



IDFPR

Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

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JB PRITZKER
Governor

MARIO TRETO JR.
Secretary

CAMILE LINDSAY
Director

Date: August 18, 2026

SB3222 Fact Sheet – Impacts to Security Guards

Disclaimer: *This fact sheet is informational only, non-exhaustive, and should not be construed as legal advice, administrative rulemaking, or making binding statements of law. The Department recommends all licensees coordinate with their own legal counsel on comprehensively reviewing all relevant laws and regulations to ensure continued compliance.*

Do dispensaries need security guards? Yes. Security guards must be present and provide security at all times that dispensaries are open for business. “A dispensing organization shall maintain a security guard or security guards to provide on-site security at all hours of the dispensary’s operation.” (410 ILCS 705/15-70(m)).

However, with the recent changes to the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (“CRTA”) through [Public Act 104-0463](#), dispensaries are no longer required to contract with third party security companies. Instead, dispensaries may hire their own security guards.

Do security guards hired directly by dispensaries need any sort of specific license under the CRTA? Yes. Security guards employed directly by the dispensary should register with IDFPR as dispensing organization agents under the CRTA. Because security guards are required to “provide on-site security,” security guards may need access to all areas of the dispensary. This includes accessing the limited access area, as that term is defined in 410 ILCS 705/1-10, and the restricted access area, as that term is defined in 68 Ill. Admn. Code 1291.10. Both of these areas are limited to certain individuals, including dispensing organization agents registered with IDFPR.

Do security guards employed by a dispensary need to register under the Private Detective, Private Alarm, Private Security, Fingerprint Vendor, and Locksmith Act of 2004? It depends. Dispensaries employing armed guards will be required to apply with the Department’s Division of Professional Regulation (**not the Cannabis Control Unit**) as an Armed Proprietary Security Force. Requirements for licensure can be found [here](#). Dispensaries will also need to [apply for Firearm Control Cards \(FCC\)](#) for their armed employees. Unarmed employees do not need to apply for licensure under 225 ILCS 447/. You can contact the Division for questions related to Security Guard requirements by emailing FPR.SAFETYUNIT@Illinois.gov.

Even though dispensaries aren’t required to contract with a private security guard company, can they still choose to? Yes.