



## Texas Burglar and Fire Alarm Association

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A Member of the National Electronic Security Alliance

### Position on SB616 & HB1530

TBFAA opposes several sections of the bill to continue the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas

- **TBFAA opposes downgrading the Texas Private Security Board to the Texas Private Security Advisory Committee**
  - Reducing their role to advisory capacity destroys balance provided by the input of subject matter experts and grants full control to a law enforcement perspective.
- **TBFAA opposes transferring the authority to adopt rules and general policies to guide the department on private security from the Texas Private Security Board to the Public Safety Commission.**
  - The Sunset Commission has recognized the existing focus on law enforcement by DPS.
  - “Based on the published biographies of the five-member Public Safety Commission, none of them have experience in the business of investigations or security.” Removing the authority of the subject matter experts at the Private Security Board would only reinforce the law enforcement focus in DPS.
  - The PSB has provided appropriate oversight over the regulatory process since it was established in 1969, there is no reason to discontinue this effective tradition.
  - Transferring this responsibility will divert the attention of the Commission from needed areas.
- **TBFAA opposes eliminating the requirement that a manager or branch office manager obtain an individual license.**
  - Requiring that each company has a manager who has passed an exam on the law and rules and has appropriate experience helps to protect Texans and is an efficient method in compliance of state law.
  - Without the manager, consumers would have no assurance that their providers know the law or rules, have a physical address, are not employing unregistered individuals, or are not engaging in a multitude of activities and omissions that are highly detrimental to the public welfare.
  - Eliminating these key allies with DPS to encourage compliance, would increase the demand on DPS and reduce compliance with the law, putting Texans at risk.
- **TBFAA opposes eliminating the requirement that a Security Salesperson obtain an individual license.**
  - Salespeople who visit a home or business, gain access to the design of systems, information on vulnerabilities, and incidental exposure to private information of citizens.
  - Performing a criminal background check of salespeople provide Texans with a layer of protection against criminals gaining access to private information and vulnerabilities.
  - Proof of license supports proof of financial responsibility, liability, and civil culpability.
  - The BBB ranks Burglar Alarms 25<sup>th</sup> nationwide in terms of number of complaints illustrating that consumers need the help that licensing provides.