New Computer Repair Law Could Affect Both Company Owners and Consumers

- Lawsuit says every repair technician in Texas must have private investigator's license
- Licenses are obtained with criminal justice degree or 3 year apprenticeship
- Violators can face up to a $4K fine and 1 year in jail

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A new Texas law requires every computer repair technician to obtain a private investigator's license, according to a lawsuit filed in Austin. Violators can face a $4,000 fine and one year in jail, as well as a $10,000 civil penalty.

Unlicensed computer shops will have to close down until they obtain a private investigator's license.

A private investigator's license can be obtained by acquiring a criminal justice degree or by getting a three-year apprenticeship under a licensed private investigator.

According to the Institute for Justice, an Austin-based non-profit law firm, the new law also impacts consumers. Consumers who knowingly take computers to an unlicensed company for repair can face the same penalties.

An article from the Daily Texan explains the concern from one computer shop owner's perspective.

In the Austin American-Statesman, State Rep. Joe Driver, (R-Garland) explains the intent of the law, and claims it does not place such restrictions on most computer shops.

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