

March 17, 2025

Dear Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Security Policy,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to Minnesota Statutes 326.3361, which significantly increase the mandatory training requirements for security officers in our state. As the owner of Fairline Security, I fully support maintaining high training standards for security professionals. However, these new mandates impose an excessive and unnecessary burden on security companies, particularly small- and medium-sized businesses like mine, without demonstrating a clear benefit to public safety.

The proposed increase from 12 to 40 hours of preassignment training within the first 21 days of employment is particularly problematic. While Fairline Security already provides training that exceeds current standards, this change would triple our training and onboarding costs and extend the hiring process from approximately 14 days to 30 days due to the required state background checks and additional training. In an industry already struggling with staffing shortages, this delay will deter many qualified candidates from entering the field. Many prospective hires choose other professions simply because they cannot afford to wait nearly a month before starting work.

Additionally, the annual certified continuing training requirement increase—from six to 24 hours for unarmed security professionals and an additional six hours for armed officers—places an undue financial and logistical strain on security firms. The cost of compliance will drive up operational expenses, which will inevitably be passed on to clients, many of whom are already operating on tight budgets.

I urge the committee to reconsider these changes and work collaboratively with industry professionals to develop training requirements that enhance security services without creating unnecessary obstacles for security companies and employees. I would welcome the opportunity to provide in-person testimony on this matter on March 18, 2025, and share further insights on how these changes would impact the industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to ensuring that public safety policies are both effective and practical for the security industry.

Sincerely,

Austin Seman
Owner, Fairline Security

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