

CHAPTER 2015-50

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 466

An act relating to low-voltage alarm systems; amending s. 553.793, F.S.; revising the definition of the term “low-voltage alarm system project” and adding the definition of the term “wireless alarm system”; providing that a permit is not required to install, maintain, inspect, replace, or service a wireless alarm system and its ancillary components; reducing the maximum price for permit labels for alarm systems; prohibiting a local enforcement agency from requiring the payment of any additional fees, charges, or expenses associated with the installation or replacement of a new or existing alarm system; authorizing a local enforcement agency to coordinate the inspection of certain alarm system projects; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsections (1), (2), (4), (8), and (9) of section 553.793, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

553.793 Streamlined low-voltage alarm system installation permitting.

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Contractor” means a person who is qualified to engage in the business of electrical or alarm system contracting pursuant to a certificate or registration issued by the department under part II of chapter 489.

(b) “Low-voltage alarm system project” means a project related to the installation, maintenance, inspection, replacement, or service of a new or existing alarm system, as defined in s. 489.505, that is hardwired and operating at low voltage, as defined in the National Electrical Code Standard 70, Current Edition, and ancillary components or equipment attached to such a system, including, but not limited to, home-automation equipment, thermostats, and video cameras.

(c) “Wireless alarm system” means a burglar alarm system or smoke detector that is not hardwired.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of law, this section applies to all low-voltage alarm system projects for which a permit is required by a local enforcement agency. However, a permit is not required to install, maintain, inspect, replace, or service a wireless alarm system, including any ancillary components or equipment attached to the system.

(4) A local enforcement agency shall make uniform basic permit labels available for purchase by a contractor to be used for the installation or replacement of a new or existing alarm system at a cost of not more than \$40 ~~\$55~~ per label per project per unit. The local enforcement agency may not

~~require the payment of any additional fees, charges, or expenses associated with the installation or replacement of a new or existing alarm system. However, a local enforcement agency charging more than \$55, but less than \$175, for such a permit as of January 1, 2013, may continue to charge the same amount for a uniform basic permit label until January 1, 2015. A local enforcement agency charging more than \$175 for such a permit as of January 1, 2013, may charge a maximum of \$175 for a uniform basic permit label until January 1, 2015.~~

(a) A local enforcement agency may not require a contractor, as a condition of purchasing a label, to submit any information other than identification information of the licensee and proof of registration or certification as a contractor.

(b) A label is valid for 1 year after the date of purchase and may only be used within the jurisdiction of the local enforcement agency that issued the label. A contractor may purchase labels in bulk for one or more unspecified current or future projects.

(8) ~~A local enforcement agency may coordinate directly with the owner or customer to inspect a low-voltage alarm system project may be inspected by the local enforcement agency to ensure compliance with applicable codes and standards. If a low-voltage alarm system project fails an inspection, the contractor must take corrective action as necessary to pass inspection.~~

(9) A municipality, county, district, or other entity of local government may not adopt or maintain in effect any an ordinance or rule regarding a low-voltage alarm system project that is inconsistent with this section.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor May 21, 2015.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 21, 2015.