

**Agency Name:** Private Investigator Security Guard Services

**Point of Contact:** Molly Seitz

**Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives:**

Private Investigator Security Guard Services (PISGS), a component of Ohio Homeland Security, licenses and regulates the private investigation and security guard services industry throughout Ohio. There are nearly 800 providers with more than 24,000 registered employees.

A license demonstrates a basic level of professional responsibility, competence, and compliance with the law. PISGS verifies a company is insured, operated by a qualifying agent with appropriate experience, and that employees undergo criminal background checks. Registered employees are monitored by the state's Rapback system, which notifies PISGS if a guard or investigator is arrested. An unlicensed company is a liability for businesses, their employees and customers, and jeopardizes public safety.

Our mission is to maintain a standard of excellence for the private investigator and security guard industry by ensuring all applicants meet the established criteria for licensing and registration, and enforcing the laws governing the industry to protect the safety of the citizens of Ohio.

**Agency's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff:**

PISGS provides a variety of services, to include: administering and processing initial and renewal company license applications; administering and processing initial and renewal employee registration applications; administering and processing initial and renewal firearm bearer (FAB) applications; printing and mailing company wall licenses and employee registration wallet cards; administering the monthly Qualifying Agent (QA) exam; reviewing BCI and FBI background checks that accompany QA, registration, and FAB applications; responding to questions from the industry via phone and email; investigating violation complaints; conducting compliance checks statewide at various venues and events; conducting random payroll audits; filing administrative and criminal complaints; testifying during administrative hearings; administering and enforcing the payment for civil penalties; conducting outreach to venues, event planners, and local law enforcement; creating and distributing a weekly newsletter; and providing administrative support to the Ohio Private Investigation and Security Service Commission.

In order to complete this workload, PISGS employs twelve individuals; six in the Enforcement Unit, four in the Licensing and Registration Unit, and two in Administration.

**Agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding:**

Licensing and registration fees account for about 90 percent of PISGS's approximately \$1.6 million in annual revenue. The remaining revenue comes from civil penalties for violations by licensees.

**Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any:**

There are fourteen members of the Ohio Private Investigation and Security Services Commission (OPISSC). There are seven industry members, two general public members, one sheriff member, one active law enforcement member (rank of Lieutenant or below), one police chief member, and two members from the Ohio Department of Public Safety (the Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, or designee, and the Superintendent of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, or designee). Three of

these positions are currently vacant (general public, sheriff, and Class C licensee). These members serve on a voluntary basis and are not compensated at this time.

**Additional notes:** None