

CHAPTER 2017-52

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 241

An act relating to alarm systems; amending s. 553.793, F.S.; redefining the term “low-voltage alarm system project” to include low-voltage electric fences; defining the term “low-voltage electric fence”; providing requirements for a low-voltage electric fence to be permitted as a low-voltage alarm system project; conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 489.529, F.S.; providing exclusions from the requirement for a verification call before alarm dispatch for specified premises under certain circumstances; requiring alarm monitoring companies to make reasonable efforts to inform certain customers of specified rights; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Subsections (3) through (10) of section 553.793, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4) through (11), respectively, subsection (1) and present subsection (6) are amended, and a new subsection (3) is added to that section, 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, or a new or existing low-voltage electric fence, and ancillary components or equipment attached to such a system or fence, including, but not limited to, home-automation equipment, thermostats, closed-circuit television systems, access controls, battery recharging devices, and video cameras.

(c) “Low-voltage electric fence” means an alarm system, as defined in s. 489.505, that consists of a fence structure and an energizer powered by a commercial storage battery not exceeding 12 volts which produces an electric charge upon contact with the fence structure.

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

(3) A low-voltage electric fence must meet all of the following requirements to be permitted as a low-voltage alarm system project and no further

permit shall be required for the low-voltage alarm system project other than as provided in this section:

(a) The electric charge produced by the fence upon contact must not exceed energizer characteristics set forth in paragraph 22.108 and depicted in Figure 102 of International Electrotechnical Commission Standard No. 60335-2-76, Current Edition.

(b) A nonelectric fence or wall must completely enclose the low-voltage electric fence. The low-voltage electric fence may be up to 2 feet higher than the perimeter nonelectric fence or wall.

(c) The low-voltage electric fence must be identified using warning signs attached to the fence at intervals of not more than 60 feet.

(d) The low-voltage electric fence shall not be installed in an area zoned exclusively for single-family or multi-family residential use.

(e) The low-voltage electric fence shall not enclose the portions of a property which are used for residential purposes.

(7)(6) A contractor is not required to notify the local enforcement agency before commencing work on a low-voltage alarm system project. However, a contractor must submit a Uniform Notice of a Low-Voltage Alarm System Project as provided under subsection (8) (7) to the local enforcement agency within 14 days after completing the project. A local enforcement agency may take disciplinary action against a contractor who fails to timely submit a Uniform Notice of a Low-Voltage Alarm System Project.

Section 2. Effective October 1, 2017, section 489.529, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

489.529 Alarm verification calls required.—All residential or commercial intrusion/burglary alarms that have central monitoring must have a central monitoring verification call made to a telephone number associated with the premises generating the alarm signal, before ~~prior to~~ alarm monitor personnel contacting a law enforcement agency for alarm dispatch. The central monitoring station must employ call-verification methods for the premises generating the alarm signal if the first call is not answered. ~~However, if the intrusion/burglary alarms have properly operating visual or auditory sensors that enable the monitoring personnel to verify the alarm signal, verification calling is not required if:~~

(1) The intrusion/burglary alarm has a properly operating visual or auditory sensor that enables the monitoring personnel to verify the alarm signal; or

(2) The intrusion/burglary alarm is installed on a premises that is used for the storage of firearms or ammunition by a person who holds a valid federal firearms license as a manufacturer, importer, or dealer of firearms or ammunition, provided the customer notifies the alarm monitoring company

that he or she holds such license and would like to bypass the two-call verification protocol. Upon initiation of a new alarm monitoring service contract, the alarm monitoring company shall make reasonable efforts to inform a customer who holds a valid federal firearms license as a manufacturer, importer, or dealer of firearms or ammunition of his or her right to opt out of the two-call verification protocol.

Section 3. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 2, 2017.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 2, 2017.