

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB 1064

SPONSOR: Regulated Industries Committee, Senators Forman and Meyers

SUBJECT: Fire Protection Systems

DATE: March 18, 2000 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Wiehle	Guthrie	RI	Favorable/CS
2.			CA	
3.				
4.				
5.				

I. Summary:

The bill requires professional engineers to sign, date, and seal final bid documents provided to the owner or the owner's representative and defines "layout" for purposes of the fire prevention and control statutes.

The bill substantially amends sections 471.025 and 633.021 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 553.79, F.S., provides that no permit may be issued for any building construction, erection, alteration, repair, or addition unless the applicant for the permit provides to the permitting agency certain documents, when relevant. Among these documents are fire sprinkler documents for any new building or addition that includes a fire sprinkler system with 50 or more sprinkler heads. A Contractor I, Contractor II, or Contractor IV, certified under s. 633.521, F.S., may design a fire sprinkler system with 49 or fewer heads and may design the alteration of an existing fire sprinkler system if the alteration consists of the relocation, addition, or deletion of not more than 49 heads, notwithstanding the size of the existing fire sprinkler system. To be valid these documents must be signed, dated, and stamped, as provided in s. 471.025, F.S., by a professional engineer who possesses a valid certificate of registration.

Section 471.025, F.S., requires that the Board of Professional Engineers prescribe a form of seal to be used by registrants holding valid certificates of registration. Each registrant must obtain an impression-type metal seal in that form and must sign, date, and stamp with the seal all final drawings, specifications, plans, reports, or documents prepared or issued by the registrant and being filed for public record.

Subsection (5) of section 633.021, F.S., defines the certification levels for fire protection system contractors. A Contractor I can execute contracts requiring the ability to lay out, fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and service all types of fire protection systems, excluding preengineered

systems. A Contractor II can execute contracts requiring the ability to lay out, fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and service water sprinkler systems, water spray systems, foam-water sprinkler systems, foam-water spray systems, standpipes, combination standpipes and sprinkler risers, all piping that is an integral part of the system beginning at the point where the piping is used exclusively for fire protection, sprinkler tank heaters, air lines, thermal systems used in connection with sprinklers, and tanks and pumps connected thereto, excluding preengineered systems. A Contractor IV can execute only contracts requiring the ability to lay out, fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and service automatic fire sprinkler systems for detached one-family dwellings, detached two-family dwellings, and mobile homes, excluding preengineered systems and excluding single-family homes in cluster units, such as apartments, condominiums, and assisted living facilities or any building that is connected to other dwellings.

The subsection states that its definitions do not include fire protection engineers or architects and do not limit or prohibit a licensed fire protection engineer or architect from designing any type of fire protection system. It states that persons certified as a Contractor I, Contractor II, or Contractor IV may design fire protection systems of 49 or fewer heads, and may design the alteration of an existing fire sprinkler system if the alteration consists of the relocation, addition, or deletion of not more than 49 heads, notwithstanding the size of the existing fire sprinkler system. Such plans may not be required by any local permitting authority to be sealed by a registered professional engineer.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 471.025, F.S., to require professional engineers to sign, date, and seal final bid documents provided to the owner or the owner's representative.

The bill amends s. 633.021, F.S., to define "layout" to include the layout of risers, cross mains, branch lines, sprinkler heads, sizing of pipe, hanger locations and hydraulic calculations in accordance with the design concepts established by the engineer.

The bill takes effect upon becoming a law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Undetermined.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Undetermined.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
