to the exemptions section found in [Ohio Revised Code 109.801](#) the Ohio Attorney General section just like it is for any peace officer, parole or probation officer, house of representatives sergeant at arms (or assistant house of representative sergeant at arms), senate sergeant at arms (or assistant senate sergeant at arms), any tactical medical profession (TEMS was a recent addition), and etc.. This is the full measure of what needs to occur. As you are aware Ohio’s Licensed Private Investigators have been granted the authority in accordance with (IAW) [Ohio Revised Code 2927.27](#) to conduct the often times dangerous and deadly fugitive apprehension operations. Occasionally we have been refused at local jail facilities when at the booking desk due to some unknown medical issue and the prisoner has to be seen and cleared at the local hospital ER first. Once at the hospital, due to those “No Firearms” allowed signs, we have to secure our firearms in our vehicle, placing them at risk for theft. The only true place to secure my sidearm is upon my person. Another aspect of why this is important to our profession is while conducting Executive Protection operations. When we are escorting our client, who may be the head of a multi-million dollar company, their family members, or a famous celebrity around town and they wish to make an unplanned stop at a local shopping mall, or while we’re escorting a diamond merchant delivering a multi-million dollar shipment of diamonds to a jewelry store inside a shopping mall. These “No Firearms” allowed signs become problematic.

Here is another issue why it is important that we be added into [Ohio Revised Code 109.801](#). As part of my Firearms Bearer notation I’m qualified to also utilize a shotgun in the course of my duties. When we are executing these fugitive apprehension operations, we normally stage at a location close to the target dwelling. From there we drive a short distance to the location, exit our vehicles and approach the dwelling on foot. If I drive with the loaded shotgun in my vehicle from the staging location to the target location, I’ve just committed a felony of Improper Handling of a Firearm in a Motor Vehicle. The law only allows for me to carry a loaded “handgun” in the passenger compartment of my vehicle if I have an Ohio CHL, not my shotgun. Legally I’m supposed to leave my shotgun in the trunk of my SUV, drive up to the target location, exit my vehicle and open up my trunk, uncase my shotgun, then load it and approach the door of the dwelling. That is what I refer to as the Bart Simpson conundrum. You know the one I’m referring to. The “darned if you do, darned if you don’t” conundrum. If I execute it “tactically” correct,



I'm committing a felony. If I execute it "legally" correct I may end up on the receiving end of a hail of gunfire. Simply because we're not currently included into [Ohio Revised Code 109.801](#).

OASIS supports removing the "duty to notify" in this Bill. We closely work with Law Enforcement on a daily basis and can affirm that it is redundant because it is already well known that when we're apprehending wanted fugitives, we just like Law Enforcement, are armed while doing so. OASIS also supports changing Ohio's CHL to an Ohio Concealed Weapons License (CWL) allowing Ohioans the ability to defend themselves with a pocket knife if they desire.

As you can see, Ohio's Licensed Private Investigators and Licensed Security Officers contribute to a "Safer Ohio" on a daily basis in many different ways. On behalf of OASIS and Ohio's 700 Licensed Provider Companies over 25,000 registered Private Investigators and/or Security Officers, we urge you to please support our profession by voting for this Bill and adding in those additional protections we desperately need. We urge you to ask other members of the Ohio House of Representative to vote for this Bill on the Floor. Thank you for your time in listening to me today. I stand ready to answer any questions that you may have regarding my testimony.