

HB 82 -- Surety Recovery Agents

Sponsor: Bland

This bill contains provisions regarding surety recovery agents or bounty hunters. The bill requires any person wishing to practice as a surety recovery agent in this state to be licensed with the Department of Insurance. All applicants for licensure must have either a high school diploma or its equivalent and complete at least 20 hours of training provided by the Department of Public Safety.

The bill requires that surety recovery agents be employed by no more than one bail bond agent. Any complaints against licensed surety recovery agents will be investigated by the Department of Insurance. The department may, at its discretion, issue licenses without examination to individuals who currently hold valid licenses from other states that have licensing requirements equivalent to those in Missouri.

The bill also prohibits surety recovery agents from holding themselves out as being employees, officers, or agents of the state or a political subdivision of the state or the federal government. Persons licensed as surety recovery agents or bail bond agents may not carry a firearm while engaged in their duties and must be accompanied by at least one local law enforcement officer when performing fugitive recovery.