

**Department of State**  
**Division of Publications**  
312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., 8th Floor  
Nashville, TN 37243  
Phone: 615-741-2650  
Email: [publications.information@tnsos.gov](mailto:publications.information@tnsos.gov)

**For Department of State Use Only**

Sequence Number: 12-39-25  
Rule ID(s): 10503  
File Date: 12/26/2025  
Last Effective Day: 6/24/2026

## Emergency Rule Filing Form

*Emergency rules are effective from date of filing, unless otherwise stated in the rule, for a period of up to 180 days.*

<b>Agency/Board/Commission:</b>	Detection Services Licensing Program
<b>Division:</b>	Department of Commerce and Insurance Regulatory Boards Division
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Jesse Gentry
<b>Address:</b>	500 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee
<b>Zip:</b>	37243
<b>Phone:</b>	(615) 741-5898
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Jesse.Gentry@tn.gov">Jesse.Gentry@tn.gov</a>

**Revision Type (check all that apply):**

Amendment  
 New  
 Repeal

**Statement of Necessity:**

The 114<sup>th</sup> General Assembly passed SB1384/ HB0683 which became Public Chapter No. 344 (2025). The Public Chapter created the enhanced armed guard certification for armed security guards, which allows qualified individuals to utilize approved shotguns and/or rifles while providing armed security services.

T.C.A. § 4-5-208(a)(5) permits agencies to adopt emergency rules when required by an enactment of the General Assembly to implement rules within a prescribed period of time that precludes utilization of rulemaking procedures described elsewhere in this chapter for the promulgation of permanent rules. The Public Chapter was signed into law May 2, 2025, and the provisions contained within became effective January 1, 2026. Based on the timing of these dates, these emergency rules are necessary to allow to create the procedures and qualifications for individuals to obtain this certification.

Further, T.C.A. § 4-5-208(a)(1) permits agencies to adopt emergency rules when an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare exists, and the nature of this danger is such that the use of any other form of rulemaking authorized by this chapter would not adequately protect the public. Due to the timing of the Public Chapter, these emergency rules protect the public by ensuring that the necessary procedures to determine which armed guards are qualified and able to utilize rifles and/or shotguns while providing armed security services are effective.

The Agency will permanently move the subject of these emergency rules via a rulemaking hearing to permanent rules prior to the expiration of these emergency rules.

**Rule(s) Revised** (ALL chapters and rules contained in filing must be listed here. If needed, copy and paste additional tables to accommodate multiple chapters. Please make sure that **ALL** new rule and repealed rule numbers are listed in the chart below. Please enter only **ONE** Rule Number/Rule Title per row.)

<b>Chapter Number</b>	<b>Chapter Title</b>
0780-05-02	Private Protective Services
<b>Rule Number</b>	<b>Rule Title</b>
0780-05-02-02	Definitions
0780-05-02-11	Certified Trainers
0780-05-02-15	Authorized Weapons
0780-05-02-22	Enhanced Armed Guards
0780-05-02-23	Fees

**RULES  
OF  
DIVISION OF REGULATORY BOARDS**

**CHAPTER 0780-05-02  
PRIVATE PROTECTIVE SERVICES  
AMENDMENTS**

Rule 0780-05-02 Definitions, paragraph (2) is amended by deleting it in its entirety and substituting it with the following so that, as amended, paragraph (2) shall read:

(2) The following definitions are also applicable in these rules.

- (a) "Baton" means a club, nightstick, or baton that is designed and manufactured for use by a law enforcement officer or security guard/officer.
- (b) "Chemical spray" means a chemical composition housed in a handheld dispenser that is designed and manufactured for the purpose of self-defense.
- (c) "Employed" means to receive compensation, in any form, for the performance of security guard services and/or patrol services.
- (d) "Rifle" means any firearm designed, made or adapted to be fired from the shoulder and to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire a projectile through a rifled bore by a single function of the trigger.
- (e) "Short barrel" means a barrel length of less than sixteen inches (16") for a rifle and eighteen inches (18") for a shotgun, or an overall firearm length of less than twenty-six inches (26").
- (f) "Shotgun" means any firearm designed, made or adapted to be fired from the shoulder and to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed shotgun shell to fire through a smooth-bore barrel either a number of ball shot or a single projectile by a single function of the trigger.
- (g) "Special Event" means any public event that requires security services for a specific and defined period of time.
- (h) "Special Event Permit" means a permit issued to a licensed Tennessee Contract Security Company that allows for the temporary employment of individuals for security guard and patrol services during a special event.
- (i) "Stun gun" means a handheld, electronic control device designed and manufactured for self-defense which emits an electrical spark which may momentarily disable a person.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 62-35-118, 62-35-126, and 62-35-129.

Rule 0780-05-02-.11 Certified Trainers, paragraphs (1) and (2) are amended by deleting them in their entirety and substituting them with the following so that, as amended, paragraphs (1) and (2) shall read:

(1) Qualifications:

- (a) Any individual who seeks to provide training to a security guard/officer to meet the qualifications of the Act, including in the use of any approved firearm(s) and/or less than lethal weapons, must qualify as a certified trainer in accordance with § 62-35-126 and this rule.
- (b) An individual is qualified to provide training to a security guard/officer if the individual has sufficient experience, education, and/or teaching within the relevant subject areas the individual applies to train, as determined by the Commissioner. In addition to the one (1) year supervisory experience requirement, an individual must have at least five (5) years of experience working and/or instructing within the given subject to be qualified to become certified as a security guard/officer trainer. All experience must be based on full-time, compensated working experience specifically related to the security industry, which may include relevant military and/or law enforcement experience.
- (c) A certified trainer does not need to hold a registration card related to the type of training the certified trainer is qualified to instruct, however, the certified trainer must be eligible for the type of registration card and/or classification(s) in order to be certified to instruct security guards/officers on the subject. The Commissioner may require the certified trainer to submit the same documentation required for a security guard/officer in order to establish the certified trainer is qualified with the Program. A certified trainer must notify the Commissioner within thirty (30) days of any incident, arrest, or other event that impacts the trainer's qualifications or ability to instruct security guards/officers.
- (d) In order to be qualified to provide enhanced armed guard training, a certified officer must demonstrate personal experience and qualifications in the use and handling of rifles and shotguns, which must include relevant full-time law enforcement, security, and/or military experience.
- (e) All experience and education submitted for approval by the Commissioner must be specific to the requested certification and verifiable for the Commissioner. Failure for education or experience to be properly verified may result in the denial of a request for a certification.

(2) Any individual who wishes to become a certified trainer shall submit an application to the Commissioner on the prescribed form. The application shall include:

- (a) The full name and business address of the applicant;
- (b) Date and place of birth;
- (c) One (1) set of classifiable electronic fingerprints as required by the provider approved by the Commissioner;
- (d) One (1) head-and-shoulder photograph taken within the last six (6) months;
- (e) Disclosure of any affiliation with a contract security company or proprietary security organization;
- (f) Identification of the training that the applicant desires to administer:
  1. Unarmed security guard/officer training; and/or

2. Armed security guard/officer training.

(g) Identification of any additional classifications of training that the applicant desires to administer:

1. Baton training;
2. Chemical spray training;
3. Stun gun training;
4. De-escalation techniques;
5. Proper and safe restraint techniques;
6. First aid training;
7. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training;
8. Active shooter training; and/or
9. Enhanced armed guard training.

(h) A resume outlining the education and experience of the applicant, including descriptions of all employment or occupations engaged in during the immediate past five (5) years;

(i) Any documentary evidence of qualifications to conduct the training required by the Act, including but not limited to:

1. An instructor's certificate issued by the Tennessee Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission;
2. An instructor's certificate issued by a federal, United States military, state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency;
3. An instructor's certificate issued by the National Rifle Association;
4. For each type of less than lethal weapons training which the applicant desires to provide, a certificate showing that the applicant has completed a course in the instruction of persons in the proper use of the less than lethal weapon and the liabilities associated with its use;
5. For each type of less than lethal weapons training which the applicant desires to provide, a notarized statement by the applicant to the effect that the applicant has, for at least one (1) year prior to November 1, 1996, provided training to security guard/officers or law enforcement officers in the proper use of the less than lethal weapon and the liabilities associated with its use;
6. An active instructor's certificate issued by the American Red Cross or another recognized and qualified cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and/or first aid training organization or association;
7. An instructor's certificate from any certifying agency, association, company, or organization showing the applicant is qualified to instruct individuals on de-escalation and/or safe and proper restraint techniques;
8. An instructor's certificate from any certifying agency, association, company, or

organization showing the applicant is qualified to instruct individuals on active shooter trainings; and/or

9. Any letters of recommendation from any previous employers, government agencies, or other qualified individuals or entities that attest to the applicant's ability to provide trainings pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 62-35-118(a)(2)(B) or 62-35118(e).
- (j) The name and qualifications of any instructor whom the applicant intends to appoint to assist in the implementation of the training program.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 62-35-118, 62-35-126, and 62-35-129.

Rule 0780-05-02-.11 Certified Trainers, paragraph (15) is amended by deleting "(2)(g)" and replacing it with "(2)(g)(1)-(8)" so that, as amended, paragraph (15) shall read:

- (15) Any certified trainer who wants to add any of the classifications listed in (2)(g)(1)-(8) to his or her certification must complete an application to add the classification(s) to his or her certification, submit proof of his or her qualifications to provide training in each classification the trainer is applying to add to his or her certification, and pay a non-refundable fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) dollars.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 62-35-118, 62-35-126, and 62-35-129.

Rule 0780-05-02-.11 Certified Trainers, paragraphs (16) and (17) are added as new paragraphs and shall read:

- (16) Any certified trainer who wants to add the classification listed in (2)(g)(9) to his or her certification must complete an application to add the classification to his or her certification, submit proof of his or her qualifications to provide training in the classification the trainer is applying to add to his or her certification, and pay a non-refundable fee of one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) dollars. A certified trainer who wishes to renew this certification shall pay a non-refundable fee of one-hundred dollars (\$100.00), which shall be due upon expiration and renewal of the certified trainer's certificate. This renewal fee will not be prorated.
- (17) Any certified trainer who wants to add the classification listed in (2)(g) to his or her certification must submit a curriculum, class information, examination, and any additional information requested by the Commissioner, for review prior to being approved to provide this training. The Commissioner may audit any training course prior to approval or at any time after, at the Commissioner's discretion.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 62-35-118, 62-35-126, and 62-35-129.

Rule 0780-05-02-.15 Authorized Weapons, paragraph (1) is amended by deleting it in its entirety and substituting it with the following so that, as amended, paragraph (1) shall read:

- (1) Firearms - The holder of a valid armed security guard/officer registration card may carry a firearm in the performance of duties only if:
  - (a) Armed security guard/officer:
    1. The security guard has qualified pursuant to § 62-35-118(b)(2) in the use of such firearm. The security guard must be qualified by a certified trainer for each firearm used in the security guard's employment; and
    2. The firearm is one of the following standard handguns: .38 special, .32 auto, .357 magnum, .357 SIG, .380 auto, 9mm, 10mm, .40 S&W, .45 ACP or GAP caliber revolver or semiautomatic pistol, or other firearm approved by the Commissioner.

No person shall carry a firearm classified as a pistol caliber carbine, regardless of whether it is classified as a pistol and/or utilizes handgun cartridges, unless the firearm has been approved by the Commissioner for enhanced armed guards and the individual is registered as an enhanced armed guard to use the firearm.

3. No person acting as an armed security guard shall be authorized to carry a short barrel rifle unless the person is authorized to use such firearm as an enhanced armed guard. A short-barreled rifle shall be considered a rifle pursuant to these rules.
4. Pursuant to Chapter 344 of the Public Acts of 2025, effective January 1, 2026, no armed security guard/officers will be able to carry a shotgun while providing security services unless the individual has been certified as an enhanced armed security guard/officer. Any armed security guard/officer who has only qualified with a shotgun must qualify with an approved firearm to continue to work as an armed security guard/officer.

(b) Enhanced armed security guard/officer:

1. An enhanced armed security guard/officer may carry any firearm the armed security guard/officer is qualified to carry as an armed security guard/officer.
2. Only an individual who is actively certified as an enhanced armed security guard/officer may use a rifle or shotgun, including a short barrel rifle or short barrel shotgun, during the performance of the armed security guard/officer's duties as a security guard/officer if it is in compliance with federal law and these rules.
3. In addition to any other firearm the enhanced armed guard is approved to use as an armed security guard/officer, the enhanced armed guard may obtain approval to use a:
  - (i) Standard, pump-action 12-gauge shotgun; and/or
  - (ii) Standard .223 Rem or 5.56 NATO bolt-action or semi-automatic rifle.
4. A standard shotgun has a fixed stock and does not include a tactical shotgun.

(c) No security guard/officer shall carry a firearm on their person while acting in the role of a security guard/officer regardless of whether or not such individual possesses a handgun carry permit issued by the Department of Safety or is otherwise able to lawfully carry a firearm as a private citizen, unless the security guard is properly registered and certified to carry the firearm pursuant to the Act.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 62-35-129 and 62-35-134.

Rule 0780-05-02-.23 Fees, paragraph (3), subparagraph (d) is amended by deleting it in its entirety and substituting it with the following so that, as amended, subparagraph (d) shall read:

(d) Adding Classifications to a Registration Card:

1. To add classifications to a security guard registration card regarding the trainings listed in §§ 62-35-118(a)(2)(B) or 62-35-118(e), a security guard/officer must:
  - (i) Indicate on the security guard/officer's initial or any renewal application that the applicant intends to add these classifications to the armed

security guard/officer's registration card, timely complete the necessary trainings, and provide proof of these trainings to the Commissioner; or

- (ii) Complete an application to add these classifications to the armed security guard/officer's registration card, timely complete the necessary trainings, provide proof of these trainings to the Commissioner, and pay a nonrefundable twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) application fee. Upon approval, the security guard/officer will be issued a new card showing the added classifications. The application fee to add these classifications shall be per application, regardless of whether the application is to add one or more classifications to a single registration card.

2. To add the enhanced armed guard certification to a security guard registration card, a security guard/officer must:

- (i) Complete an application to add this certification to the armed security guard/officer's registration card, provide proof of all required training and qualifications, and pay a nonrefundable two hundred dollars (\$200.00) application fee. Upon approval, the security guard/officer will be issued a separate card showing the enhanced armed guard certification.
- (ii) The enhanced armed guard certification shall be effective for one (1) year from the date of issuance. If the security guard/officer's armed guard registration becomes inactive, suspended, revoked, or expired while the enhanced armed guard certification is active, the enhanced armed guard certification shall automatically become inactive until the armed guard registration becomes active again. Any period of the enhanced armed guard certification becoming inactive shall not extend the expiration date of the certification.
- (iii) In order to renew the enhanced armed guard certification, a security guard/officer must timely submit a renewal application and pay a nonrefundable application fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00). A late fee may be assessed per month consistent with these rules.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 62-35-122, 62-35-123, 62-35-126, and 62-35-129.

**CHAPTER 0780-05-02**  
**PRIVATE PROTECTIVE SERVICES**  
**NEW RULE**

**Table of Contents**

0780-05-02-01	Purpose	0780-05-02-14	Withdrawal of Certification
0780-05-02-02	Definitions	0780-05-02-15	Authorized Weapons
0780-05-02-03	Sworn Peace Officers	0780-05-02-16	Changes of Address
0780-05-02-04	Hospitals	0780-05-02-17	Notification of Termination
0780-05-02-05	Fingerprinting	0780-05-02-18	Investigations and Complaints
0780-05-02-06	Insurance Requirements	0780-05-02-19	Prohibited Representations
0780-05-02-07	Applicant for Licenses	0780-05-02-20	Surrender of License or Registration Card
0780-05-02-08	Applicants for Registration Cards	0780-05-02-21	Copy Fee
0780-05-02-09	Examinations of Applicants for Registration Cards	0780-05-02-22	Enhanced Armed Guards
0780-05-02-10	Certificates of Completion of Training	0780-05-02-23	Fees
0780-05-02-11	Certified Trainers	0780-05-02-24	Completion of Training
0780-05-02-12	Training Records	0780-05-02-25	Special Event Permit
0780-05-02-13	Monitoring of Training Programs		

Rule 0780-05-02-.22 Reserved is amended by replacing it with a new rule, which shall be titled Enhanced Armed Guards. This new rule shall read in its entirety as follows:

0780-05-02-.22 Enhanced Armed Guards.

- (1) Only an armed security guard/officer who holds a valid armed security guard/officer registration card with an enhanced armed guard certification may provide security guard services while using a shotgun and/or rifle. An armed security guard/officer who holds an enhanced armed guard certification may only use a rifle or shotgun that the individual has qualified to carry.
- (2) An individual who applies for an enhanced armed guard certification must complete an approved training that is no less than sixteen (16) hours in length, and shall include training covering the following subjects:
  - (a) Scenario-based training on when a rifle-caliber weapon and/or shotgun may be deployed in an offensive or defensive posture;
  - (b) Training on the secure storage of a rifle-caliber weapon and/or shotgun when the weapon is not deployed, in compliance with § 62-35-144(c)(1)(B);
  - (c) A written exam of at least twenty-five (25) questions that covers appropriate nomenclature and safety procedures. An individual must score at least a seventy-five (75%) percent correct score on this examination; and
  - (d) A course of fire that includes the following items integrated into different drills:
    1. Firing from a mix of standing and supported positions;
    2. Firing from a mix of standing and moving positions;
    3. Scenario-based drills that include moving through different locations; and
    4. Scenario-based drills involving reloading the firearm or changing magazines.
    5. For a rifle-caliber course:
      - (i) Firing at least two hundred (200) total rounds of live ammunition and scoring at least seventy (70%) accuracy across all distances; and
      - (ii) Firing from distances of at least seven (7) yards, fifteen (15) yards, twenty-five (25) yards, and fifty (50) yards.
      - (iii) The course of fire shall use IPSC/USPSA paper silhouettes with A/B/C scoring zones or any other target/silhouettes approved by the Commissioner.
    6. For a shotgun course:
      - (i) Firing at least fifty (50) total rounds of live ammunition, including both buckshot and slugs, and scoring at least seventy (70%) percent accuracy across all distances; and
      - (ii) Firing from distances of at least seven (7) yards, twelve (12) yards, and twenty (20) yards.

(iii) The course of fire shall use IPSC/USPSA paper silhouettes with A/B/C scoring zones or any other target/silhouettes approved by the Commissioner.

7. An approved certified trainer or other individual who has been approved to provide the enhanced armed guard training shall have the discretion to determine how drills will be set during the training; however, the trainer must ensure that the entire course of fire includes the elements listed above.

(e) Nothing shall prohibit an approved certified trainer or other individual who has been approved to provide the enhanced armed guard training from requiring passing scores on the written exam or course of fire that are higher than the percentages listed above. Nothing shall prohibit an approved certified trainer or other individual who has been approved to provide the enhanced armed guard training from failing an individual taking the training or requiring remediation related to any observed or noted safety concerns or violations committed by the individual completing the training.

(3) An individual who is disqualified from a registration card pursuant to § 62-35-117 will be ineligible for an enhanced armed guard certification as long as the disqualification is in effect.

(4) An individual who has resigned or retired in lieu of termination is not considered to have retired or separated in good standing, pursuant to § 62-35-144.

(5) The Commissioner will only accept training for an enhanced armed guard certification that has been completed within one (1) calendar year of the date of the application for the certification.

(6) An individual who has qualified for a firearm under an enhanced armed guard certification must requalify with the firearm in order to renew the certification, pursuant to this rule and § 62-35-122(d), on a course of fire and with a written examination consistent with the requirements of this rule.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 62-35-122, 62-35-123, 62-35-126, and 62-35-129.

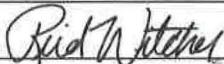
Rules of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance, Division of Regulatory Boards  
Chapter 0780-05-02  
Rules 0780-05-02-.02 Definitions, 0780-05-02-.11 Certified Trainers, 0780-05-02-.15 Authorized Weapons, 0780-05-02-.22 Enhanced Armed Guards, 0780-05-02-.23 Fees

\* If a roll-call vote was necessary, the vote by the Agency on these rules was as follows:

Board Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent	Signature (if required)
N/A					

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of an emergency rule(s), lawfully promulgated and adopted.

Date: 12/15/2025

Signature: 

Name of Officer: Reid Witcher

Assistant Commissioner, Division of Regulatory

Title of Officer: Boards

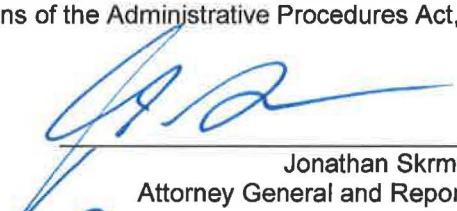
---

Agency/Board/Commission: Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance, Detection Services  
Licensing Program

---

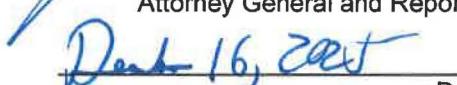
Rule Chapter Number(s): Rules 0780-05-02

All emergency rules provided for herein have been examined by the Attorney General and Reporter of the State of Tennessee and are approved as to legality pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.



Jonathan Skrmetti

Attorney General and Reporter



Date

**Department of State Use Only**

Filed with the Department of State on: 12/26/2025

Effective for: 180 \*days

Effective through: 6/24/2026

**RECEIVED**

Dec 26 2025, 11:36 am

\* Emergency rule(s) may be effective for up to 180 days from the date of filing.

Secretary of State  
Division of Publications



Tre Hargett  
Secretary of State

### **Impact on Local Governments**

Pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 4-5-220 and 4-5-228, "On any rule and regulation proposed to be promulgated, the proposing agency shall state in a simple declarative sentence, without additional comments on the merits or the policy of the rule or regulation, whether the rule or regulation may have a projected financial impact on local governments. The statement shall describe the financial impact in terms of increase in expenditures or decrease in revenues."

The Tennessee Detection Services Licensing Program foresees no impact on any local governments.

**Additional Information Required by Joint Government Operations Committee**

All agencies, upon filing a rule, must also submit the following pursuant to T.C.A. § 4-5-226(i)(1).

(A) A brief summary of the rule and a description of all relevant changes in previous regulations effectuated by such rule;

These Emergency Rules create the framework to allow the Program to implement the requirements of Public Chapter No. 344 related to the Enhanced Armed Guard certification for Armed Security Guards/Officers. These rules establish fees, qualifications for applications, criteria for individuals who want to provide training related to Enhanced Armed Guards, and clarifies the differences related to firearms that can be carried by Enhanced Armed Guards and Armed Security Guards/Officers.

(B) A citation to and brief description of any federal law or regulation or any state law or regulation mandating promulgation of such rule or establishing guidelines relevant thereto;

Public Chapter No. 344 (2025) requires the promulgation of rules to carry out its purpose.

The Program is not aware of any federal laws mandating promulgation of these rules.

(C) Identification of persons, organizations, corporations or governmental entities most directly affected by this rule, and whether those persons, organizations, corporations or governmental entities urge adoption or rejection of this rule;

The Program is aware of the previous requests and inquiries of public schools, theme parks, certified trainers, security companies, and security guards who have inquired about the use of rifles by security personnel.

These rules will directly impact current and future security personnel who will be qualified to carry a rifle while providing security services, as well as the companies and trainers who employ and train these individuals.

Clients who contract for security services will be indirectly impacted by these rules as they will be able to contract for individuals who carry rifles while providing security services.

(D) Identification of any opinions of the attorney general and reporter or any judicial ruling that directly relates to the rule or the necessity to promulgate the rule;

The Program is not aware of any opinions of the Attorney General and Reporter or any judicial rulings related to the rules or that require promulgation of the rules.

(E) An estimate of the probable increase or decrease in state and local government revenues and expenditures, if any, resulting from the promulgation of this rule, and assumptions and reasoning upon which the estimate is based. An agency shall not state that the fiscal impact is minimal if the fiscal impact is more than two percent (2%) of the agency's annual budget or five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000), whichever is less;

The Program does not anticipate these rules will have a significant fiscal impact on state or local government revenues. These rules will have a slight increase in state revenue based on the fees associated with the applications for individuals seeking these classifications, however, the Program does not anticipate these revenues will be more than 2% of the Program's budget or over \$500,000.

(F) Identification of the appropriate agency representative or representatives, possessing substantial knowledge and understanding of the rule;

Executive Director of the Program, Ashton Bode  
Assistant Commissioner, Reid Witcher  
Associate General Counsel, Scott Huddleston  
Chief Counsel, Jesse Gentry

**(G)** Identification of the appropriate agency representative or representatives who will explain the rule at a scheduled meeting of the committees;

Executive Director of the Program, Ashton Bode  
Assistant Commissioner, Reid Witcher  
Associate General Counsel, Scott Huddleston  
Chief Counsel, Jesse Gentry  
Candice Dawkins, Legislative Liaison

**(H)** Office address, telephone number, and email address of the agency representative or representatives who will explain the rule at a scheduled meeting of the committees; and

Executive Director of the Program, Ashton Bode  
500 James Robertson Pkwy, Nashville, TN 37243  
[Ashton.Bode@tn.gov](mailto:Ashton.Bode@tn.gov)  
(615) 532-0265

Assistant Commissioner, Reid Witcher  
500 James Robertson Pkwy, Nashville, TN 37243  
[Reid.Witcher@tn.gov](mailto:Reid.Witcher@tn.gov)  
(615) 879-3239

Associate General Counsel, Scott Huddleston  
500 James Robertson Pkwy, Nashville, TN 37243  
[Scott.Huddleston@tn.gov](mailto:Scott.Huddleston@tn.gov)  
(615) 741-0532

Chief Counsel, Jesse Gentry  
500 James Robertson Pkwy, Nashville, TN 37243  
[Jesse.Gentry@tn.gov](mailto:Jesse.Gentry@tn.gov)  
(615) 741-5898

Candice Dawkins, Legislative Liaison  
500 James Robertson Pkwy, Nashville, TN 37243  
[Candice.Dawkins@tn.gov](mailto:Candice.Dawkins@tn.gov)  
(615) 887-1236

**(I)** Any additional information relevant to the rule proposed for continuation that the committee requests.

N/A

**Department of State**  
**Division of Publications**  
312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., 8th Floor  
Nashville, TN 37243  
Phone: 615-741-2650  
Email: [publications.information@tnsos.gov](mailto:publications.information@tnsos.gov)

**For Department of State Use Only**

Sequence Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rule ID(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
File Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Effective Day: \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Rule Filing Form - REDLINE

*Emergency rules are effective from date of filing, unless otherwise stated in the rule, for a period of up to 180 days.*

<b>Agency/Board/Commission:</b>	Detection Services Licensing Program
<b>Division:</b>	Department of Commerce and Insurance Regulatory Boards Division
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Jesse Gentry
<b>Address:</b>	500 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee
<b>Zip:</b>	37243
<b>Phone:</b>	(615) 741-5898
<b>Email:</b>	Jesse.Gentry@tn.gov

**Revision Type (check all that apply):**

Amendment  
 New  
 Repeal

**Statement of Necessity:**

The 114<sup>th</sup> General Assembly passed SB1384/ HB0683 which became Public Chapter No. 344 (2025). The Public Chapter created the enhanced armed guard certification for armed security guards, which allows qualified individuals to utilize approved shotguns and/or rifles while providing armed security services.

T.C.A. § 4-5-208(a)(5) permits agencies to adopt emergency rules when required by an enactment of the General Assembly to implement rules within a prescribed period of time that precludes utilization of rulemaking procedures described elsewhere in this chapter for the promulgation of permanent rules. The Public Chapter was signed into law May 2, 2025, and the provisions contained within became effective January 1, 2026. Based on the timing of these dates, these emergency rules are necessary to allow to create the procedures and qualifications for individuals to obtain this certification.

Further, T.C.A. § 4-5-208(a)(1) permits agencies to adopt emergency rules when an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare exists, and the nature of this danger is such that the use of any other form of rulemaking authorized by this chapter would not adequately protect the public. Due to the timing of the Public Chapter, these emergency rules protect the public by ensuring that the necessary procedures to determine which armed guards are qualified and able to utilize rifles and/or shotguns while providing armed security services are effective.

The Agency will permanently move the subject of these emergency rules via a rulemaking hearing to permanent rules prior to the expiration of these emergency rules.

**Rule(s) Revised** (ALL chapters and rules contained in filing must be listed here. If needed, copy and paste additional tables to accommodate multiple chapters. Please make sure that ALL new rule and repealed rule numbers are listed in the chart below. Please enter only ONE Rule Number/Rule Title per row.)

<b>Chapter Number</b>	<b>Chapter Title</b>
<b>Rule Number</b>	<b>Rule Title</b>
0780-05-02	Private Protective Services
0780-05-02-02	Definitions
0780-05-02-11	Certified Trainers
0780-05-02-15	Authorized Weapons
0780-05-02-22	<u>Enhanced Armed Guards</u> <del>Reserved</del>
0780-05-02-23	Fees

**RULES  
OF  
DIVISION OF REGULATORY BOARDS**

**CHAPTER 0780-05-02  
PRIVATE PROTECTIVE SERVICES  
AMENDMENTS**

Rule 0780-05-02-.02 Definitions, paragraph (2) is amended by deleting it in its entirety and substituting it with the following so that, as amended, paragraph (2) shall read:

- (2) The following definitions are also applicable in these rules.
  - (a) "Baton" means a club, nightstick, or baton that is designed and manufactured for use by a law enforcement officer or security guard/officer.
  - (b) "Chemical spray" means a chemical composition housed in a handheld dispenser that is designed and manufactured for the purpose of self-defense.
  - (c) "Employed" means to receive compensation, in any form, for the performance of security guard services and/or patrol services.
  - (d) "Rifle" means any firearm designed, made or adapted to be fired from the shoulder and to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire a projectile through a rifled bore by a single function of the trigger.
  - (e) "Short barrel" means a barrel length of less than sixteen inches (16") for a rifle and eighteen inches (18") for a shotgun, or an overall firearm length of less than twenty-six inches (26").
  - (f) "Shotgun" means any firearm designed, made or adapted to be fired from the shoulder and to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed shotgun shell to fire through a smooth-bore barrel either a number of ball shot or a single projectile by a single function of the trigger.
  - (g)(e) "Special Event" means any public event that requires security services for a specific and defined period of time.
  - (h)(d) "Special Event Permit" means a permit issued to a licensed Tennessee Contract Security Company that allows for the temporary employment of individuals for security guard and patrol services during a special event.
  - (i)(e) "Stun gun" means a handheld, electronic control device designed and manufactured for self-defense which emits an electrical spark which may momentarily disable a person.
  - (f) "Employed" means to receive compensation, in any form, for the performance of security guard services and/or patrol services.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 62-35-118, 62-35-126, and 62-35-129.

Rule 0780-05-02-.11 Certified Trainers, paragraphs (1) and (2) are amended by deleting them in their entirety and substituting them with the following so that, as amended, paragraphs (1) and (2) shall read:

(1) Qualifications:

(a) Any individual who seeks to provide training to a security guard/officer to meet the qualifications of the Act, including in the use of any approved firearm(s) and/or less than lethal weapons, must qualify as a certified trainer in accordance with ~~T.C.A.~~ § 62-35-126 and this rule.

(b) An individual is qualified to provide training to a security guard/officer if the individual has sufficient experience, education, and/or teaching within the relevant subject areas the individual applies to train, as determined by the Commissioner. In addition to the one (1) year supervisory experience requirement, an individual must have at least five (5) years of experience working and/or instructing within the given subject to be qualified to become certified as a security guard/officer trainer. All experience must be based on full-time, compensated working experience specifically related to the security industry, which may include relevant military and/or law enforcement experience.

(c) A certified trainer does not need to hold a registration card related to the type of training the certified trainer is qualified to instruct, however, the certified trainer must be eligible for the type of registration card and/or classification(s) in order to be certified to instruct security guards/officers on the subject. The Commissioner may require the certified trainer to submit the same documentation required for a security guard/officer in order to establish the certified trainer is qualified with the Program. A certified trainer must notify the Commissioner within thirty (30) days of any incident, arrest, or other event that impacts the trainer's qualifications or ability to instruct security guards/officers.

(d) In order to be qualified to provide enhanced armed guard training, a certified officer must demonstrate personal experience and qualifications in the use and handling of rifles and shotguns, which must include relevant full-time law enforcement, security, and/or military experience.

(e) All experience and education submitted for approval by the Commissioner must be specific to the requested certification and verifiable for the Commissioner. Failure for education or experience to be properly verified may result in the denial of a request for a certification.

(2) Any individual who wishes to become a certified trainer shall submit an application to the Commissioner on the prescribed form. The application shall include:

(a) The full name and business address of the applicant;

(b) Date and place of birth;

(c) One (1) set of classifiable electronic fingerprints as required by the provider approved by the Commissioner;

(d) One (1) head-and-shoulder photograph taken within the last six (6) months;

(e) Disclosure of any affiliation with a contract security company or proprietary security organization;

(f) Identification of the training that the applicant desires to administer:

1. Unarmed security guard/officer training; and/or

2. Armed security guard/officer training

(g) Identification of any additional classifications of training that the applicant desires to administer:

1. Baton training;
2. Chemical spray training;
3. Stun gun training;
4. De-escalation techniques;
5. Proper and safe restraint techniques;
6. First aid training;
7. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training; ~~and/or~~
8. Active shooter training ~~and/or~~
9. Enhanced armed guard training.

(h) A resume outlining the education and experience of the applicant, including descriptions of all employment or occupations engaged in during the immediate past five (5) years;

(i) Any documentary evidence of qualifications to conduct the training required by the Act, including but not limited to:

1. An instructor's certificate issued by the Tennessee Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission;
2. An instructor's certificate issued by a federal, United States military, state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency;
3. An instructor's certificate issued by the National Rifle Association;
4. For each type of less than lethal weapons training which the applicant desires to provide, a certificate showing that the applicant has completed a course in the instruction of persons in the proper use of the less than lethal weapon and the liabilities associated with its use;
5. For each type of less than lethal weapons training which the applicant desires to provide, a notarized statement by the applicant to the effect that the applicant has, for at least one (1) year prior to November 1, 1996, provided training to security guard/officers or law enforcement officers in the proper use of the less than lethal weapon and the liabilities associated with its use;
6. An active instructor's certificate issued by the American Red Cross or another recognized and qualified cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and/or first aid training organization or association;
7. An instructor's certificate from any certifying agency, association, company, or organization showing the applicant is qualified to instruct individuals on de-escalation and/or safe and proper restraint techniques;
8. An instructor's certificate from any certifying agency, association, company, or

organization showing the applicant is qualified to instruct individuals on active shooter trainings; and/or

9. Any letters of recommendation from any previous employers, government agencies, or other qualified individuals or entities that attest to the applicant's ability to provide trainings pursuant to T.C.A. §§ 62-35-118(a)(2)(B) or 62-35118(e).
- (j) The name and qualifications of any instructor whom the applicant intends to appoint to assist in the implementation of the training program.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 62-35-118, 62-35-126, and 62-35-129.

Rule 0780-05-02-.11 Certified Trainers, paragraph (15) is amended by deleting "(2)(g)" and replacing it with "(2)(g)(1)-(8)" so that, as amended, paragraph (15) shall read:

- (15) Any certified trainer who wants to add any of the classifications listed in (2)(g)(1)-(8) ~~(2)(g)~~ to his or her certification must complete an application to add the classification(s) to his or her certification, submit proof of his or her qualifications to provide training in each classification the trainer is applying to add to his or her certification, and pay a non-refundable fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) dollars.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 62-35-118, 62-35-126, and 62-35-129.

Rule 0780-05-02-.11 Certified Trainers, paragraphs (16) and (17) are added as new paragraphs and shall read:

- (16) Any certified trainer who wants to add the classification listed in (2)(g)(9) to his or her certification must complete an application to add the classification to his or her certification, submit proof of his or her qualifications to provide training in the classification the trainer is applying to add to his or her certification, and pay a non-refundable fee of one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) dollars. A certified trainer who wishes to renew this certification shall pay a non-refundable fee of one-hundred dollars (\$100.00), which shall be due upon expiration and renewal of the certified trainer's certificate. This renewal fee will not be prorated.
- (17) Any certified trainer who wants to add the classification listed in (2)(g) to his or her certification must submit a curriculum, class information, examination, and any additional information requested by the Commissioner, for review prior to being approved to provide this training. The Commissioner may audit any training course prior to approval or at any time after, at his or her discretion.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 62-35-118, 62-35-126, and 62-35-129.

Rule 0780-05-02-.15 Authorized Weapons, paragraph (1) is amended by deleting it in its entirety and substituting it with the following so that, as amended, paragraph (1) shall read:

- (1) Firearms - The holder of a valid armed security guard/officer registration card may carry a firearm in the performance of duties only if:
  - (a) Armed security guard/officer:
    - 1.(a) The security guard has qualified pursuant to T.C.A. § 62-35-118(b)(2) in the use of such firearm. The security guard must be qualified by a certified trainer for each firearm used in the security guard's employment; and
    - 2.(b) The firearm is a standard .38 special, .32 auto, .357 magnum, .357 SIG, .380 auto, 9mm, 10mm, .40 S&W, .45 ACP or GAP caliber revolver or semiautomatic pistol, ~~standard 12 gauge shotgun~~, or other firearm approved by the

Commissioner. No person shall carry a firearm classified as a pistol caliber carbine, regardless of whether it is classified as a pistol and/or utilizes handgun cartridges, unless the firearm has been approved by the Commissioner for enhanced armed guards and the individual is registered as an enhanced armed guard to use the firearm.; and

3. No person acting as an armed security guard shall be authorized to carry a short barrel rifle unless the person is authorized to use such firearm as an enhanced armed guard. A short barrel rifle shall be considered a rifle pursuant to these rules.
4. Pursuant to Chapter 344 of the Public Acts of 2025, effective January 1, 2026, no armed security guard/officers will be able to carry a shotgun while providing security services unless the individual has been certified as an enhanced armed security guard/officer. Any armed security guard/officer who has only qualified with a shotgun must qualify with an approved firearm to continue to work as an armed security guard/officer.

**(b) Enhanced armed security guard/officer:**

1. An enhanced armed security guard/officer may carry any firearm the armed security guard/officer is qualified to carry as an armed security guard/officer.
2. Only an individual who is actively certified as an enhanced armed security guard/officer may use a rifle or shotgun, including a short barrel rifle or short barrel shotgun, during the performance of the armed security guard/officer's duties as a security guard/officer if it is in compliance with federal law and these rules.
3. In addition to any other firearm the enhanced armed guard is approved to use as an armed security guard/officer, the enhanced armed guard may obtain approval to use a:
  - (i) Standard, pump-action 12-gauge shotgun; and/or
  - (ii) Standard .223 Rem or 5.56 NATO bolt-action or semi-automatic rifle.
4. A standard shotgun has a fixed stock and does not include a tactical shotgun.

(c) No security guard/officer shall carry a firearm on their person while acting in the role of a security guard/officer regardless of whether or not such individual possesses a handgun carry permit issued by the Department of Safety or is otherwise able to lawfully carry a firearm as a private citizen, unless the security guard is properly registered and certified to carry the firearm pursuant to the Act.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 62-35-129 and 62-35-134.

Rule 0780-05-02-.23 Fees, paragraph (3), subparagraph (d) is amended by deleting it in its entirety and substituting it with the following so that, as amended, subparagraph (d) shall read:

**(d) Adding Classifications to a Registration Card:**

1. To add classifications to a security guard registration card regarding the trainings listed in ~~T.C.A.~~ §§ 62-35-118(a)(2)(B) or 62-35-118(e), a security guard/officer must:
  - (i) Indicate on the security guard/officer's initial or any renewal application

that the applicant intends to add these classifications to the armed security guard/officer's his or her registration card, timely complete the necessary trainings, and provide proof of these trainings to the Commissioner; or

(ii) Complete an application to add these classifications to the armed security guard/officer's his or her registration card, timely complete the necessary trainings, provide proof of these trainings to the Commissioner, and pay a nonrefundable twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) application fee. Upon approval, the security guard/officer will be issued a new card showing the added classifications. The application fee to add these classifications shall be per application, regardless of whether the application is to add one or more classifications to a single registration card.

2. To add the enhanced armed guard certification to a security guard registration card, a security guard/officer must:

(i) Complete an application to add this certification to the armed security guard/officer's registration card, provide proof of all required training and qualifications, and pay a nonrefundable two hundred dollars (\$200.00) application fee. Upon approval, the security guard/officer will be issued a separate card showing the enhanced armed guard certification.

(ii) The enhanced armed guard certification shall be effective for one (1) year from the date of issuance. If the security guard/officer's armed guard registration becomes inactive, suspended, revoked, or expired while the enhanced armed guard certification is active, the enhanced armed guard certification shall automatically become inactive until the armed guard registration becomes active again. Any period of the enhanced armed guard certification becoming inactive shall not extend the expiration date of the certification.

(iii) In order to renew the enhanced armed guard certification, a security guard/officer must timely submit a renewal application and pay a non-refundable application fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00). A late fee may be assessed per month consistent with these rules.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 62-35-122, 62-35-123, 62-35-126, and 62-35-129.

CHAPTER 0780-05-02  
PRIVATE PROTECTIVE SERVICES  
NEW RULE

Table of Contents

0780-05-02-.01	Purpose	0780-05-02-14	Withdrawal of Certification
0780-05-02-.02	Definitions	0780-05-02-15	Authorized Weapons
0780-05-02-.03	Sworn Peace Officers	0780-05-02-16	Changes of Address
0780-05-02-.04	Hospitals	0780-05-02-17	Notification of Termination
0780-05-02-.05	Fingerprinting	0780-05-02-18	Investigations and Complaints
0780-05-02-.06	Insurance Requirements	0780-05-02-19	Prohibited Representations
0780-05-02-.07	Applicant for Licenses	0780-05-02-20	Surrender of License or Registration Card
0780-05-02-.08	Applicants for Registration Cards	0780-05-02-21	Copy Fee
0780-05-02-.09	Examinations of Applicants for Registration Cards	0780-05-02-22	<u>Enhanced Armed Guards Reserved</u>
0780-05-02-.10	Certificates of Completion of Training	0780-05-02-23	Fees
0780-05-02-.11	Certified Trainers	0780-05-02-24	Completion of Training
0780-05-02-.12	Training Records	0780-05-02-25	Special Event Permit

0780-05-02-13 Monitoring of Training Programs

Rule 0780-05-02-.22 Reserved is amended by replacing it with a new rule, which shall be titled Enhanced Armed Guards. This new rule shall read in its entirety as follows:

0780-05-02-.22 Enhanced Armed Guards.

- (1) Only an armed security guard/officer who holds a valid armed security guard/officer registration card with an enhanced armed guard certification may provide security guard services while using a shotgun and/or rifle. An armed security guard/officer who holds an enhanced armed guard certification may only use a rifle or shotgun that the individual has qualified to carry.
- (2) An individual who applies for an enhanced armed guard certification must complete an approved training that is no less than sixteen (16) hours in length, and shall include training covering the following subjects:

  - (a) Scenario-based training on when a rifle-caliber weapon and/or shotgun may be deployed in an offensive or defensive posture;
  - (b) Training on the secure storage of a rifle-caliber weapon and/or shotgun when the weapon is not deployed, in compliance with § 62-35-144(c)(1)(B);
  - (c) A written exam of at least twenty-five (25) questions that covers appropriate nomenclature and safety procedures. An individual must score at least a seventy-five (75%) percent correct score on this examination; and
  - (d) A course of fire that includes the following items integrated into different drills:

    1. Firing from a mix of standing and supported positions;
    2. Firing from a mix of standing and moving positions;
    3. Scenario-based drills that include moving through different locations; and
    4. Scenario-based drills involving reloading the firearm or changing magazines.
    5. For a rifle-caliber course:

      - (i) Firing at least two hundred (200) total rounds of live ammunition and scoring at least seventy (70%) accuracy across all distances; and
      - (ii) Firing from distances of at least seven (7) yards, fifteen (15) yards, twenty-five (25) yards, and fifty (50) yards.
      - (iii) The course of fire shall use IPSC/USPSA paper silhouettes with A/B/C scoring zones or any other target/silhouettes approved by the Commissioner.
    6. For a shotgun course:

      - (i) Firing at least fifty (50) total rounds of live ammunition, including both buckshot and slugs, and scoring at least seventy (70%) percent accuracy across all distances; and
      - (ii) Firing from distances of at least seven (7) yards, twelve (12) yards, and twenty (20) yards.

(iii) The course of fire shall use IPSC/USPSA paper silhouettes with A/B/C scoring zones or any other target/silhouettes approved by the Commissioner.

7. An approved certified trainer or other individual who has been approved to provide the enhanced armed guard training shall have the discretion to determine how drills will be set during the training; however, the trainer must ensure that the entire course of fire includes the elements listed above.

(e) Nothing shall prohibit an approved certified trainer or other individual who has been approved to provide the enhanced armed guard training from requiring passing scores on the written exam or course of fire that are higher than the percentages listed above. Nothing shall prohibit an approved certified trainer or other individual who has been approved to provide the enhanced armed guard training from failing an individual taking the training or requiring remediation related to any observed or noted safety concerns or violations committed by the individual completing the training.

(3) An individual who is disqualified from a registration card pursuant to § 62-35-117 will be ineligible for an enhanced armed guard certification as long as the disqualification is in effect.

(4) An individual who has resigned or retired in lieu of termination is not considered to have retired or separated in good standing, pursuant to § 62-35-144.

(5) The Commissioner will only accept training for an enhanced armed guard certification that has been completed within one (1) calendar year of the date of the application for the certification.

(6) An individual who has qualified for a firearm under an enhanced armed guard certification must requalify with the firearm in order to renew the certification, pursuant to this rule and § 62-35-122(d), on a course of fire and with a written examination consistent with the requirements of this rule.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 62-35-122, 62-35-123, 62-35-126, and 62-35-129.