



# NOTICE TO SPECIAL CONSERVATORS OF THE PEACE

**TO:** SCOP Industry

**CC:** Private Security Services Training Schools  
Police Departments  
Sheriffs' Offices  
Virginia State Police  
Regional Criminal Justice Training Academies  
Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council

**DATE:** April 1, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Legislative Change to the Special Conservator of the Peace Program

This year the General Assembly amended a component of the Special Conservator of the Peace (SCOP) Program which may impact your eligibility for registration. You are encouraged to read the new legislation contained in [Senate Bill 296](#).

## ELIGIBILITY

No person who is prohibited from possessing, purchasing or transporting a firearm, is eligible to be an armed or unarmed SCOP. Such individuals include:

- persons acquitted by reason of insanity (Va. Code § 18.2-308.1:1)
- persons adjudicated legally incompetent or mentally incapacitated (Va. Code § 18.2-308.1:2)
- persons involuntarily admitted or ordered to outpatient treatment (Va. Code § 18.2-308.1:3)
- persons subject to protective orders (Va. Code § 18.2-308.1:4)
- persons convicted of certain drug offenses (Va. Code § 18.2-308.1:5)
- any person who is not a citizen of the United States or who is not a person lawfully admitted for permanent residence (Va. Code § 18.2-308.2:01)

**How does this impact SCOPS?** Upon initial and renewal applications for registration, you must provide fingerprints for a criminal history background check and answer pertinent legal questions. Any individual determined to be prohibited from possessing, purchasing or transporting a firearm will be denied a registration.

**What if I am arrested or convicted of a crime or become subject to a protective order?** You must report such information to DCJS within three (3) days and your registration may be temporarily or permanently suspended.

Please let us know if you have any questions and continue checking the DCJS website for updates to the SCOP program. DCJS will provide additional notification to the industry as we begin implementing legislative changes to the SCOP program.