

Introduce the Electronic Life Safety and Security & Systems Federal Background Check Act

Background:

The electronic life safety, security & systems profession employs thousands of workers who install and monitor virtually every home, business and major infrastructure in the United States—electronic security in banks, chemical plants, water and nuclear facilities, residences, schools, the list is endless, and in many cases these employees have no criminal background check requirements. Some states do not require the industry to conduct background checks; some do. The NBFAA believes that all employees of the industry need to undergo criminal background checks not only for the employer but to protect American citizens and provide the most professional services possible in these times of terrorism and increased criminal activity.

Professional installers of fire and security alarm systems and monitoring security personnel are not required to have federal, FBI criminal background checks before they are employed. These service personnel have access to our homes and businesses, not to mention critical infrastructure and hospitals, banks, schools. Over half the states do not have this requirement. It is simply an outrage that a potential felon has access to our citizens' homes and businesses without his employer knowing his or her record. States are not able to keep up on crimes committed from one state to another and many private background check services do not capture FBI complete information on which to base a hiring judgment.

Information:

The bill would direct the Attorney General to permit this industry to access the FBI database and to provide employers with relevant criminal history record information. The Attorney General has this authority in law and has permitted various industries this opportunity over the years such as banks, credit unions, private security guards, and others. The bill provides for various goals and standards that the industry would like for the Attorney General to consider in promulgating rules for this access, as well as privacy protections and employee rights.

Request:

The NBFAA requests Senate members to introduce a Senate counterpart to H.R. 5920, the “Electronic Life Safety and Security & Systems Federal Background Check Act.” For more information please contact the NBFAA’s Director of Government Relations John Chwat at 703.684.7703 or John.Chwat@chwatco.com.