

Talking points for Hodges on SB 666 – November 18, 2008

- Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. For the record, my name is William Hodges and I am the Deputy Association Manager of the California Association of Licensed Security, Agencies, Guards & Associates (CALSAGA). With support from Senator Abel Maldonado, our organization was the sponsor of Senate Bill 666 and I am honored to be here today.
- Before I get started, I want to thank Chief Johnson for his leadership in establishing the BSIS Advisory Committee on SB 666, as well as the various proprietary entities for their participation on the committee. I know a lot of people have put in significant time in developing the proposed curriculum, and I would be remised if I didn't say thank you.
- As you know, contract security officers are subject to the highest training and background screening standards in the nation. This includes forty hours of initial training and eight hours of annual continuing education, plus a DOJ and FBI background check. Because of these high standards, California is looked upon as the model to which other States are trying to emulate. This is something we should all be proud of.
- CALSAGA has always contended that all security officers in California should be required to complete a set of training and go through a background screening process – whether contract or proprietary. There is a certain level of expectation from the public that a security officer has had some formal training and has been screened.
- In 2005, Senate Bill 194 was passed which required that all proprietary security officers register with BSIS and go through mandatory FBI and DOJ background screening. This was without question, a huge first step.
- In our view, Senate Bill 666 was the next step in achieving accountability to a segment of California's security industry that similar to contract security, was relatively unregulated prior to 9/11. SB 666 is, and was always about putting forth a training curriculum that would further protect consumers, while increasing the professionalism of the industry.
- It is also important to note that CALSAGA recognizes that the majority of proprietary employers who were part of the SB 666 Advisory Committee already have an in-house training program established. They should be commended for that. However, our goal was to set a standard for a large segment of proprietary employers, who by in large, are not training or screening their officers.
- In closing, we recognize that what we have is not perfect by any stretch. There are a host of issues that need to be resolved legislatively, including giving BSIS authority over proprietary employers and requiring them to register with BSIS, as well as some clarification in the Private Security Services Act. With everyone's help, we can do it.
- I would again like to thank everyone involved in this arduous process and appreciate the opportunity to speak here today. Thank you.