Minnesota Board of Private Detective & Protective Agent Services

2026

Agency Overview

Who We Are

The Board of Private Detective and Protective Agent Services serves the people of Minnesota by regulating the private security and investigative industry in the state. The Board is comprised of five individuals appointed by the Department of Public Safety Commissioner.

Board Members

- Scott Mueller (Deputy Superintendent) - Representative from the BCA
  - Also on Licensing Committee for review of new license applications and renewals
- Paul Gherardi - Representative from the Private Investigative Industry
- Mike Roberts - Representative from the Private Security Industry
- Representatives from the Public -
  - Richard Hodsdon (Board Chair)
    - Also on Licensing Committee for review of new license applications and renewals
    - Also on Complaint Committee for review and proposition of disciplinary action involving license holders
  - Melinda Elledge
    - Also on Complaint Committee for review and proposition of disciplinary action involving license holders

Agency Staff

Greg Cook, Executive Director

Matthias Frampton, Administrative Assistant

Abby Smith, Investigative Analyst

Jake Schafer, Investigative Analyst

Will Smith, Investigator

What We Do

Stakeholders

- Citizens of Minnesota
- Private Security License Holders
- Private Investigator License Holders
- Employees of License Holders
- Government Agencies
- Law Enforcement
- Local Businesses
- Training Providers

Regulation

The Board works toward ensuring all license holders and their employees are operating safely and with consumer protection in mind and remaining in compliance with MN Statutes 326.32 - 326.339 and MN Administrative Rules 7506.0100 - 7506.2900.

The basic agency functions are;

- License Application Processing
- License Renewal Processing
- Statute Violation & Complaint Investigations
- Unlicensed Activity Investigations
- Investigative Audits
- Penalty Administration
- Training Class and Instructor Certification
- Data Request Processing

By The Numbers

Currently the Board has certified approx. 1,595 training courses, from 203 approved training providers with 406 approved instructors

405 total License Holders - 2% increase since start of Fiscal Year

Approx. 16,000 security & investigative professionals in MN

212
Protective Agent Licenses

202
Private Detective Licenses

Industry Services

Protective Agents

- School Safety and Security
- Terrorism Deterrence & Detection
- Emergency Management
- Hospital Security
- Uniformed Guard & Patrol Services
- Nuclear Facility Security
- Retail Loss Prevention
- Armored Car Services
- Crowd Control
- Prisoner Transportation
- Personal Bodyguard Services
- Airport Security
- Workplace Violence
- Government Facility Security
- Critical Infrastructure Security
- Construction Site Security
- Event Security
- K9 Detection Services
- Security for Places of Worship

Private Detectives

- Identity Theft
- Insurance Fraud
- Employment Background Checks
- Technical Surveillance Countermeasures
- Civil Litigation Support
- Corporate Investigations
- Missing Persons Investigations
- Surveillance
- Computer Forensics
- Arson Investigations
- Process Service
- Asset Recovery
- Due Diligence Research
- Cyber Crime

This category of statute violation involves individuals that are providing investigative or security services without a license. This means they may not be qualified, have not been through a background process, may not have insurance or a bond and may not be paying taxes.

Unlicensed Activity

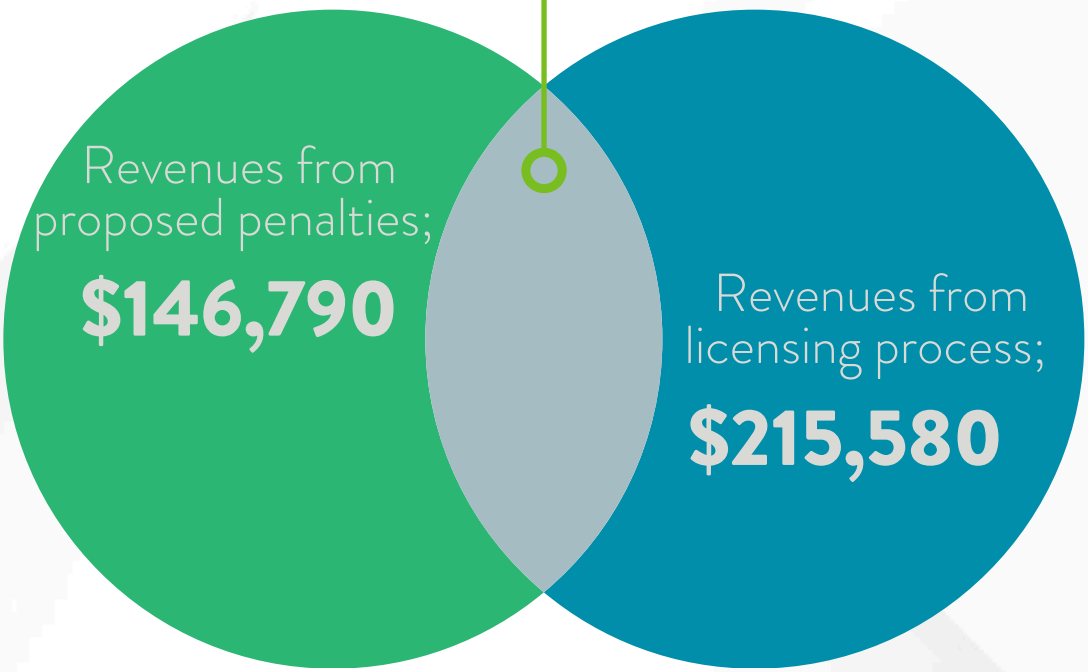
Recent Examples

- A uniformed individual working for an unlicensed entity severely assaulted a patron of a local business, breaking the victim's jaw in the process.
- A uniformed armed individual working for an unlicensed entity fired "warning shots" during an altercation, which ricocheted off the ground and struck two bystanders, critically injuring one of them.
- Guards working for an unlicensed company providing prisoner transports were found to have had several instances of sexual assault against inmates under their care/custody.
- A uniform individual working without a license physically assaulted a patron of a local gas station, placing the victim in a headlock and kneeing them while on the ground. The guard was found to have multiple felony convictions on his record.
- A member of the public observed an individual operating without a license. When questioned about it, the subject threatened the citizen, even going to their place of business to leave a threatening message.
- An unlicensed private investigator was arrested and charged after threatening to arrest employees at a local gas station. The individual had handcuffs, a badge, and a baton on their person during the commission of the crimes.

Complaints & Fiscal Impact

$362,370

Total revenue collected from beginning of 2025 to current



- Revenues generated from fines go to the State General Fund and do not stay within the operational budget of this Board, this ensures that there is no monetary incentive for the Board or staff to act or make decisions in a certain manner
- Similarly, revenues garnered from applications and renewals do not stay with the Board, they too go to the State General Fund
- If there are any contested issues, funds to pay for Administrative Law Judge time for Office of Administrative Hearings come out of the annual budget of this Board

62

complaints received alleging unlicensed activity, or statutory violations by License Holders (since start of 2025)

7

Stipulation and Consent Orders (SACO) with total proposed penalties of;

$146,790

Accomplishments

Record Management System (RMS)

All agency documentation has been processed via hardcopy. The new RMS will allow us to process applications, renewals, officer changes, training certification, investigations, and data requests in a more efficient and organized manner. This system aims to make our licensing processes more user friendly for our stakeholders. Staff will be able to produce ad hoc statistical data for reports, expedite the processing of data requests, and manage evidence used in audits and investigations. Eliminating excess paper use will increase the environmental sustainability of the agency.

Digitization of Files

In preparation for a seamless transition to digital files that will be stored in the RMS, all physical files maintained by the agency are being converted to digital files that will allow for more efficient organization and management by staff.

Staffing

Our due diligence is to ensure Minnesotans are provided with professional services from protective agents and private investigators. Continuous monitoring of this has caused a need for increased staffing. The agency is currently bringing staffing levels up to 5 FTE's. These positions include Administrative Staff, Investigative Analysts, Investigators, and Auditors.

Website

Working with DPS after the launch of their new website our agency has been able to provide more user friendly and readily available information, forms and reports to our stakeholders. The agency is in the process of providing educational modules for license holders and trainers to further educate them on compliance procedures.

Training

It is essential that this agency functions with staff trained in a variety of disciplines to best serve the diversity of our stakeholders. Staff has received training in regulatory management, open source investigations, cyber security, records management, software applications, cultural diversity and leadership.

Auditing

With additional staffing provided by funding from Legislature our agency has been able to conduct more frequent and extensive audits of license holders in an attempt to ensure compliance with state statutes. Through these audits there were increased violations found which resulted in approximately $586,000 garnered fines.

Investigations

With a new investigator position our agency has been able to gather facts related to violations of license holders as well as unlicensed activity. This position provides the Board the necessary information to properly determine the level of disciplinary actions involved with violations. The investigator provides law enforcement with information related to unlicensed activity.

BOARD OF PRIVATE DETECTIVE & PROTECTIVE AGENT SERVICES

Summary

The initiatives that this agency have accomplished over the past year and the future goals that we are working towards show the commitment to increasing efficiency, outreach, compliance, and overall effectiveness of the MN Board of Private Detective and Protective Agent Services

Questions?

Contact;
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Visit our website!