

State Comparison 2024

State	Background Check	Exam	Fee	Registration or License	Notes	Changes
Alabama	Yes	Yes	Application fee: \$125; license fee: \$300	License		
Alaska - Anchorage	Yes	No	Fee: \$100	License	Alaska, as a state, does not license private detectives. Cities in the state may.	
Alaska - Fairbanks	Yes	No	Application fee: \$100; license fee: \$400	License	Alaska, as a state, does not license private detectives. Cities in the state may.	Application fee: \$75; license fee \$400
Arizona	Yes	No	Application fee: \$250; license fee: \$400	License		
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	Application fee: \$450	License		
California	Yes	Yes	Application fee: \$50 (\$130 if requesting firearms permit)	License		Fees changed in 2020; Application fee: \$340; license: \$385
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Application fee: \$330	License		No license required as of 8/31/2021
Connecticut	Yes	No	State background check fee: \$50; FBI background check fee: \$16.50; License fee: \$1450; License fee (PDA): \$1750	License		
Delaware	No	No	Application fee: \$69; License fee: \$20	License		
DC	Yes	No	License fee: \$206	License		Now has an exam; License fee: \$500
Florida	Yes	Yes	Exam fee: \$100; Application fee: \$50; License fee: \$75; Fingerprint fee: \$42	License		Exam fee: \$63
Georgia	Yes	No	Exam fee: \$125; Application fee: \$400	License		Initial fee: \$45(unarmed), \$70 (armed)
Hawaii	Yes	Yes	Fingerprint fee: \$64		Exam is only for individuals going into business for themselves.	Application fee: \$50; Exam fee: \$50
Idaho	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No license requirement in state.	
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Examination fee: \$291	License		Exam fee: \$298; Application fee: \$500
Indiana	Yes	No	Application fee: \$300	License	Individuals are not licensed; only business entities.	
Iowa	Yes	No	Fee: \$140	License		

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Kansas	Yes	Yes	Agency Fee: \$250; Owner of agency: \$100	License		
			Individual Application: \$100 Application fee; \$300 License fee; \$20 licensing request fee			Individual Application: \$100; License fee: \$300; Exam fee: \$156
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	Company Application: Sole-proprietorship: \$100 application fee; Company, partnership, or corporation: \$500 application fee	License		Company Application: Sole-proprietorship: \$100 application fee; Company, partnership, or corporation: \$400 application fee
Louisiana		Yes	Exam fee: \$50; Apprentice License: \$192.50, Individual License: \$192.50; Journeyman: \$342.50; Agency License: \$342.50	License		Exam fee: \$100; Agency: \$389.25; Journeyman: \$389.25; Individual: \$239.25; Apprentice: \$239.25
Maine	Yes	Yes	Application fee: \$71; License fee: \$450	License		
Maryland	Yes	No	Registration fee: \$15; Application fee: \$75	Registration		Application fee: \$15
Massachusetts	Yes	No	License fee: \$550	License		
Michigan	Yes	No	Licensing Fee: \$750	License		
Minnesota	Yes	No	Individual: \$1000; Partnership: \$1700; Corporation/LLC: \$1900	License		
Mississippi	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No license requirement in state.	
Missouri	Yes	Yes	Application fee: \$500	License		
Montana	Yes	Yes	Application fee: \$250; Examination fee: \$20	License		
Nevada	Yes	Yes	Application fee: \$20; Examination fee: \$100; Background Investigation Deposit: \$750	License		
New Hampshire	Yes	No	Application fee: \$150 (Private Investigator Agency License: \$500); Criminal Record Check Fee: \$25; Background Investigation Fee: \$10	License		

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New Jersey	Yes	No	Application Fee: \$250; Agency Fee: \$300	License		
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Application fee: \$200	License		Application fee: \$100; License Fee: \$300
New York	Yes	Yes	Examination fee: \$15; Application fee: \$400	License		
North Carolina	Yes	No	Application fee: \$150	License		
North Dakota	Yes	Yes	License fee: \$130; One time fee: \$100	License		Application & testing fee: \$100; License fee: \$150
Ohio	Yes	Yes	Examination fee: \$25; License fee: Up to \$375	License		Exam fee: \$30; License fee: \$405
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Fee: Unarmed PI: \$91; Armed PI: \$141; Examination fee: \$24	License		Fee: Unarmed PI: \$50; Armed PI: \$100; could not find information about an exam
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Background fee: \$79; License Fee: \$550	License		Application fee: \$75.25; License fee: \$550
Pennsylvania	Yes	No	License fee: \$200	License		
Rhode Island	Yes	No	License fee: \$150	License	Licenses are issued by counties/cities.	
South Carolina	Yes	No	Liense fee: \$350	License	Continuing education is required.	
South Dakota	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No license requirement in state.	
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	Application fee: \$150; Fingerprint processing: \$60; License: \$100	License		
Texas	Yes	No	Application fee: \$33; FBI background fee: \$25			Application fee: \$37; FBI background: \$28.25
Utah	Yes	No	License fee: \$100	License		Individual Application: \$143.25; Agency Fee: \$243.25
Vermont	Yes	Yes	Application fee: \$60 (unarmed) \$120 (armed)	License		Application Fee: \$140 (armed); \$175 (unarmed)
Virginia	Yes	Yes	\$600 for one year registration; \$850 for 2 year registration. \$50 certification for agents.	Registration	Exam is part of training that is required.	\$550 for one year: \$800 2 year

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Washington	Yes	Yes	Application fee: Unarmed Agency: \$600; Armed Agency: \$700; Unarmned PI: \$200; Armed PI: \$300	License		Applicationfee: Unarmed Agency: \$640; Armed Agency: \$740; Unarmed PI: \$220; Armed PI: \$330
West Virginia	Yes	No	Processing Fee: \$50; Application Fee: \$150 (WV residents); \$550 (Non-resident)	License		Background check fee: \$50; License Fee: \$100 Individual; \$200 Agency
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes				Exam Fee: \$127; Application fee: \$8
Wyoming -- Cheyenne	Yes	No	Application Fee \$20; Finger print fee \$15; Background Fee \$20	License	Wyoming as a state does not have a license requirement but cities may require one.	Application Fee: \$15; Finger print: \$15; State Fee: \$15