

- SUBJECT:** Licensing security camera system installers
- COMMITTEE:** Homeland Security and Public Safety — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — S. Miller, Fletcher, Beck, Driver, Flynn, Mallory Caraway, Peña, Walle
1 nay — Burnam
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 21 — 31-0 on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** *(On House companion bill, HB 1867:)*
For — Rodney Hooker, Texas Burglar and Fire Alarm Association, NTAA, STAA, HGCAA; Troy Maynard, Texas Locksmith Association; *(Registered, but did not testify: Shane Williams, Texas Locksmith Association; On committee substitute: (Registered, but did not testify: Gustavo Garza, Texas Burglar and Fire Alarm Association)*

Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Occupations Code, ch. 1702 establishes the Private Security Act governing the licensing and regulation of occupations related to private security, such as alarm companies, private investigators, security guards, locksmiths, guard dog companies, and body guards.

The Texas Private Security Board registers and licenses security company professionals, and has seven members appointed by the governor: four public members; one private investigator; one member licensed as an alarms system company; and an owner or operator of a guard company.
- DIGEST:** CSSB 1400 would amend Occupations Code, sec. 1702.221(b) to include a camera systems installer as an occupation requiring license and registration.

The bill would define a camera systems installer as someone who installed, maintained, or repaired a closed-circuit television or still camera system or advertised such services.

CSSB 1400 would define “closed-circuit television or still camera system” as a device that recorded or transmitted images, including through an intranet or Internet device, was monitored by security personnel, and was not used exclusively to:

- view or monitor traffic conditions on public roads;
- detect motor vehicle violations on public roads;
- conduct telephone or video conferencing;
- monitor a manufacturing process;
- conduct a medical purpose;
- record or archive depositions or testimony;
- conduct an ongoing investigation by a private investigation company; or
- monitor criminal activity for a law enforcement agency.

The bill would provide exemptions to the licensing requirements, including for a person who installed an electronic access control device, lock, or closed-circuit television or still camera system on the person’s own property for personal protection.

The bill also would amend Occupations Code, sec. 1702.288 to allow an alarms system company to not provide certain notifications to its customers if its contact information had not changed.

CSSB 1400 also would expand the Texas Private Security Board to nine members, including a fifth public member and a licensed locksmith. The governor would be required to appoint the additional members by February 1, 2013.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2011.

NOTES:

The House companion bill, HB 1867 by Fletcher, was considered in a public hearing on April 4 by the Law Enforcement Issues Subcommittee of the House Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee and was reported favorably, as substituted, by the full committee on April 18.