

By: Armbrister

S.B. No. 1517

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to authority of security personnel at commercial nuclear  
3 power plants.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Article 2.122, Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
6 amended by adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

7 (f) Security personnel working at a commercial nuclear  
8 power plant, including contract security personnel, trained and  
9 qualified under a security plan approved by the United States  
10 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, are not peace officers under the  
11 laws of this state, except that such personnel have the powers of  
12 arrest, search, and seizure, including the powers under Section  
13 9.51, Penal Code, while in the performance of their duties on the  
14 premises of a commercial nuclear power plant site or under  
15 agreements entered into with local law enforcement regarding areas  
16 surrounding the plant site.

17 SECTION 2. Subsection (b), Section 1702.324, Occupations  
18 Code, is amended to read as follows:

19 (b) This chapter does not apply to:

20 (1) a manufacturer or a manufacturer's authorized  
21 distributor who sells equipment to a license holder that is used in  
22 the operations for which the person is required to be licensed;

23 (2) a person engaged exclusively in the business of  
24 obtaining and providing information to:

- 1 (A) determine creditworthiness;  
2 (B) collect debts; or  
3 (C) ascertain the reliability of information  
4 provided by an applicant for property, life, or disability  
5 insurance or an indemnity or surety bond;

6 (3) a person engaged exclusively in the business of  
7 repossessing property that is secured by a mortgage or other  
8 security interest;

9 (4) a locksmith who:

10 (A) does not install or service detection  
11 devices;

12 (B) does not conduct investigations; and

13 (C) is not a security services contractor;

14 (5) a person who:

15 (A) is engaged in the business of psychological  
16 testing or other testing and interviewing services, including  
17 services to determine attitudes, honesty, intelligence,  
18 personality, and skills, for preemployment purposes; and

19 (B) does not perform any other service that  
20 requires a license under this chapter;

21 (6) a person who:

22 (A) is engaged in obtaining information that is a  
23 public record under Chapter 552, Government Code, regardless of  
24 whether the person receives compensation;

25 (B) is not a full-time employee, as defined by  
26 Section 61.001, Labor Code, of a person licensed under this  
27 chapter; and

1 (C) does not perform any other act that requires  
2 a license under this chapter;

3 (7) a licensed professional engineer practicing  
4 engineering or directly supervising engineering practice under The  
5 Texas Engineering Practice Act (Article 3271a, Vernon's Texas Civil  
6 Statutes), including forensic analysis, burglar alarm system  
7 engineering, and necessary data collection;

8 (8) an employee of a cattle association who inspects  
9 livestock brands under the authority granted to the cattle  
10 association by the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards  
11 Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture;

12 (9) a landman performing activities in the course and  
13 scope of the landman's business;

14 (10) an attorney while engaged in the practice of law;

15 (11) a person who obtains a document for use in  
16 litigation under an authorization or subpoena issued for a written  
17 or oral deposition; ~~or~~

18 (12) an admitted insurer, insurance adjuster, agent,  
19 or insurance broker licensed by the state, performing duties in  
20 connection with insurance transacted by that person; or

21 (13) security personnel, including security contract  
22 personnel, working at a commercial nuclear power plant licensed by  
23 the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

24 SECTION 3. Subchapter F, Chapter 411, Government Code, is  
25 amended by adding Section 411.1181 to read as follows:

26 Sec. 411.1181. ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD  
27 INFORMATION: COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT LICENSEES. (a) A

1 commercial nuclear power plant licensee and its contractors, for  
2 security reasons and consistent with requirements of the United  
3 States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, are entitled to obtain from  
4 the department criminal history record information maintained by  
5 the department that relates to a person who has or is seeking  
6 employment at or access to the commercial nuclear power plant.

7 (b) The department shall place a high priority on requests  
8 under Subsection (a) and respond as expeditiously as possible; in  
9 no event shall the department respond later than two business days  
10 after the date the request is received by the department.

11 (c) Criminal history information obtained from the  
12 department may not be released or disclosed except as needed in  
13 protecting the security of a commercial nuclear power plant or as  
14 authorized by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, a  
15 court order, or a federal or state law or order.

16 SECTION 4. Title 4, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, is  
17 amended by adding Chapter 100 to read as follows:

18 CHAPTER 100. USE OF FORCE IN DEFENSE OF COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR POWER  
19 PLANTS

20 Sec. 100.001. AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE. It is an affirmative  
21 defense to a civil action for damages for personal injury or death  
22 brought against a person performing duties under Article 2.122(f),  
23 Code of Criminal Procedure, the person's employer, or the owner of a  
24 commercial nuclear power plant where the person was working, that  
25 at the time the cause of action arose the person was justified in  
26 using force under Chapter 9, Penal Code.

27 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.