

By Representative Trovillion

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to fire prevention and control;  
 3           amending s. 633.537, F.S.; changing expiration  
 4           and renewal of certificates of competency for  
 5           fire protection contractors from an annual to a  
 6           biennial basis; revising continuing education  
 7           requirements and providing transitional  
 8           continuing education requirements, to conform;  
 9           amending s. 633.524, F.S.; increasing the  
 10          renewal fee, to conform; amending s. 633.60,  
 11          F.S., relating to engaging in the business or  
 12          acting in the capacity of a contractor of  
 13          automatic fire sprinkler systems, to conform;  
 14          providing an effective date.

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

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 18           Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 633.524, Florida  
 19 Statutes, is amended to read:

20           633.524 Certificate fees; use and deposit of collected  
 21 funds.--

22           (1) The initial application fee for each class of  
 23 certificate shall be \$300. The biennial ~~annual~~ renewal fee for  
 24 each class of certificate shall be \$225~~\$150~~. The fee for  
 25 certificates issued as duplicates or to reflect a change of  
 26 address shall be \$5 each. The fee for each examination or  
 27 reexamination scheduled shall be \$100.

28           Section 2. Section 633.537, Florida Statutes, is  
 29 amended to read:

30           633.537 Certificate; expiration; renewal; inactive  
 31 certificate; continuing education.--

1           (1) Certificates shall expire every 2 years ~~annually~~  
2 at midnight on June 30. Effective with the June 30, 1998,  
3 renewal, all certificates must be renewed every 2 years.The  
4 failure to renew a certificate during June shall cause the  
5 certificate to become inoperative, and it is unlawful  
6 thereafter for any person to engage, offer to engage, or hold  
7 herself or himself out as engaging in contracting under the  
8 certificate unless the certificate is restored or reissued. A  
9 certificate which is inoperative because of failure to renew  
10 shall be restored on payment of the proper renewal fee if the  
11 application for restoration is made within 90 days after June  
12 30. If the application for restoration is not made within the  
13 90-day period, the fee for restoration shall be equal to the  
14 original application fee, and, in addition, the State Fire  
15 Marshal shall require examination or reexamination of the  
16 applicant.

17           (2) A person who holds a valid certificate may  
18 maintain such certificate in an inactive status during which  
19 time she or he may not engage in contracting. An inactive  
20 status certificate shall be void after a 3-year period. The  
21 biennial ~~annual~~ renewal fee for an inactive status certificate  
22 shall be \$75. An inactive status certificate may be  
23 reactivated upon application to the State Fire Marshal and  
24 payment of the initial application fee.

25           (3)(a) ~~Effective July 1, 1996,~~A certificate for the  
26 Contractor I, II, III, and IV classifications as defined in  
27 this chapter shall not be renewed unless the certificateholder  
28 produces documentation of at least 24 contact hours of  
29 continuing education in the fire protection discipline.  
30 Holders of Contractor V certificates are required to obtain 14  
31 contact hours of continuing education ~~each year~~ prior to

1 renewal, at least 1 hour of which is in the fire protection  
2 discipline. Any continuing education hours approved pursuant  
3 to chapter 489 by the Construction Industry Licensing Board  
4 for underground utility and excavation contractors, or  
5 approved for any other licensees under that board which  
6 perform activities requiring licensure as a Contractor V,  
7 shall be considered as also approved to comply with Contractor  
8 V continuing education requirements. A Contractor V shall  
9 provide to the State Fire Marshal evidence of approval of such  
10 coursework by the Construction Industry Licensing Board. Any  
11 continuing education hours approved by the department for a  
12 Contractor V certificateholder shall be considered as also  
13 approved to comply with continuing education requirements for  
14 underground utility and excavation contractors, or approved  
15 for any other licensees under that board which perform  
16 activities requiring licensure as a Contractor V. Such  
17 continuing education requirements under this section may  
18 include seminars and conferences if the program and subject  
19 thereof is acceptable to the State Fire Marshal. The contact  
20 hours of continuing education must be obtained within the  
21 licensure period year, ~~except that acceptable training and~~  
22 ~~education including seminars and conferences received within~~  
23 ~~18 months prior to June 30, 1997, will be allowed during this~~  
24 ~~first year of continuing education requirements.~~

25 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), and only for the  
26 renewal effective June 30, 1998, a holder of a Class I, Class  
27 II, Class III, or Class IV certificate shall produce  
28 documentation of at least 12 contact hours of continuing  
29 education in the fire protection discipline and a holder of a  
30 Class V certificate shall produce documentation of at least 7  
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1 contact hours of continuing education, at least 1 hour of  
2 which is in the fire protection discipline.

3 Section 3. Section 633.60, Florida Statutes, is  
4 amended to read:

5 633.60 Automatic fire sprinkler systems for one-family  
6 dwellings, two-family dwellings, and mobile homes.--

7 (1) It is unlawful for any person to engage in the  
8 business or act in the capacity of a contractor of automatic  
9 fire sprinkler systems for one-family dwellings, two-family  
10 dwellings, and mobile homes without having been duly certified  
11 and holding a current ~~annual renewal~~ certificate as a  
12 Contractor I, Contractor II, or Contractor IV as defined in s.  
13 633.021.

14 (2) A person who violates any provision of this  
15 section commits ~~is guilty of~~ a misdemeanor of the second  
16 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

17 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
18 law.

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21 HOUSE SUMMARY

22 Changes expiration and renewal of certificates of  
23 competency for fire protection contractors from an annual  
24 to a biennial basis. Revises continuing education  
25 requirements and provides transitional continuing  
26 education requirements, to conform. Increases the renewal  
27 fee, to conform. Amends a provision of law relating to  
28 engaging in the business or acting in the capacity of a  
29 contractor of automatic fire sprinkler systems, to  
30 conform. See bill for details.  
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