

HB 652 -- Private Investigators

Sponsor: St. Onge

This bill establishes the Board of Private Investigator Examiners within the Division of Professional Registration. No person can provide private investigative services without first being licensed.

The makeup and duties of the board; exemptions from licensure; requirements for application and licensure; proof of liability insurance; training and written examinations; fees; background checks on applicants; denial, suspension, or revocation of licenses; types and terms of licenses; and reciprocity are specified.

Licensees are allowed to disclose to the board, any law enforcement agency, a prosecutor, or the licensee's own representative any information regarding a criminal offense or to instruct their clients to do so if they are victims of a criminal act. Licensees are prohibited from making false reports, presenting themselves as a state or federal officer, or manufacturing false evidence. Certain identifying evidence must be filed with the board by licensees.

Private investigators or investigator agencies are required to maintain complete records of business transactions. Records may be confidentially examined by the authority of the board under certain circumstances. Licensed private investigators are allowed to carry concealed weapons.