## CHAPTER 2002-287

## Council Substitute for House Bill No. 443

An act relating to firesafety prevention and control; amending s. 235.06, F.S.: requiring the State Fire Marshal to adopt certain uniform firesafety standards for certain plants and facilities and a firesafety evaluation system as an alternate inspection standard for certain plants and facilities: providing for enforcement and administration of such standards and system by local fire officials: prescribing conditions for conducting firesafety inspections: prescribing duties of local fire officials in providing a plan of action and a schedule for correction of deficiencies: requiring the State Fire Marshal to adopt and administer rules prescribing specified standards for the safety and health of occupants of educational and ancillary plants; requiring the Fire Marshal to publish an annual report regarding each education board's firesafety program; amending s. 633.01, F.S.; requiring the State Fire Marshal to adopt and administer rules prescribing standards for the safety and health of occupants of educational and ancillary facilities as specified; requiring the State Fire Marshal to assume certain duties of the local fire official in certain counties: amending s. 633.022, F.S.: conforming provisions: providing an appropriation; amending s. 633.061, F.S., relating to licenses or permits required of organizations and individuals servicing, recharging, repairing, testing, marking, inspecting, installing, or hydrotesting fire extinguishers and preengineered systems; clarifying that a licensee who receives appropriate training shall not be prohibited from servicing any particular brand of fire extinguisher or preengineered system: reducing the number of permits required under the act; providing for a portable permit and a preengineered permit; providing definitions; clarifying that a person who is both a licensee and a permittee is required to complete 32 hours of continuing education every four years; requiring that each licensee shall ensure that all permittees in his or her employment meet their continuing education requirements; providing authority of the State Fire Marshal to audit a fire equipment dealer to determine compliance with continuing education requirements; clarifying that an examination shall be developed and administered by the State Fire Marshal in accordance with policies and procedures of the State Fire Marshal: eliminating a requirement and fee for a temporary trainee permit; requiring that any person who is being trained and who performs work requiring a permit must perform such work in the physical presence of an individual possessing a valid and current fire equipment permit for the type of work performed; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 235.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

235.06 <u>Casualty</u>, safety, and sanitation, and firesafety standards and inspection of property.—The Commissioner of Education shall adopt and

administer rules prescribing standards for the safety and health of occupants of educational and ancillary plants as a part of the State Uniform Building Code for Public Educational Facilities Construction as provided in s. 235.26, except that the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department of Education shall adopt uniform firesafety standards for educational and ancillary plants and educational facilities, as provided in s. 633.022(1)(b), and a firesafety evaluation system to be used as an alternate firesafety inspection standard for existing educational and ancillary plants and educational facilities. The uniform firesafety standards and the alternate firesafety evaluation system shall be administered and enforced by local fire officials the provisions of chapter 633 to the contrary notwithstanding. These standards must be used by all public agencies when inspecting public educational and ancillary plants, and the firesafety standards must be used by local fire officials when performing firesafety inspections of public educational and ancillary plants and educational facilities. In accordance with such standards, each board shall prescribe policies and procedures establishing a comprehensive program of safety and sanitation for the protection of occupants of public educational and ancillary plants. Such policies must contain procedures for periodic inspections as prescribed herein and for withdrawal of any educational and ancillary plant, or portion thereof, from use until unsafe or unsanitary conditions are corrected or removed.

## (1) PERIODIC INSPECTION OF PROPERTY BY THE BOARD.

(a) Each board shall provide for periodic inspection, other than firesafety inspection, of each educational and ancillary plant at least once during each fiscal year to determine compliance with standards of sanitation and casualty safety prescribed in the rules of the commissioner.

(b) Firesafety inspections of each educational and ancillary plant must be made annually by persons certified by the Division of State Fire Marshal to be eligible to conduct firesafety inspections in public educational and ancillary plants. <u>The board shall submit a copy of the firesafety inspection</u> <u>report to the State Fire Marshal and, if there is a local fire official who</u> <u>conducts firesafety inspections, to the local fire official.</u>

(c) In each firesafety inspection report, the board shall include a plan of action and a schedule for the correction of each deficiency which have been formulated in consultation with the local fire control authority. If immediate life-threatening deficiencies are noted in any inspection, the board shall either take action to promptly correct the deficiencies or withdraw the educational or ancillary plant from use until such time as the deficiencies are corrected.

## (2) INSPECTION OF EDUCATIONAL PROPERTY BY OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES.—

(a) A safety or sanitation inspection of any educational or ancillary plant may be made at any time by the Department of Education or any other state or local agency authorized or required to conduct such inspections by either general or special law. Each agency conducting inspections shall use the standards adopted by the Commissioner of Education in lieu of, and to the exclusion of, any other inspection standards prescribed either by statute or

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administrative rule, the provisions of chapter 633 to the contrary notwithstanding. The agency shall submit a copy of the inspection report to the board.

(b) One firesafety inspection of each educational or ancillary plant must be conducted each fiscal year by the county, municipality, or special fire control district in which the plant is located using the standards adopted by the State Fire Marshal. The board shall cooperate with the inspecting authority when a firesafety inspection is made by a governmental authority under this paragraph. In addition to school board inspections, the applicable local fire control authority shall also annually inspect educational facilities within its fire control district, using the standards adopted by the Commissioner of Education. Reports shall be filed with the school board, and a copy shall be on file with the local site administrator.

(c) In each firesafety inspection report, the local fire official in conjunction with the board shall include a plan of action and a schedule for the correction of each deficiency. If immediate life-threatening deficiencies are noted in any inspection, the local fire official shall either take action to require the board to promptly correct the deficiencies or withdraw the educational facility from use until the deficiencies are corrected, subject to review by the State Fire Marshal who shall act within 10 days to ensure that the deficiencies are corrected or withdraw the facility from use.

(3) CORRECTIVE ACTION; <u>DEFICIENCIES</u> OTHER THAN FIRE-<u>SAFETY DEFICIENCIES</u>.—Upon failure of the board to take corrective action within a reasonable time, the agency making the inspection, <u>other</u> <u>than a local fire official</u>, may request the commissioner to:

(a) Order that appropriate action be taken to correct all deficiencies in accordance with a schedule determined jointly by the inspecting authority and the board; in developing the schedule, consideration must be given to the seriousness of the deficiencies and the ability of the board to obtain the necessary funds; or

(b) After 30 calendar days' notice to the board, order all or a portion of the educational or ancillary plant withdrawn from use until the deficiencies are corrected.

(4) CORRECTIVE ACTION; FIRESAFETY DEFICIENCIES.—Upon failure of the board to take corrective action within the time designated in the plan of action to correct any firesafety deficiency noted under paragraph (1)(c) or paragraph (2)(c), the local fire official shall immediately report the deficiency to the State Fire Marshal, who shall have enforcement authority with respect to educational and ancillary plants and educational facilities as provided in chapter 633 for any other building or structure.

(5) ADDITIONAL STANDARDS.—In addition to any other rules adopted under this section or s. 633.022, the State Fire Marshal in consultation with the Department of Education shall adopt and administer rules prescribing the following standards for the safety and health of occupants of educational and ancillary plants:

(a) The designation of serious life-safety hazards, including, but not limited to, nonfunctional fire alarm systems, nonfunctional fire sprinkler systems, doors with padlocks or other locks or devices that preclude egress at any time, inadequate exits, hazardous electrical system conditions, potential structural failure, and storage conditions that create a fire hazard.

(b) The proper placement of functional smoke and heat detectors and accessible, unexpired fire extinguishers.

(c) The maintenance of fire doors without doorstops or wedges improperly holding them open.

(6) The State Fire Marshal shall publish an annual report to be filed with the substantive committees of the State House and Senate having jurisdiction over education, the Commissioner of Education or his successor and the Governor documenting the status of each board's firesafety program, including the improvement or lack thereof.

Section 2. Subsection (7) is added to section 633.01, Florida Statutes, to read:

633.01 State Fire Marshal; powers and duties; rules.—

(7) The State Fire Marshal shall adopt and administer rules prescribing standards for the safety and health of occupants of educational and ancillary facilities pursuant to ss. 633.022, 235.06, and 235.26. In addition, in any county that does not employ or appoint a local fire official, the State Fire Marshal shall assume the duties of the local fire official with respect to firesafety inspections of educational property required under s. 235.06(2)(b) and the State Fire Marshal may take necessary corrective action as authorized under s. 235.06(4).

Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 633.022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

633.022 Uniform firesafety standards.—The Legislature hereby determines that to protect the public health, safety, and welfare it is necessary to provide for firesafety standards governing the construction and utilization of certain buildings and structures. The Legislature further determines that certain buildings or structures, due to their specialized use or to the special characteristics of the person utilizing or occupying these buildings or structures, should be subject to firesafety standards reflecting these special needs as may be appropriate.

(1) The Department of Insurance shall establish uniform firesafety standards that apply to:

(b) All new, existing, and proposed hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family-care homes, correctional facilities, public schools, transient public lodging establishments, public food service establishments, elevators, migrant labor camps, mobile home parks, lodging parks, recreational vehicle parks, recreational camps, residential and nonresidential child care facilities, facilities for the developmentally disabled,

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motion picture and television special effects productions, and self-service gasoline stations, of which standards the State Fire Marshal is the final administrative interpreting authority. With respect to public schools, the department shall utilize firesafety standards that have been adopted by the State Board of Education.

In the event there is a dispute between the owners of the buildings specified in paragraph (b) and a local authority requiring a more stringent uniform firesafety standard for sprinkler systems, the State Fire Marshal shall be the final administrative interpreting authority and the State Fire Marshal's interpretation regarding the uniform firesafety standards shall be considered final agency action.

Section 4. <u>The establishment of six FTE positions to be located in the</u> <u>Division of State Fire Marshal are authorized and for fiscal year 2002-2003</u> <u>the sum of \$452,894 is appropriated from the Insurance Commissioner's</u> <u>Regulatory Trust Fund for the Department of Insurance, Division of State</u> <u>Fire Marshal, to implement the provisions of this act.</u>

Section 5. Section 633.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

633.061 License or permit required of organizations and individuals servicing, recharging, repairing, testing, marking, inspecting, installing, or hydrotesting fire extinguishers and preengineered systems.—

(1) It is unlawful for any organization or individual to engage in the business of servicing, repairing, recharging, testing, marking, inspecting, installing, or hydrotesting any fire extinguisher or preengineered system in this state except in conformity with the provisions of this chapter. Each organization or individual that engages in such activity must possess a valid and subsisting license issued by the State Fire Marshal. All fire extinguishers and preengineered systems required by statute or by rule must be serviced by an organization or individual licensed under the provisions of this chapter. A licensee who receives appropriate training shall not be prohibited by a manufacturer from servicing any particular brand of fire extinguisher or preengineered system. The licensee is legally qualified to act for the business organization in all matters connected with its business, and the licensee must supervise all activities undertaken by such business organization. Each licensee shall maintain a specific business location. A further requirement, in the case of multiple locations where such servicing or recharging is taking place, is that each licensee who maintains more than one place of business where actual work is carried on must possess an additional license, as set forth in this section, for each location, except that a licensed individual may not qualify for more than five locations. A licensee is limited to a specific type of work performed depending upon the class of license held. Licenses and license fees are required for the following:

(a) Class A ..... \$250 To service, recharge, repair, install, or inspect all types of fire extinguishers and to conduct hydrostatic tests on all types of fire extinguishers.

including recharging carbon dioxide units and conducting hydrostatic tests on all types of fire extinguishers, except carbon dioxide units.

(c) Class C ..... \$150 To service, recharge, repair, install, or inspect all types of fire extinguishers, except recharging carbon dioxide units, and to conduct hydrostatic tests on all types of fire extinguishers, except carbon dioxide units.

		duplicates			
dress	 	 	 	 	 \$10

Any fire equipment dealer licensed pursuant to this subsection who does not want to engage in the business of servicing, inspecting, recharging, repairing, hydrotesting, or installing halon equipment must file an affidavit on a form provided by the division so stating. Licenses will be issued by the division to reflect the work authorized thereunder. It is unlawful, unlicensed activity for any person or firm to falsely hold himself or herself or a business organization out to perform any service, inspection, recharge, repair, hydrotest, or installation except as specifically described in the license.

(2) Each individual actually performing the work of servicing, recharging, repairing, hydrotesting, installing, testing, or inspecting fire extinguishers or preengineered systems must possess a valid and subsisting permit issued by the State Fire Marshal. Permittees are limited as to specific type of work performed <u>to allow</u> dependent upon the class of permit held which shall be a class allowing work no more extensive than the class of license held by the licensee under whom the permittee is working. Permits will be issued by the division and <u>the</u> fees therefor are required <u>are as follows</u> for the following:

(b)(d) Preengineered permit Class 4 \$120
"Preengineered permittee" means a person who is limited to the servicing,
recharging, repairing, installing, or inspecting of all types of preengineered
fire extinguishing systems. Servicing, repairing, hydrotesting, recharging,
installing, or inspecting all types of preengineered fire extinguishing sys-
tems.

<u>(c)(e)</u>	Permits	issued	as	duplicates	or	to	reflect	а	change	of	ad-
dress						••					\$10

Any fire equipment permittee licensed pursuant to this subsection who does not want to engage in servicing, inspecting, recharging, repairing, hydrotesting, or installing halon equipment must file an affidavit on a form provided by the division so stating. Permits will be issued by the division to reflect the work authorized thereunder. It is unlawful, unlicensed activity for any person or firm to falsely hold himself or herself out to perform any service, inspection, recharge, repair, hydrotest, or installation except as specifically described in the permit.

(3)(a) Such licenses and permits shall be issued by the State Fire Marshal for 2 years beginning January 1, 2000, and each 2-year period thereafter and expiring December 31 of the second year. All licenses or permits issued will expire on December 31 of each odd-numbered year. The failure to renew a license or permit by December 31 of the second year will cause the license or permit to become inoperative. The holder of an inoperative license or permit shall not engage in any activities for which a license or permit is required by this section. A license or permit which is inoperative because of the failure to renew it shall be restored upon payment of the applicable fee plus a penalty equal to the applicable fee, if the application for renewal is filed no later than the following March 31. If the application for restoration is not made before the March 31st deadline, the fee for restoration shall be equal to the original application fee and the penalty provided for herein, and, in addition, the State Fire Marshal shall require reexamination of the applicant. The fee for a license or permit issued for 1 year or less shall be prorated at 50 percent of the applicable fee for a biennial license or permit. Each licensee or permittee shall successfully complete a course or courses of continuing education for fire equipment technicians of at least 32 hours within 4 years of initial issuance of a license or permit and within each 4-year period thereafter or no such license or permit shall be renewed. A person who is both a licensee and a permittee shall be required to complete 32 hours of continuing education per 4-year period. Each licensee shall ensure that all permittees in his or her employment meet their continuing education requirements. The State Fire Marshal shall adopt rules describing the continuing education requirements and shall have the authority upon reasonable belief, to audit a fire equipment dealer to determine compliance with continuing education requirements.

(b) The forms of such licenses and permits and applications therefor shall be prescribed by the State Fire Marshal; in addition to such other information and data as that officer determines is appropriate and required for such forms, there shall be included in such forms the following matters. Each such application shall be in such form as to provide that the data and other

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information set forth therein shall be sworn to by the applicant or, if a corporation, by an officer thereof. An application for a permit shall include the name of the licensee employing such permittee, and the permit issued in pursuance of such application shall also set forth the name of such licensee. A permit is valid solely for use by the holder thereof in his or her employment by the licensee named in the permit.

(c) A license of any class shall not be issued or renewed by the State Fire Marshal and a license of any class shall not remain operative unless:

1. The applicant has submitted to the State Fire Marshal evidence of registration as a Florida corporation or evidence of compliance with s. 865.09.

2. The State Fire Marshal or his or her designee has by inspection determined that the applicant possesses the equipment required for the class of license sought. The State Fire Marshal shall give an applicant a reasonable opportunity to correct any deficiencies discovered by inspection. A fee of \$50, payable to the State Fire Marshal, shall be required for any subsequent reinspection.

The applicant has submitted to the State Fire Marshal proof of insur-3. ance providing coverage for comprehensive general liability for bodily injury and property damage, products liability, completed operations, and contractual liability. The State Fire Marshal shall adopt rules providing for the amounts of such coverage, but such amounts shall not be less than \$300,000 for Class A or Class D licenses, \$200,000 for Class B licenses, and \$100,000 for Class C licenses; and the total coverage for any class of license held in conjunction with a Class D license shall not be less than \$300,000. The State Fire Marshal may, at any time after the issuance of a license or its renewal, require upon demand, and in no event more than 30 days after notice of such demand, the licensee to provide proof of insurance, on a form provided by the State Fire Marshal, containing confirmation of insurance coverage as required by this chapter. Failure, for any length of time, to provide proof of insurance coverage as required shall result in the immediate suspension of the license until proof of proper insurance is provided to the State Fire Marshal. An insurer which provides such coverage shall notify the State Fire Marshal of any change in coverage or of any termination, cancellation, or nonrenewal of any coverage.

4. The applicant <u>applies to the State Fire Marshal and</u> successfully completes a prescribed training course offered by the State Fire College or an equivalent course approved by the State Fire Marshal. This subparagraph does not apply to any holder of or applicant for a permit under paragraph (f) or to a business organization or a governmental entity seeking initial licensure or renewal of an existing license solely for the purpose of inspecting, servicing, repairing, marking, recharging, and maintaining fire extinguishers used and located on the premises of and owned by such organization or entity.

5. The applicant has a current retestor identification number that is appropriate for the license for which the applicant is applying and that is listed with the United States Department of Transportation.

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6. The applicant has passed, with a grade of at least 70 percent, a written examination testing his or her knowledge of the rules and statutes regulating the activities authorized by the license and demonstrating his or her knowledge and ability to perform those tasks in a competent, lawful, and safe manner. Such examination shall be developed and administered by the State Fire Marshal, or his or her designee in accordance with policies and procedures of the State Fire Marshal. An applicant shall pay a nonrefundable examination fee of \$50 for each examination or reexamination scheduled. No reexamination shall be scheduled sooner than 30 days after any administration of an examination for any level of license more than a total of four times during 1 year, regardless of the number of applications submitted. As a prerequisite to licensure of taking the examination, the applicant:

a. Must be at least 18 years of age.

b. Must have 4 years of proven experience as a fire equipment permittee at a level equal to or greater than the level of license applied for or have a combination of education and experience determined to be equivalent thereto by the State Fire Marshal. Having held a permit at the appropriate level for the required period constitutes the required experience.

c. Must not have been convicted of, or pled nolo contendere to, any felony. If an applicant has been convicted of any such felony, the applicant must comply with s. 112.011(1)(b).

This subparagraph does not apply to any holder of or applicant for a permit under paragraph (f) or to a business organization or a governmental entity seeking initial licensure or renewal of an existing license solely for the purpose of inspecting, servicing, repairing, marking, recharging, hydrotesting, and maintaining fire extinguishers used and located on the premises of and owned by such organization or entity.

(d) An applicant who fails the examination may take it three more times during the 1-year period after he or she originally filed an application for the examination. If the applicant fails the examination within 1 year after the application date and seeks to retake the examination, he or she must file a new application, pay the application and examination fees, and successfully complete a prescribed training course approved by the State Fire College or an equivalent course approved by the State Fire Marshal. An applicant may not submit a new application within 6 months after the date of his or her last reexamination.

(e) A fire equipment dealer licensed under this section may apply to upgrade the license currently held, if the licensed dealer:

1. Submits an application for the license on a form in conformance with paragraph (b). The application must be accompanied by a fee as prescribed in subsection (1) for the type of license requested.

2. Provides evidence of 2 years' experience as a licensed dealer and meets such relevant educational requirements as are established by rule by the State Fire Marshal for purposes of upgrading a license.

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3. Meets the requirements of paragraph (c).

(f) No permit of any class shall be issued or renewed to a person by the State Fire Marshal, and no permit of any class shall remain operative, unless the person has:

1. Submitted a nonrefundable examination fee in the amount of \$50;

2. Successfully completed a training course offered by the State Fire College or an equivalent course approved by the State Fire Marshal; and

3. Passed, with a grade of at least 70 percent, a written examination testing his or her knowledge of the rules and statutes regulating the activities authorized by the permit and demonstrating his or her knowledge and ability to perform those tasks in a competent, lawful, and safe manner. Such examination shall be developed and administered by the State Fire Marshal in accordance with the policies and procedures fo the State Fire Marshal. An examination fee shall be paid for each examination scheduled. No reexamination shall be scheduled sooner than 30 days after any administration of an examination to an applicant. No applicant shall be permitted to take an examination for any level of permit more than four times during 1 year, regardless of the number of applications submitted. As a prerequisite to taking the permit examination, the applicant must be at least 16 years of age.

(g) An applicant who fails the examination may take it three more times during the 1-year period after he or she originally filed an application for the examination. If the applicant fails the examination within 1 year after the application date and he or she seeks to retake the examination, he or she must file a new application, pay the application and examination fees, and successfully complete a prescribed training course offered by the State Fire College or an equivalent course approved by the State Fire Marshal. The applicant may not submit a new application within 6 months after the date of his or her last reexamination.

(4)(a) It is unlawful for a fire equipment dealer to engage in training an individual to perform the work of installing, testing, recharging, repairing, or inspecting portable extinguishers or preengineered systems except in conformity with this section. Each individual engaging in such training activity must be registered with the State Fire Marshal. The dealer must register the trainee prior to the trainee performing any work. The dealer must submit training criteria to the State Fire Marshal for review and approval.

(a)(b) No <u>one that is being trained</u> trainee shall perform work requiring a permit unless an individual possessing a valid and current fire equipment permit for the type of work performed is physically present. The trainee's registration shall be valid for a 90-day period from the date of issuance and is nontransferable and nonrenewable. The initial training period may be extended for an additional 90 days of training if the applicant has filed an application for permit and enrolled in the 40-hour course at the State Fire College within 60 days after the date of registration as a trainee and either

the training course at the State Fire College was unavailable to the applicant within the initial training period, at no fault of the applicant, or the applicant attends and fails the 40-hour training course or the competency examination. At no time will an individual be registered as a trainee for more than two 90-day periods as provided in this paragraph. The trainee must:

1. Be 18 years of age.

2. Possess on his or her person at all times a valid Florida driver's license or a valid state identification card, issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. A trainee must produce identification to the State Fire Marshal or his or her designated representative upon demand.

3. Pay a fee for registration of \$10 per trainee for a 90-day period.

(b)(c) No more than two trainees shall be under the supervision of a single trainer, who shall be directly responsible for all work performed by any trainee while under his or her supervision. No trainee shall perform any work not within the scope of the license or permit held by the fire equipment dealer or permittee directly supervising his or her work.

(d) Upon completion of a training period, an individual must comply with the provisions of this section to obtain a permit.

(5) The State Fire Marshal shall adopt rules providing for the approval of the time, place, and curriculum of each training course required by this section.

(6) Every permittee must have a valid and subsisting permit upon his or her person at all times while engaging in the servicing, recharging, repairing, testing, inspecting, or installing of fire extinguishers and preengineered systems, and every licensee or permittee must be able to produce such license or permit upon demand. In addition, every permittee shall at all times carry an identification card containing his or her photograph and other identifying information as prescribed by the State Fire Marshal or the State Fire Marshal's designee, which shall be produced on demand. The State Fire Marshal shall supply this card at a fee which shall be related to the cost of producing the card.

(7) The fees collected for any such licenses and permits and the filing fees for license and permit examination are hereby appropriated for the use of the State Fire Marshal in the administration of this chapter and shall be deposited in the Insurance Commissioner's Regulatory Trust Fund.

(8) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to inspections by fire chiefs, fire inspectors, fire marshals, or insurance company inspectors.

(9) All fire extinguishers and preengineered systems that are required by statute or by rule must be serviced, recharged, repaired, hydrotested, tested, inspected, and installed in compliance with this chapter and with the rules adopted by the State Fire Marshal. The State Fire Marshal may adopt by rule the standards of the National Fire Protection Association and of other reputable national organizations.

(10) If the licensee leaves the business organization or dies, the business organization shall immediately notify the State Fire Marshal of the licensee's departure, shall return the license to the State Fire Marshal, and shall have a grace period of 60 days in which to license another person under the provisions of this chapter, failing which the business shall no longer perform those activities for which a license under this section is required.

Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

Approved by the Governor May 30, 2002.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 30, 2002.