



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Private Protective Services Board

October 2024 N.C. Private Protective Services Board Meeting Hot Sheet

The following summary covers discussion points from the October meeting of the Private Protective Services Board and its committees. Meeting minutes and detailed committee reports will be available after receiving Board approval at its next meeting on December 12, 2024.

Hurricane Helene-related Information

- Third-party reports and in-person inspections by Board investigators indicate unlicensed activity in western N.C. is prevalent. Unlicensed security guard and patrol companies, private investigators, close personal protection professionals, and other private protection specialists regulated by the PPSB shall not operate in N.C. without a license. A declared state of emergency does not exempt companies or individuals from NCGS 74C licensing requirements.
- Out-of-state armed and unarmed security guards may work temporarily in counties under a declared state of emergency, provided they are working for an N.C.-licensed company and have met other conditions required by NCGS 74C. See [this memorandum](#) for additional information.
- Current, retired, or former law enforcement officers who are working as security guards are required to be registered and must work for an N.C.-licensed company. Law enforcement credentials—namely, [H.R.218/LEOSA](#)—do not exempt LEOs from NCGS 74C requirements. However, law enforcement officers working in an official capacity through their agency's off-duty program are not subject to NCGS 74C regulations.
- Registered armed security guards, certified firearms trainers, unarmed guard trainers, and licensees living in areas under a state of emergency may be eligible for an extension of time to complete required training to renew their credential. For more information, contact [Director Sherwin](#).

Grievance Committee: 28 cases heard.

- Seventeen cease-and-desist orders issued to unlicensed or unregistered persons.
- Eight cases settled with consent agreements.
- Two licenses suspended for registration violations and failure to respond to a Board investigator. The Committee wishes to remind the industry that failing to cooperate with a Board investigation, to include not providing requested documents within the required timeframe, may result in a violation of NCGS 74C-12(a)(29) [Failed or refused to reasonably cooperate with the Board or its agents during an investigation of any complaint, allegation, suspicion of wrongdoing, or violation of this Chapter], in addition to any other violations found.

Screening Committee: Reviewed 66 license applications reviewed (comprised of: 28 PI, 13 Security Guard and Patrol, 9 PI Associate, 8 Close Personal Protection, 3 Courier, 2 Armored Car, 2 Proprietary, 1 Digital Forensics Examiner).

- 61 licenses approved; 3 licenses denied; 2 licenses deferred for further consideration.

Emerging Technology Committee:

- In 2025, the Committee plans to host seminars about emerging technology, such as robot dogs. Stay tuned for more information. Anyone with ideas about seminar topics may contact [Committee Chair Candace Ratliff](#).
- The Committee appointed Board members Suzanne Creech, Richard Epley, Tamara Rabenold, and Candace Ratliff to serve on a joint committee with the [N.C. Alarm Systems Licensing Board](#) (ASLB) to explore collaboration opportunities—namely, securing and monitoring private property using surveillance camera technology.

Law & Rules Committee:

- Discussed several proposed rule amendments that are being refined by Board staff, notably, addressing when and how a security guard will be given their training certificate(s). These and other proposed rule amendments will be discussed in detail at the December Law and Rules Committee meeting on December 12.

Training & Education Committee:

- The Committee, in response to results of a survey of security guard and patrol licensees, voted to mandate that unarmed probationary security guards receive at least four hours of training *before* standing a post. The Committee referred this recommendation to the Law and Rules Committee for drafting of the rule amendment.
- The Committee voted to decommission the 75-minute security guard training video that has been in circulation for more than 20 years. Plans to update the existing video, or create a new one, have been tabled indefinitely.
- The Committee asked Board staff to draft proposals about different options for how the Board may award continuing education credit for attending select committee meetings. Board staff will present these proposals at the Committee's next meeting on December 12.
- The 2024 and 2025 schedule for unarmed and firearms trainer certification courses is available [here](#).

Special Committee on Unlicensed Activity

- The Special Committee reported that several Board investigators, in partnership with N.C. Alcohol Law Enforcement agents, recently conducted inspections of 14 ABC-permitted establishments in the Raleigh area. Security personnel at all locations were in compliance with NCGS 74C. This was the third joint operation Board investigators have participated in in the last 15 months.

Special Committee on Continuing Education

- The Special Committee discussed plans to conduct a study of the Board's approved continuing education courses and plans to begin more closely evaluating course content and instructor qualifications.

Other Board Discussion Points, Industry References & Reminders:

- The Board welcomed its newest member, David Poston, who was recently appointed (expiring July 1, 2027) by Governor Roy Cooper. Mr. Poston is licensed as a North Carolina private investigator and polygraph examiner.
- Licensees may now search for active registrants (armed and unarmed security guards, armed licensees, etc.) from their [Permitium Dashboard](#). Navigate to “Registrants” and “Registrant Lookup” to utilize this new feature.
- In 2025, the Board is piloting a new meeting schedule. Meetings are scheduled for January 15-16, March 19-20, May 14-15, July 16-17, September 17-18, November 19-20.
- The Board’s [new website](#) is live. You may have to clear your browser cache and update your bookmark to access the new site.
- Board meeting minutes and Hot Sheets are available [HERE](#).
- Other Board policies and informational memorandums are available [HERE](#).

Upcoming Events:

- [N.C. Association of Private Investigators Conference](#), November 18-20, Carolina Beach, N.C. (12 hours CE)
 - Director Sherwin will be giving a presentation about the PPSB. Board members Jerry Pitman, Andy Renfrow and Suzanne Creech will attend.
- [International Protective Security Board Close Protection Conference](#), December 9-11, Nashville, TN (12 hours CE)
 - Board members Jerry Pitman, Andy Renfrow and Suzanne Creech will attend.
- [PPSB Meeting](#), December 12, Raleigh (2 hours CE)
- [PPSB Meeting](#), January 16, Raleigh (2 hours CE)

2023-2024 Accomplishments

- **Celebrated 50 Years as a Board**
 - Kicked off our new (fiscal) year with a memorable 50th-anniversary reception in August 2023, where more than 150 guests, including industry members, and current and former Board members and staff gathered to celebrate.
- **Established two new Special Committees**
 - **Unlicensed Activity:** Formed to focus on combating unlicensed activity, especially in clubs and sweepstakes parlors. Partnering with various public safety partners to raise awareness about the dangers of unlicensed activity, explore cross-training opportunities and collaborate on joint-enforcement operations.
 - **Continuing Education:** Formed to evaluate Board’s CE requirements, available offerings and potential improvements.
- **Notable Administrative Rules Changes**
 - **Probationary PIs and Digital Forensics Examiners:** Allows PI and DFE licensees to employ potential new hires on a trial basis for up to 90 days. Seven persons have utilized this option to date, with five of those applying for a license.
 - **Trainee Log Accountability:** Updated rule so PI Associates now manage their own training logs instead of it being the sponsor’s responsibility.

- **Upholding Industry Standards**
 - As a result of complaint trends and Grievance Committee feedback, implemented enhanced penalties for repeat registration violations, introduced changes to the timing of for follow-up registration compliance audits, and established clearer report disclosure guidelines.
- **Boosted Communication Efforts**
 - Improved ability for PPSB to generate distribution lists from Permitium for regular e-mail notifications/news/updates to licensees.
 - Launched the “Hot Sheet” for more immediate news, trends, and key takeaways from Board & committee meetings as well as links to relevant memos, forms, etc.
 - Redesigned the PPSB website to include sleeker navigation, a fresh look, and updated with board member bios & photos.
- **Streamlined Meeting Structure**
 - Returned to a 2-day meeting format to improve efficiency & reduce costs, which also resulted in a boost of industry attendance at committee meetings immediately preceding the Board meeting.
 - New 2025 schedule aligns PPSB meetings with the ASLB calendar, with the goal of fostering collaboration and exploring potential overlaps between our related regulated industries.