

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 22, 2009

SENATE BILL

No. 202

**Introduced by Senators Harman, Aanestad, Cox, Ducheny, and
Wyland**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Adams, Gaines, Garrick, Hall, and
Silva)

February 23, 2009

An act to amend Section 7570 of, and to add Section 7560.5 to, the
Business and Professions Code, relating to private investigators.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 202, as amended, Harman. Private investigators: continuing
education.

Existing law, the Private Investigator Act, provides for the licensure
and regulation of private investigators by the Bureau of Security and
Investigative Services within the Department of Consumer Affairs.
Existing law requires an applicant for licensure to submit a specified
application, meet certain requirements, and pay a fee not to exceed
\$175. Existing law provides that a private investigator license expires
2 years following the date of issuance or on the assigned renewal date.
A licensee is required to apply for a renewal and pay a renewal fee not
to exceed \$125 in order to renew his or her license.

On and after January 1, 2013, this bill would require licensees, as a
condition of license renewal, to complete 12 hours of continuing
education in specified subjects, and as otherwise specified for a licensee
renewing a license between January 1, 2012, and January 1, 2013. The
bill would require a licensee for renewal to submit to the department a
signed statement attesting that he or she has completed the specified
continuing education requirements, for which a false statement may be

subject to a specified civil penalty as well as suspension of a license. The bill would specify that these continuing education requirements do not apply to any individual licensed as a private investigator who is 70 years of age or older and has been in good standing for at least 25 consecutive years ~~or~~, is an inactive licensed private investigator, as defined, *or is a peace officer, as defined*. The bill would authorize an inactive licensee to become active by, among other things, submitting to the department a signed statement attesting that he or she has completed the specified continuing education requirements, for which a false statement may be subject to a specified civil penalty as well as suspension of a license. The bill would specify standards to be met by continuing education providers and would require the department to convene a review panel to consult with the department in the consideration and approval of course providers and course content. The bill would also increase the fee for an original license to up to \$195 and the renewal fee to up to \$145.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 7560.5 is added to the Business and
2 Professions Code, to read:
3 7560.5. (a) (1) On or after January 1, 2013, any individual
4 licensed as a private investigator shall complete 12 hours of
5 continuing education, as approved by the department, in order to
6 renew his or her license, and of these, two hours shall be on the
7 subject of privacy rights, two hours shall be on the subject of
8 professional ethics, two hours shall be on the subject of recent
9 legal developments relating to private investigators, and six hours
10 shall be on any subject relating to private investigators.
11 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), any individual licensed as
12 a private investigator whose license is subject to renewal between
13 January 1, 2012, and January 1, 2013, shall complete six hours of
14 continuing education, as approved by the department, in order to
15 renew his or her license, and of these, two hours shall be on the
16 subject of privacy rights, two hours shall be on the subject of
17 professional ethics, and two hours shall be on the subject of recent
18 legal developments relating to private investigators.

1 (b) A licensee shall submit to the department a signed statement
2 attesting that he or she has completed the continuing education
3 requirement in subdivision (a). This statement shall be submitted
4 with the license renewal application.

5 (c) A licensee shall maintain, for a period of five years, copies
6 of certificates of continuing education completion demonstrating
7 compliance with the continuing education requirement in
8 subdivision (a).

9 (d) The department may suspend for a period not to exceed 60
10 days, the license of any licensee who is found not to be in
11 compliance with subdivision (a), (b), or (c), at which time the
12 department shall revoke the license unless the required continuing
13 education has been completed and documented.

14 (e) The department shall have the right to audit the records of
15 any licensee to verify completion of the continuing education
16 requirement.

17 (f) This section shall not apply to any individual licensed as a
18 private investigator who meets—~~either~~ *any* of the following
19 requirements:

20 (1) Is 70 years of age or older and has been a licensee in good
21 standing for a minimum of 25 consecutive years.

22 (2) Is an inactive licensed private investigator.

23 (3) *Is a peace officer as defined in Section 830 of the Penal*
24 *Code.*

25 (A) For the purposes of this subdivision, “inactive licensed
26 private investigator” shall mean an individual who meets all of the
27 following requirements:

28 (i) Is licensed under this chapter.

29 (ii) Has informed the department that he or she will not be
30 performing activities that require licensure.

31 (iii) Does not perform activities requiring licensure.

32 (B) A licensee who is inactive under this paragraph may become
33 ~~active at the beginning of the regular, two-year license registration~~
34 ~~period~~ *active* upon submission to the department of a signed
35 statement attesting that he or she has completed the continuing
36 education requirement in subdivision (a), and upon payment to the
37 department of the renewal fee, as specified in Section 7570.

38 (g) (1) Continuing education providers (CEPs) shall obtain
39 approval from the department prior to offering a course for
40 continuing education to licensed private investigators. ~~For purposes~~

1 of this section, CEPs that have been approved by, and are in good
2 standing with, the State Bar to provide mandatory continuing legal
3 education may offer courses for continuing education to licensed
4 private investigators without approval from the department.

5 (1)

6 (A) CEPs shall submit to the department a course description,
7 certificate, and curriculum vitae of course instructors for review
8 and approval.

9 (2)

10 (B) CEPs shall maintain a record of course sign-in forms,
11 sign-out forms, student enrollment, copies of certificates of
12 completion, and course outlines for a period of five years.

13 (3)

14 (C) CEPs shall agree to audits performed by the department.

15 (4)

16 (D) The director may revoke or deny the right of a CEP to offer
17 continuing education for failure to comply with any of the
18 requirements of this subdivision.

19 (2) *Notwithstanding (1):*

20 (A) *CEPs that have been approved by, and are in good standing*
21 *with, the State Bar to provide mandatory continuing legal*
22 *education may offer courses for continuing education to licensed*
23 *private investigators without approval from the department.*

24 (B) *CEPs that have been approved by, and are in good standing*
25 *with, the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training*
26 *may offer courses that have been approved by the commission to*
27 *licensed private investigators for continuing education without*
28 *approval from the department.*

29 (h) (1) The department shall establish a procedure for approving
30 CEPs to offer continuing education to licensed private
31 investigators.

32 (2) The department shall convene a review panel to consult with
33 the department in the consideration and approval of CEPs and
34 course content. The review panel shall include representatives of
35 CEPs and professional associations of licensed private
36 investigators. Accredited academic institutions and recognized
37 national and state associations of licensed private investigators
38 may be approved by the department as CEPs.

1 (3) The department shall develop criteria for course providers
2 and course content that, to the extent applicable and feasible, is
3 consistent with the provisions of Section 166.

4 (i) If, in a signed statement required by subdivision (b) or (f),
5 a declarant willfully states as true any material fact he or she knows
6 to be false, that person shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to
7 ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). In addition, the department may
8 suspend the license of a licensee for a period not to exceed one
9 year, at which time the department shall revoke the license unless
10 the licensee submits a signed statement attesting that he or she has
11 completed the continuing education requirement in subdivision
12 (a). Any public prosecutor may bring a civil action to impose the
13 civil penalty. A licensee shall be advised of the penalty authorized
14 under this subdivision in the documents submitted for signature.

15 SEC. 2. Section 7570 of the Business and Professions Code is
16 amended to read:

17 7570. The fees prescribed by this chapter are as follows:

18 (a) The application and examination fee for an original license
19 may not exceed fifty dollars (\$50).

20 (b) The application fee for an original branch office certificate
21 may not exceed thirty dollars (\$30).

22 (c) The fee for an original license for a private investigator may
23 not exceed one hundred ninety-five dollars (\$195).

24 (d) The renewal fee is as follows:

25 (1) For a license as a private investigator, the fee may not exceed
26 one hundred forty-five dollars (\$145).

27 (2) For a combination license as a private investigator and
28 private patrol operator under Chapter 11.5 (commencing with
29 Section 7580), AC or DC prefix, the fee may not exceed six
30 hundred dollars (\$600).

31 (3) For a branch office certificate for a private investigator, the
32 fee may not exceed thirty dollars (\$30), and for a combination
33 private investigator and private patrol operator under Chapter 11.5
34 (commencing with Section 7580), the fee may not exceed forty
35 dollars (\$40).

36 (e) The delinquency fee is 50 percent of the renewal fee in effect
37 on the date of expiration.

38 (f) A reinstatement fee is equal to the amount of the renewal
39 fee plus the regular delinquency fee.

1 (g) The fee for reexamination of an applicant or his or her
2 manager may not exceed fifteen dollars (\$15).

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