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### 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

June 26, 2008  
(Updated July 2, 2008)

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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