



**Department
of State**

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT:
ADMINISTRATION OF THE SECURITY GUARD ACT**

PURSUANT TO SECTION 89-S OF THE GENERAL BUSINESS LAW

**FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNOR, TEMPORARY PRESIDENT
OF THE SENATE AND SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY**

February 1, 2022

**Kathy Hochul
Governor**

**Robert J. Rodriguez
Acting Secretary of State**

INTRODUCTION

In compliance with section 89-s of the General Business Law (the “GBL”), the Department of State (the “Department”) respectfully submits the following report on the implementation, procedures, operation, training, and enforcement of the Security Guard Act.

SECURITY GUARD REGISTRATION

On December 31, 2021, there were 161,818 registered security guards.

In 2021, the Department received 90,880 applications for registration as a security guard, including initial applications and renewal applications. Of these applications, 366 were denied for the reasons set forth in Article 7-A of the General Business Law.

PROCESSING STATISTICS

A. Fingerprint Cards:

In 2021, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (the “DCJS”) reports that it processed 35,409 fingerprint submissions for initial security guard applicants. DCJS also processed a total of 2,424 fingerprint submissions from other employees at security guard companies. Ninety-two percent (92%) of the fingerprint submissions were processed in under 5 minutes, 99% in less than an hour, and over 99.7% in less than one day.

B. Security Guard Applications:

Security Guard applications are typically processed in less than five business days.

C. Security Guard Registry:

In 2018, the Department discontinued the telephone security guard registry. Security guard companies may now perform required due diligence by visiting the Department’s website. Required information is provided to companies accessing the online system instantaneously.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

In 2021, the Department suspended 53 security guard registrations. During the same year, 12 security guard registrations were revoked. The Department imposed \$359,900 in fines against security guard companies.

In October 2021, the Department began an enforcement initiative to audit security guard training. Registered security guards were randomly selected for compliance with annual training requirements. As a result of this audit program, the Department imposed \$7,600 in fines, against individual guards, and 61 registered guards surrendered their registrations.

FEES COLLECTED

In 2021, the Department and DCJS together collected fees as follows:

- DCJS fingerprint transaction fee - \$2,837,475
- DCJS school and instructor fees \$199,500; and
- Department application fees - \$3,574,932.56

APPROPRIATION

The SFY2021-2022 Budget appropriated \$ 51,305,000 from the Business and Licensing Services Account to support a number of the Department's functions, including its security guard licensing function. The security guard registration program is one of 36 licensing disciplines regulated by the Department and supported by this appropriation. The Department does not separately account for spending within individual license disciplines.