

CHAPTER 2022-79

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1474

An act relating to online training for private security officers; amending ss. 493.6105 and 493.6303, F.S.; providing that certain required training criteria for Class “G” and Class “D” licenses, respectively, may be conducted online; providing requirements for such training; requiring the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to establish certain criteria and rules for the regulation of certain entities that provide online training; providing reporting requirements upon completion of the training; creating s. 493.6132, F.S.; providing requirements for online training courses for a Class “D” license; requiring entities offering online training to provide the Division of Licensing with live access to each course; authorizing such entities to deliver online instruction using recordings under certain circumstances; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 493.6105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

493.6105 Initial application for license.—

(5) In addition to the requirements outlined in subsection (3), an applicant for a Class “G” license must satisfy minimum training criteria for firearms established by rule of the department, ~~including which training criteria includes~~, but is not limited to, 28 hours of range and classroom training conducted by in-person instruction or live online instruction through a secure website, provided that the applicant’s identity, attendance, and successful completion of training are verified by the instructor. As part of his or her application, the applicant must submit a training certificate to the department upon completion of the training. Training must be taught and administered by one or more a Class “K” licensees. licensee; however, No more than 20 hours of such training may be conducted in an online classroom, and 8 hours of such training shall consist of in-person range training that includes training on the safe handling and storage of firearms. Consistent with s. 493.6115, the department shall by rule establish the general content and the number of hours of each subject area to be taught, the method of delivery and the security protocols for online training and testing, the reporting requirements for verification of successful completion of training, and any other rules necessary for the regulation of Class “K” licensees providing in-person or online training. Upon completion of the training, the instructor must submit results directly to the Division of Licensing in a manner prescribed by the department. The instructor must also provide a copy of the training results to the applicant who completed the training. The department may waive the foregoing firearms training requirement if:

(a) The applicant provides proof that he or she is currently certified as a law enforcement officer or correctional officer pursuant to the requirements of the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission or has successfully completed the training required for certification within the last 12 months.

(b) The applicant provides proof that he or she is currently certified as a federal law enforcement officer and has received law enforcement firearms training administered by a federal law enforcement agency.

(c) The applicant submits a valid firearm certificate listed among those specified in paragraph (6)(a).

Section 2. Section 493.6132, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

493.6132 Online training courses.—

(1) An online training course for a Class “D” license must be conducted live and by a licensed school or training facility that maintains a physical location in this state.

(2) A Class “K” licensed firearms instructor conducting an online training course must maintain a physical location in this state and must conduct online classes live at a location in this state.

(3) An applicant may only be logged into the online training course from one device at a time.

(4) The online training course must include, at a minimum, all of the following:

(a) Security questions to ensure that the applicant is actively using the computer or mobile device and is following along with the online training.

(b) A minimum amount of time that each applicant must spend on each screen before moving on to the next screen.

(c) Randomized test questions.

(d) A digital record of the applicant’s attendance log along with any components required by department rule.

(5) A licensed school or training facility, or a Class “K” licensee conducting an online course, must maintain records of all training sessions, including the name and license number of the instructor who is present online with the students while the students are receiving instruction, and proof of compliance with all security protocols at the school, facility, or place of business in this state. The records required under this subsection must be made accessible to the department’s investigators upon request.

(6) A licensed school or training facility, or a Class “K” licensee conducting an online course must provide the Division of Licensing with

live access to each course for the purposes of auditing, monitoring, or inspection as deemed necessary by the division.

(7) If an applicant is absent during a portion of a live online class, a licensed school or training facility, or a Class “K” licensee conducting an online course, may deliver instruction in part using recordings, as limited by department rule.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 493.6303, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

493.6303 License requirements.—In addition to the license requirements set forth elsewhere in this chapter, each individual or agency must comply with the following additional requirements:

(4)(a) An applicant for a Class “D” license must submit proof of successful completion of a minimum of 40 hours of professional training at a school or training facility licensed by the department. The training may be conducted by in-person instruction or online instruction presented live through a secure website of the licensed school or training facility, provided that the applicant’s identity, attendance, and successful completion of training are verified by the instructor. As part of his or her application, the applicant must submit the completed training certificate to the department upon completion of the training. The department shall by rule and in accordance with s. 493.6103 establish the general content and number of hours of each subject area to be taught, the method of delivery and the security protocols for online training and testing, the reporting requirements for verification of successful completion of training, and any other rules necessary for the regulation of schools or training facilities providing in-person or online training. Upon completion of such training, the school or training facility or the instructor must submit proof of completion of training for each applicant to the department electronically in a manner prescribed by the department. The school or training facility or the instructor must also provide a copy of the training results to the applicant who completed the training.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

Approved by the Governor April 27, 2022.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 27, 2022.