



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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July 22, 2022

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Senate Appropriations Committee, Chair
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

ASSEMBLY BILL 2043 (JONES-SAWYER) SUPPORT Senate Appropriations Committee

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 2043 (Jones-Sawyer).

AB 2043 would increase oversight and professionalism in the bail/bond industry by requiring bail fugitive recovery persons (BFRPs) to become licensed by the California Department of Insurance (CDI).

Current law on BFRPs is limited to unenforceable education, notice, and conduct requirements. Existing law fails to provide the needed oversight and accountability necessary to regulate this profession. The surety insurers and bail bond companies who hire BFRPs often lack motivation to provide in-house supervision, and there is little recourse for those who are harmed by unscrupulous BFRPs. There is no entity charged with BFRP enforcement under existing law and due to BFRPs being associated with bail bond transactions, the CDI has become the de facto watchdog despite the fact that BFRPs are not licensed by the CDI and do not pay any fees to CDI.

Recent allegations against BFRPs include accusations of burglary, robbery, homicide, impersonating a peace officer, unlicensed activity, theft, coercion, misrepresentation, kidnapping, extortion, illegal solicitation, and the hiring of BFRPs who have prior felony convictions. The strong financial incentive that BFRPs have to make arrests, often without warrants, combined with their ability to self-regulate fails to protect the public from a job that simulates law enforcement and subjects the public to dangerous and traumatic situations.

Requiring BFRPs to be licensed by the CDI to operate in California will increase the professionalism of this industry. Ensuring applicants complete a Live-Scan background check;

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undergo enhanced education and training along with increased industry supervision will improve the professionalism of this industry which will better protect the bail industry and the public.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gascón", written in a cursive style.

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney

cc: Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer