

## CHAPTER 2022-124

### Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1140

An act relating to alarm systems; amending s. 489.5185, F.S.; authorizing individuals with certain fire alarm certifications to complete a reduced number of training and continuing education hours for the prevention of false alarms; requiring the training and continuing education sponsors and courses to be approved by the Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board; amending s. 553.793, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "low-voltage alarm system project" to include certain video cameras and closed-circuit television systems; creating s. 553.7932, F.S.; defining terms; authorizing a local enforcement agency to require a contractor to submit certain documentation and payment for obtaining a permit for a fire alarm system project; prohibiting a local enforcement agency from requiring plans and specifications as a condition for obtaining a permit for a fire alarm system project; requiring a local enforcement agency to issue certain permits in person or electronically; requiring a local enforcement agency to perform at least one inspection for a fire alarm system project; requiring a contractor to keep certain documentation at a worksite for a fire alarm system project and make such documentation available for inspection; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 489.5185, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (f) is added to subsection (2) of that section, to read:

489.5185 Fire alarm system agents.—

(2)

(f) If a person holds a current National Institute of Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) Level II certification or higher in Fire Alarm Systems or Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems, a current certification as an Electronic Security Association (ESA) Certified Fire Alarm Technician, or a current certification as an ESA Certified Fire Alarm Designer, he or she is required to complete only the 2 hours of training in the prevention of false alarms required by paragraph (1)(b) from a board-approved sponsor of training and through a board-approved training course.

(5)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), each fire alarm system agent must receive 6 hours of continuing education on fire alarm system installation and repair and false alarm prevention every 2 years from a board-approved sponsor of training and through a board-approved training course.

(b) A person holding a current NICET Level II certification or higher in Fire Alarm Systems or Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems, certification as an ESA Certified Fire Alarm Technician, or certification as an ESA Certified Fire Alarm Designer is required to complete only 2 hours of continuing education training in the prevention of false alarms every 2 years from a board-approved sponsor of training and through a board-approved training course.

Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 553.793, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

553.793 Streamlined low-voltage alarm system installation permitting.

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

(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, including video cameras and closed-circuit television systems used to signal or detect a burglary, fire, robbery, or medical emergency, 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. The term also includes, and ancillary components or equipment attached to such a low-voltage alarm system or low-voltage electric fence, including, but not limited to, home-automation equipment, thermostats, closed-circuit television systems, access controls, battery recharging devices, and video cameras.

Section 3. Section 553.7932, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

553.7932 Simplified permitting process for fire alarm system projects.

(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) “Fire alarm system project” means a fire alarm system alteration of a total of 20 or fewer initiating devices and notification devices, or the installation or replacement of a fire communicator connected to an existing fire alarm control panel in an existing commercial, residential, apartment, cooperative, or condominium building.

(2)(a) A local enforcement agency may require a contractor, as a condition of obtaining a permit for a fire alarm system project, to submit a completed application and payment.

(b) A local enforcement agency may not require a contractor to submit plans or specifications as a condition of obtaining a permit for a fire alarm system project.

(3) A local enforcement agency must issue a permit for a fire alarm system project in person or electronically.

(4) A local enforcement agency must require at least one inspection of a fire alarm system project to ensure compliance with applicable codes and standards. If a fire alarm system project fails an inspection, the contractor must take corrective action as necessary to pass inspection.

(5) A contractor must keep a copy of the plans and specifications at a fire alarm system project worksite and make such plans and specifications available to the inspector at each inspection.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

Approved by the Governor May 18, 2022.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 18, 2022.