

## CHAPTER 2010-173

### Senate Bill No. 1136

An act relating to firesafety inspections; amending s. 633.081, F.S.; providing exceptions to certain local government firesafety inspection requirements; amending s. 633.082, F.S.; specifying inspection requirements for fire hydrants owned by governmental entities; authorizing local government utilities to comply using designated employees; specifying responsibility for ensuring the qualification of designated employees to make inspections; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 633.081, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

633.081 Inspection of buildings and equipment; orders; firesafety inspection training requirements; certification; disciplinary action.—The State Fire Marshal and her or his agents shall, at any reasonable hour, when the department has reasonable cause to believe that a violation of this chapter or s. 509.215, or a rule promulgated thereunder, or a minimum firesafety code adopted by a local authority, may exist, inspect any and all buildings and structures which are subject to the requirements of this chapter or s. 509.215 and rules promulgated thereunder. The authority to inspect shall extend to all equipment, vehicles, and chemicals which are located within the premises of any such building or structure.

(1) Each county, municipality, and special district that has firesafety enforcement responsibilities shall employ or contract with a firesafety inspector. Except as provided in s. 633.082(2), the firesafety inspector must conduct all firesafety inspections that are required by law. The governing body of a county, municipality, or special district that has firesafety enforcement responsibilities may provide a schedule of fees to pay only the costs of inspections conducted pursuant to this subsection and related administrative expenses. Two or more counties, municipalities, or special districts that have firesafety enforcement responsibilities may jointly employ or contract with a firesafety inspector.

(2) Except as provided in s. 633.082(2), every firesafety inspection conducted pursuant to state or local firesafety requirements shall be by a person certified as having met the inspection training requirements set by the State Fire Marshal. Such person shall:

(a) Be a high school graduate or the equivalent as determined by the department;

(b) Not have been found guilty of, or having pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, a felony or a crime punishable by imprisonment of 1 year or

more under the law of the United States, or of any state thereof, which involves moral turpitude, without regard to whether a judgment of conviction has been entered by the court having jurisdiction of such cases;

(c) Have her or his fingerprints on file with the department or with an agency designated by the department;

(d) Have good moral character as determined by the department;

(e) Be at least 18 years of age;

(f) Have satisfactorily completed the firesafety inspector certification examination as prescribed by the department; and

(g)1. Have satisfactorily completed, as determined by the department, a firesafety inspector training program of not less than 200 hours established by the department and administered by agencies and institutions approved by the department for the purpose of providing basic certification training for firesafety inspectors; or

2. Have received in another state training which is determined by the department to be at least equivalent to that required by the department for approved firesafety inspector education and training programs in this state.

Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 633.082, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

633.082 Inspection of fire control systems, fire hydrants, and fire protection systems.—

(2) Fire hydrants and fire protection systems installed in public and private properties, except one-family or two-family dwellings, ~~in this state~~ shall be inspected following procedures established in the nationally recognized inspection, testing, and maintenance standards publications NFPA-24 and NFPA-25 as set forth in the edition adopted by the State Fire Marshal. Quarterly, annual, 3-year, and 5-year inspections consistent with the contractual provisions with the owner shall be conducted by the certificateholder or permittees employed by the certificateholder pursuant to s. 633.521, except that:

(a) Public fire hydrants owned by a governmental entity shall be inspected following procedures established in the inspection, testing, and maintenance standards adopted by the State Fire Marshal or equivalent standards such as those contained in the latest edition of the American Water Works Association’s Manual M17, “Installation, Field Testing, and Maintenance of Fire Hydrants.”

(b) County, municipal, and special district utilities may perform fire hydrant inspections required by this section using designated employees. Such designated employees need not be certified under this chapter. However, counties, municipalities, or special districts that use designated

employees are responsible for ensuring that the designated employees are qualified to perform such inspections.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 1, 2010.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 1, 2010.