

**RICHARD HODSDON**  
*ATTORNEY AT LAW*

2435 White Pine Way

STILLWATER, MN. 55082

EMAIL: [rick\\_hodsdon@yahoo.com](mailto:rick_hodsdon@yahoo.com)

TELEPHONE/ TEXT  
651-491-5900

March 18, 2026

House Committee on Public Safety

RE: H.F. 4151

Representatives:

I am writing this letter to fully endorse, support and urge your approval of the above bill that concerns licensing of private security and private detectives. The bill is scheduled for hearing on March 25, 2026, and if it were not for a long-standing commitment that has me teaching law enforcement in Philadelphia I would be present to testify and respond to questions.

I write as the Chair of the Minnesota Board of Private Detectives and Protective Agent Services. I am one of the public members, the longest serving Board member and this is a bill our Board unanimously supports. The purpose of the bill is to fill in gaps in current law that are preventing comprehensive vetting of applicants for private security and private detective licenses that prevent our agency from getting access to FBI criminal history records. We believe this language, which does not expand or change who is ineligible to be licensed because of their criminal record, fixes the current issue.

The current gap exists because essentially there are presently three types of licenses and they are individual, corporate and partnerships. To conduct a national FBI based criminal record check the FBI requires state law have explicit detailed legislation before it will allow access for such a check. The FBI has found for individual licenses current Minnesota law allows access to FBI records, but they have also ruled that current state law is not sufficient to do FBI record checks for partnerships or corporate licenses in which the corporate principles would be subject to the check.

The language proposed would end the partnership license. We support repeal of this classification of licenses as one that is no longer seen in the industry as experience has shown that any entity seeking a license that is not an individual license applies for a corporate license. The bill also makes it explicit that for a corporate license, which is the vast majority of licenses we deal with, the controlling corporate officers and qualified representatives would each have to pass the background check. In this way the proposal would insure that disqualified people are not the secret "power behind the throne" of a

licensed security company and would also insure that a person who has been convicted of a disqualifying offense in another state or under federal law is not improperly issued a license by the State of Minnesota to work in this safety-sensitive industry.

At a time where there is an increasing need for competent and qualified private security it has never been more important that those we trust with our lives, families and property to be fully and properly vetted before we give them that trust. We urge passage of H.F. 4151. If any member desires further information please contact me or our agency Executive Director, Greg Cook.

Thank you,

s/Richard Hodsdon  
Board Chair

CC: Executive Director Greg Cook