

By Representative Heyman

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to alarm system contracting;  
3           amending s. 489.505, F.S.; modifying a  
4           definition; amending s. 489.518, F.S.;  
5           providing exceptions to training and background  
6           check requirements; amending s. 489.529, F.S.;  
7           providing an exception to an alarm verification  
8           requirement; creating s. 489.5315, F.S.;  
9           clarifying occupational licensure requirements;  
10          providing an effective date.

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

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14           Section 1. Subsection (26) of section 489.505, Florida  
15 Statutes, 1996 Supplement, is amended to read:

16           489.505 Definitions.--As used in this part:

17           (26) "Burglar alarm system agent" means a person:

18           (a) Who is employed by a licensed alarm system  
19 contractor or licensed electrical contractor;

20           (b) Who is performing duties which are an element of  
21 an activity which constitutes alarm system contracting  
22 requiring licensure under this part; and

23           (c) Whose specific duties include any of the  
24 following: altering, installing, maintaining, moving,  
25 repairing, replacing, servicing, selling onsite, or monitoring  
26 an intrusion or burglar alarm system for compensation.

27           Section 2. Section 489.518, Florida Statutes, 1996  
28 Supplement, is amended to read:

29           489.518 Alarm system agents.--  
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1           (1) A licensed electrical or alarm system contractor  
2 may ~~shall~~ not employ a person to perform the duties of a  
3 burglar ~~an~~ alarm system agent unless the person:

4           (a) Is at least 18 years of age or has evidence of a  
5 court-approved declaration of emancipation.

6           (b) Has successfully completed a minimum of 12 hours  
7 of training, to include basic alarm system electronics in  
8 addition to related training including CCTV and access control  
9 training. Such training shall be from a board-approved  
10 provider, and the employee or applicant for employment shall  
11 provide proof of successful completion to the licensed  
12 employer. ~~Persons performing only monitoring or sales are not  
13 required to complete the training otherwise required for alarm  
14 system agents pursuant to this part.~~ The board shall by rule  
15 establish criteria for the approval of training courses and  
16 providers and may by rule establish criteria for accepting  
17 alternative nonclassroom education on an hour-for-hour basis.  
18 The board shall approve providers that conduct training in  
19 other than the English language. The board shall establish a  
20 fee for the approval of training providers or courses, not to  
21 exceed \$60. Qualified employers may conduct training classes  
22 for their employees, with board approval. ~~Any applicant for  
23 employment as an alarm system agent, or any individual  
24 employed as an alarm system agent on the effective date of  
25 this act, who has been previously trained by any program  
26 which, upon application, meets the standards set forth in rule  
27 for training providers shall not be required to undergo  
28 additional training in order to comply with this paragraph if  
29 the training has taken place within the previous 1 year.~~

30           (c) Has not been convicted of a crime that directly  
31 relates to the business for which employment is being sought.

1 To ensure that this requirement has been met, a licensed  
2 electrical or alarm contractor must obtain from the Florida  
3 Department of Law Enforcement a completed fingerprint and  
4 criminal background check for each applicant for employment as  
5 a burglar ~~an~~ alarm system agent or for each individual  
6 currently employed on the effective date of this act as a  
7 burglar ~~an~~ alarm system agent.

8 (d) Has not been committed for controlled substance  
9 abuse or been found guilty of a crime under chapter 893 or a  
10 similar law relating to controlled substances in any other  
11 state within the 3-year period immediately preceding the date  
12 of application for employment, or the effective date of this  
13 act for an individual employed as a burglar ~~an~~ alarm system  
14 agent on that date, unless he or she establishes that he or  
15 she is not currently abusing any controlled substance and has  
16 successfully completed a rehabilitation course.

17 (2)(a) Persons who perform only monitoring or sales  
18 are not required to complete the training required for burglar  
19 alarm system agents.

20 (b) Persons who perform only monitoring at an out of  
21 state location are not required to comply with background  
22 check requirements.

23 (c) Persons who perform proprietary burglar alarm  
24 system agent duties for only a single employer, and who do not  
25 offer alarm system contracting services to the public, are not  
26 required to comply with background check requirements.

27 (d) Any applicant for employment as a burglar alarm  
28 system agent, or any individual employed as a burglar alarm  
29 system agent on July 1, 1997, who has completed training  
30 between July 1, 1995, and July 1, 1997, in a program that,  
31 upon application, meets the standards for training providers

1 need not take additional training in order to comply with this  
2 section.

3 (e) A state-certified electrical or alarm contractor  
4 or a local licensed journeyman electrician or local licensed  
5 alarm technician is not required to complete the training  
6 required for burglar alarm system agents.

7 (f) A nonsupervising employee working as a helper or  
8 apprentice under the direct, on-site, continuous supervision  
9 of a certified electrical or alarm contractor, a local  
10 licensed journeyman electrician, local licensed journeyman  
11 alarm technician, or qualified alarm system agent is not  
12 required to complete the training otherwise required.

13 (3)(2) An applicant for employment as an alarm system  
14 agent, or an individual employed as a burglar ~~an~~ alarm system  
15 agent on the effective date of this act, may commence or  
16 continue employment pending the completion of the required  
17 training and the results of the background check required by  
18 this section for a period not to exceed 60 days after the date  
19 of application for employment, or 60 days after the effective  
20 date of this act for individuals currently employed as burglar  
21 alarm system agents. However, the person must work under the  
22 direction and control of a sponsoring licensed electrical or  
23 burglar alarm system contractor pending the completion of the  
24 training and the criminal background check. If an applicant  
25 or an individual employed on the effective date of this act  
26 does not complete the training or receive a satisfactory  
27 criminal background check within the 60-day period, the  
28 employment must be terminated immediately.

29 (4)(3)(a) A licensed electrical or alarm system  
30 contractor shall furnish each of its burglar alarm system  
31 agents with an identification card. The card shall include a

1 picture of the agent, and shall specify at least the name of  
2 the holder of the card and the name and license number of the  
3 contractor, and shall be signed by the contractor and by the  
4 holder of the card. The identification card shall be in the  
5 possession of each burglar alarm system agent while engaged in  
6 burglar alarm system agent duties.

7 (b) Each person to whom an identification card has  
8 been issued shall be responsible for the safekeeping thereof  
9 and shall not loan, or allow any other person to use or  
10 display, the identification card.

11 ~~(5)(4)~~ Failure to comply with any of the provisions of  
12 this section shall be a disciplinable offense against the  
13 contractor pursuant to s. 489.533.

14 Section 3. Section 489.529, Florida Statutes, 1996  
15 Supplement, is amended to read:

16 489.529 Alarm verification calls required.--All  
17 residential or commercial intrusion/burglary alarms that have  
18 central monitoring must have a central monitoring verification  
19 call made to the premises generating the alarm signal, prior  
20 to alarm monitor personnel contacting a law enforcement agency  
21 for alarm dispatch. However, if the alarms have properly  
22 operating visual or auditory sensors that enable the  
23 monitoring personnel to verify the alarm signal, verification  
24 calling is not required.

25 Section 4. Section 489.5315, Florida Statutes, is  
26 created to read:

27 489.5315 Proprietary electrical or alarm  
28 contractors.--Businesses that obtain an electrical or burglar  
29 alarm system license to work only on their own equipment, and  
30 that do not offer electrical or alarm contracting services to  
31 the public, are not electrical or burglar alarm system

1 contracting businesses and do not have to obtain an  
2 occupational license in addition to any they are otherwise  
3 required to have.

4 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.

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7 SENATE SUMMARY

8 Amends provisions relating to alarm system contracting.  
9 Changes the term "alarm system agent" to "burglar alarm  
10 system agent." Allows certain employers to conduct their  
11 own training. Provides exceptions to certain training  
12 requirements. Eliminates the necessity of a verification  
13 call in certain situations. Provides that certain persons  
14 do not need a separate license.  
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