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**HB 147 (Del. Fowler) Department of Criminal Justice Services; photo identification.** Provides that the Department of Criminal Justice Services (the Department) shall design and approve the issuance of photo-identification cards for private security services registrants (incl. private investigators). The photo-identification card shall contain the name, registration or license number, registration or license category, and photograph of the recipient; the date of expiration; and the name of the issuer in the form "Department of Criminal Justice Services, Commonwealth of Virginia." The Department may enter into an agreement with the Department of Motor Vehicles to produce the photo-identification cards.

**POSITION: PIAVA URGES YOUR SUPPORT FOR HB 147, incl. sponsor's amendments**

**COMMENTARY:** Due to the nature of services performed by a Private Investigator, they routinely come in contact with members of the public, often times in or around their private residences and/or place of business. Such circumstances require immediate access to a registration card issued by the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) that demonstrates on its face whether its bearer has been vetted and registered by DCJS to perform regulated private investigative services. The **Private Investigator's Association of Virginia, Inc. (PIAVA)** believes strongly that a registration card issued by DCJS to a Private Investigative registrant must include a photograph of the registrant, as well as data sufficient to validate the authorization of an individual to perform regulated activities. In PIAVA's opinion, DCJS's current practice of issuing a registration card to Private Investigators without a photo creates a potential vulnerability to not only the safety of the public, but to the private investigators themselves.

Passage of a statutory requirement for DCJS issuance of a photo registration card to Private Investigative registrants, as set forth in HB 147, will return DCJS to its prior policy and practice of issuing photo identification cards to Private Investigative registrants. In 2013, DCJS ceased issuance of a registration card containing a photo to Private Investigative registrants based upon the Department's determination that such an action required specific authorization in statute. The passage of HB 147 will provide a statutory basis for DCJS to again issue photo identification cards to its Private Investigative registrants; and will effectively resolve the safety issues that exist due to the Department's change of its past policy and practice.

Enactment of HB 147 will have no net fiscal impact, as determined by the Department of Planning and Budget.

*The Private Investigator's Association of Virginia (PIAVA) is a 501c (6) non-profit organization consisting of Private Investigators who are registered and/or licensed with the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). Members abide by a code of ethics and strive to increase consumer awareness regarding the value of hiring properly licensed, trained and experienced private investigators.*

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