

Professional Private Investigators Association of Colorado
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mandatory Registration of Private Investigators in Colorado

Greetings,

The Professional Private Investigators Association of Colorado (PPIAC) was founded to bring licensing back to Colorado and supported a business friendly bill that encourages investigators to pursue their passion and earn their license without any hindrance. Last year, for the first time in 37 years, Colorado enacted a licensing law for private investigators in Colorado. With a goal of uniform consumer protection, a bill is now in the Colorado Senate for Mandatory Registration of Private Investigators.

Registration will require all private investigators in Colorado to register with Colorado's Department of Regulatory Agencies. To become a Registered Private Investigator will require a fingerprint state and FBI background check, a financial surety bond and passing a jurisprudence knowledge exam. These criteria will help with consumer protection, available in 46 other states.

Here is the link to the introduced legislation: [http://www.leg.state.co.us//clics/clics2013a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/2FB500E51653EA4987257B2600715430/\\$FILE/259_01.pdf](http://www.leg.state.co.us//clics/clics2013a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/2FB500E51653EA4987257B2600715430/$FILE/259_01.pdf)

What are some of the myths, and realities, of mandatory registration of private investigators?

There is no evidence of public harm.

False. We presented actual testimony from a citizen that had been harassed and threatened by a PI. And that witness told us that after the hearing, *somebody followed her out to her car and was attempting to write down her license plate.* She was extremely scared. This is the same tactic that was documented in the Pinnacol hearings of 2010 concerning bad acts of PIs in workman's compensation claims. We presented over 20 recent examples of PI misconduct in Judiciary. DORA recounted 8 different egregious acts in their 2011 Sunrise Review (which recommended regulation). The Attorney General and the BBB both weighed in with complaints from consumers on the bad faith practices of private investigators.

This will cause small business to close their doors because they can't afford it.

False. The cost of registration is expected to be less than \$250. The cost of a \$10,000 bond is estimated at \$100/year. The truth is that most investigators charge at least \$60/hr, and many charge much more. An average "small investigation" generally nets a private investigator \$300.

Many retired law enforcement and federal agents, who work part-time, can't afford the registration.

False. The truth is that retired law enforcement and federal agents command hourly rates much higher than their less experienced counterparts, and therefore can reach that "break-even level" much, much quicker. Additionally, the vast majority of these practitioners take on cases "when it is convenient" and do not rely upon this income.

There aren't enough PIs in Colorado to warrant oversight by the government.

False. DORA's Sunrise reviews, fiscal notes and the Department of Labor all agree that the number of PIs operating in Colorado is over 500. Proponents estimate much higher, if you consider the number of "part-timers", process servers that investigate for their clients and out-of-state encroachers that regularly come to Colorado for business.

The majority of PIs in Colorado do not want regulation.

False. The truth is that the vast majority of PIs in Colorado agree that some kind of regulation is necessary to raise the level of professionalism in the industry and, in turn, provide greater consumer protection from cheats and thieves.

The PIs that have shown up to oppose represent the majority of the opposition.

False. They are simply a very loud minority and would have you believe that they represent the wishes of all PIs.

SB-259 is about money. It is about making the many pay for the wishes of the few.

False. This is about consumer protection. Until 2011, Colorado was one of 5 states without regulation of any kind. And without this move towards registration, Colorado will rejoin those states that offer nothing in the way of consumer protection.

With Colorado's licensing program being voluntary, why the proposal for mandatory registration?

1. To demonstrate that being vetted by the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (must pass a fingerprint CBI and FBI record check, possess a financial surety bond and pass a jurisprudence knowledge exam);
2. Eases the burden of integrity for attorneys and other clients, database and records providers, other private investigators, and records custodians;
3. For consumer protection (being registered or licensed in another state offers no consumer protection in Colorado, but was once necessary to PIs for records access and credibility before this program); and
4. To be on an equal plane as other vetted and regulated investigator colleagues.

Who has endorsed this mandatory registration program?

- Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies
- Professional Private Investigators Association of Colorado
- Process Servers Association of Colorado
- Bail Enforcement and Recovery Agents of Colorado
- National Council of Investigation & Security Services
- World Association of Detectives
- National Association of Legal Investigators
- Council of Association Leaders (including additional associations of International Intelligence Network, Arizona Association of Licensed Private Investigators, National Association of Investigative Specialists, Pennsylvania Association of Licensed Investigators, Alabama Private Investigators Association, Florida Association of Private Investigators, and Licensed Private Investigators Association of Massachusetts)
- Privacy Rights Clearinghouse
- Texas Association of Licensed Investigators and Texas Department Safety - Licensing Bureau
- Florida Association of Licensed Investigators
- California Association of Licensed Investigators

If you have any questions, please contact:

Chairman Chris Bray (Chris@delphicinfo.com) or

VP of Legislative Affairs Ryan Johnston (ColoradoPI@aol.com).

With kindest regards,

Dean A. Beers, CLI CCDI

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Dean A. Beers, CLI, CCDI and Karen S. Beers, BSW, CCDI

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