

Explanation of Effectiveness:

The current process ensures that only people with either (1) extensive investigative experience or (2) a position in an agency overseen by someone with extensive investigative experience are given licenses to conduct private police work or un-uniformed security services. Additionally, a background check by the Nebraska State Patrol ensures only those with proper character and reputation for honesty are granted licenses. Private police work involves background checks, investigating identities, habits, conduct, movement, and character of individuals. It also involves searching for and recovering property. These activities could cause great harm to individuals when done improperly or by the inexperienced—including the clients or the subjects of the investigations. Clients place a great deal of trust and discretion with the licensees. Licensees also have access to databases containing potentially sensitive information that the public-at-large does not have access to.

Potential Harm:

Inexperienced or incompetent private detectives will be given access to private, sensitive information—either their clients' or through secure databases they are granted access to—which could cause harm if improperly disclosed. Persons with a history of serious criminal behavior, fraud, dishonesty, or lack of integrity could be investigating members of the public, impugning them unfairly during or after, or pursuing lost or stolen property attempting to recover it. Persons involved in those investigations or harmed by them may not believe that they are being properly protected and their interests properly considered. Clients who hire these licensees may not receive competent work and may not trust the results of the investigation they paid for.