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Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) Agency Background Document

Agency name	Department of Criminal Justice Services
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	6 VAC 20-174
VAC Chapter title(s)	Regulations Relating to Private Security Services Registered Personnel
Action title	Amendments to Entry-Level and In-Service Training to Include Human Trafficking
Date this document prepared	05/20/2026

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Order 19 (2022) (EO 19), any instructions or procedures issued by the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) or the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) pursuant to EO 19, the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1 VAC 7-10), and the *Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code*.

Brief Summary

Provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 paragraphs) of the subject matter, intent, and goals of this regulatory change (i.e., new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or repeal of an existing regulation).

This regulatory change incorporates entry-level and in-service human trafficking training for four distinctive private security professionals, as directed by the passage of HB203 in the 2024 Session of the General Assembly. The addition of this legislatively mandated training will affect (and make amendments to) four sections of 6 VAC 20-174 for alarm respondents, armed security officers, couriers, security canine handlers, and unarmed security officers, as directed by the bill. This action also increases the mandatory training for these professions by one hour to account for this addition

Acronyms and Definitions

Define all acronyms or technical definitions used in this form.

DCJS: Department of Criminal Justice Services
CJSB: Criminal Justice Services Board, DCJS' policy board
Department: Department of Criminal Justice Services
PSSAB: Private Security Services' Advisory Board

Mandate and Impetus

Identify the mandate for this regulatory change and any other impetus that specifically prompted its initiation, (e.g., new or modified mandate, petition for rulemaking, periodic review, or board decision). For purposes of executive branch review, "mandate" has the same meaning as defined in the ORM procedures, "a directive from the General Assembly, the federal government, or a court that requires that a regulation be promulgated, amended, or repealed in whole or part."

The passage of HB203 in the 2024 Session of the General Assembly mandated that human trafficking training be incorporated into entry-level and in-service training for specific private security personnel, as detailed in § 9.1-102(66) in the *Code of Virginia*, effective July 1, 2024. Pursuant to § 9.1-102(66), the Department shall develop an online course to train unarmed security officers, armed security officers, couriers, security canine handlers, and alarm respondents to recognize and report instances of suspected human trafficking to meet the compulsory minimum, entry-level, and in-service training standards as required by § 9.1-141 of the Code of Virginia.

Although mandated by the passage of HB203 (2024), DCJS sought and obtained formal Board approval to move forward with a regulatory action to promulgate amendments to four sections of the existing 6 VAC 20-174 on October 10, 2024. Additionally, on the same date, the CJSB also unanimously approved the emergency regulatory text as amended in 6 VAC 20-174-210, 6 VAC 20-174-220, 6 VAC 20-174-320, and 6 VAC 20-174-330.

Legal Basis

Identify (1) the promulgating agency, and (2) the state and/or federal legal authority for the regulatory change, including the most relevant citations to the Code of Virginia and Acts of Assembly chapter number(s), if applicable. Your citation must include a specific provision, if any, authorizing the promulgating agency to regulate this specific subject or program, as well as a reference to the agency's overall regulatory authority.

The promulgating agency for this emergency regulation is the Department of Criminal Justice Services, which has the regulatory authority under § 9.1-102 to do so. Pursuant to § 9.1-102 of the Code of Virginia, the Department, under the direction of the Board, which shall be the policy-making body for carrying out the duties and powers hereunder, shall have the power and duty to adopt regulations, pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ [2.2-4000](#) et seq.), for the administration of this chapter. Additionally, DCJS has the authority under § 9.1-102(66) of the Code of Virginia, to develop an online course to train unarmed security officers, armed security officers, couriers, security canine handlers, and alarm respondents to recognize and report instances of suspected human trafficking to meet the compulsory minimum, entry-level, and in-service training standards as required by § [9.1-141](#) of the Code of Virginia.

Purpose

Describe the specific reasons why the agency has determined that this regulation is essential to protect the health, safety, or welfare of citizens. In addition, explain any potential issues that may need to be addressed as the regulation is developed.

DCJS has determined that this regulation is essential to protect the safety and welfare of citizens in the Commonwealth, and it has already been codified, effective July 1, 2024. The purpose of the amendments made to 6 VAC 20-174 is to incorporate and mandate human trafficking training for specific private security personnel who may encounter such criminal acts during the course of their daily job duties and responsibilities. Ultimately, the inclusion of this entry-level and in-service training will assist in efforts to maintain the protection of and safety for countless citizens across Virginia.

Substance

Briefly identify and explain the new substantive provisions that are being considered, the substantive changes to existing sections that are being considered, or both.

The substantive changes to the four sections of 6 VAC 20-174 include the addition of one hour of training in the recognition and reporting of human trafficking. This legislatively mandated training was passed during the 2024 Session of the General Assembly in HB203, and its intent is to increase training and awareness of human trafficking for alarm respondents, armed security officers, couriers, security canine handlers, and unarmed security officers in the Commonwealth.

Alternatives to Regulation

Describe any viable alternatives to the regulatory change that were considered, and the rationale used by the agency to select the least burdensome or intrusive alternative that meets the essential purpose of the regulatory change. Also, include discussion of less intrusive or less costly alternatives for small businesses, as defined in § 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia, of achieving the purpose of the regulatory change.

There are no viable alternatives to the regulatory changes that were considered, as the inclusion of this training was legislatively mandated by the passage of HB203 in the 2024 Session of the General Assembly, and was codified in § 9.1-102(66) in the *Code of Virginia*, as of July 1, 2024. The changes are not burdensome or intrusive to small businesses, as the PSSAB, made up of members of the private security community, were welcoming of the changes detailed herein, and like the CJSB, voted unanimously to approve the amendments to the regulatory text.

Periodic Review and Small Business Impact Review Announcement

If you wish to use this regulatory action to conduct, and this NOIRA to announce, a periodic review (pursuant to § 2.2-4017 of the Code of Virginia and the ORM procedures), and a small business impact review (§ 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia) of this regulation, keep the following text. Modify it as necessary for your agency. Otherwise, delete the paragraph below and insert "This NOIRA is not being used to announce a periodic review or a small business impact review."

This NOIRA is not being used to announce a periodic review or a small business impact review.

Public Participation

Indicate how the public should contact the agency to submit comments on this regulation, and whether a public hearing will be held, by completing the text below. In addition, as required by § 2.2-4007.02 of the Code of Virginia, describe any other means that will be used to identify and notify interested parties and seek their input, such as regulatory advisory panels or general notices.

The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is providing an opportunity for comments on this regulatory proposal, including but not limited to (i) the costs and benefits of the regulatory proposal, (ii) any alternative approaches, and (iii) the potential impacts of the regulation.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments for the public comment file may do so through the Public Comment Forums feature of the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall web site at: <https://townhall.virginia.gov>. Comments may also be submitted by mail, email or fax to Kristi Shalton, 1100 Bank St, Richmond, VA 23219, kristi.shalton@dcjs.virginia.gov. In order to be considered, comments must be received by 11:59 pm on the last day of the public comment period.

A public hearing will not be held following the publication of the proposed stage of this regulatory action.