

By Representatives Brown, Futch and Trovillion

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to fire protection systems;  
3           amending s. 553.79, F.S.; revising provisions  
4           relating to fire sprinkler documents required  
5           for issuance of certain building construction  
6           permits; raising the threshold for which such  
7           documents are required; providing permitting  
8           requirements for installation of fire sprinkler  
9           systems; amending s. 633.021, F.S.; revising  
10          definitions relating to fire protection system  
11          contractors and sprinkler system  
12          point-of-service, to conform; providing  
13          legislative findings with respect to fire  
14          protection system design and installation;  
15          providing effective dates.

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

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19           Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 553.79, Florida  
20 Statutes, is amended to read:

21           553.79 Permits; applications; issuance; inspections.--

22           (6) No permit may be issued for any building  
23 construction, erection, alteration, repair, or addition unless  
24 the applicant for such permit provides to the enforcing agency  
25 which issues the permit any of the following documents which  
26 apply to the construction for which the permit is to be  
27 issued:

28           (a) Electrical documents for any new building or  
29 addition which requires an aggregate service capacity of 600  
30 amperes (240 volts) or more on a residential electrical system  
31 or 800 amperes (240 volts) or more on a commercial or

1 industrial electrical system and which costs more than  
2 \$50,000.

3 (b) Plumbing documents for any new building or  
4 addition which requires a plumbing system with more than 250  
5 fixture units or which costs more than \$50,000.

6 (c)1. Fire sprinkler design criteria documents for any  
7 new building, for a new fire sprinkler system in an existing  
8 building, or for any addition to an existing fire sprinkler  
9 system when the ~~which includes~~ a fire sprinkler system or  
10 addition to be installed ~~which~~ contains 100 ~~50~~ or more  
11 sprinkler heads, which must be prepared by or under the  
12 supervision of, and bear the seal of, a professional engineer  
13 registered in this state who is qualified to perform such  
14 work.

15 a. The fire sprinkler design criteria documents  
16 required by this subparagraph shall include, where applicable,  
17 the following:

18 (I) National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) hazard  
19 classifications.

20 (II) Prescriptive National Fire Protection Association  
21 (NFPA) standards.

22 (III) Water supply characteristics and requirements.

23 (IV) Special fire department requirements, if any.

24 (V) Special water purveyor requirements, if any.

25 (VI) Special insurance requirements, if any.

26 (VII) Interface direction with other building  
27 components.

28  
29 However, the engineer of record may determine that the  
30 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards adopted  
31 by the State Fire Marshal provide sufficient design parameters

1 for the project's fire sprinkler system without further  
2 engineer involvement and, therefore, may specify such  
3 prescriptive standards as the design criteria for that  
4 project. In such event, the fire sprinkler design criteria  
5 documents are not required to be sealed by the engineer of  
6 record as otherwise required by this subparagraph.

7 b. Upon review and approval of the fire sprinkler  
8 design criteria documents by the permitting authority, the  
9 permit for construction of the building may be issued.

10 Thereafter, a permit for the installation of the fire  
11 sprinkler system shall be requested by and issued to a fire  
12 protection system contractor certified under s. 633.521, upon  
13 review and approval by the permitting authority of the  
14 technical installation drawings and installation hydraulic  
15 calculations. Such technical installation drawings and  
16 installation hydraulic calculations are not required to be  
17 sealed by a registered professional engineer.

18 2. A Contractor I, Contractor II, or Contractor IV,  
19 certified under s. 633.521, may design a fire sprinkler system  
20 of 99 ~~49~~ or fewer heads and may design the alteration of an  
21 existing fire sprinkler system if the alteration consists of  
22 the relocation ~~or~~, ~~addition,~~ ~~or deletion~~ of not more than 99  
23 ~~49~~ heads, notwithstanding the size of the existing fire  
24 sprinkler system. Such plans may not be required by any local  
25 permitting authority to be sealed by a registered professional  
26 engineer.

27 (d) Heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning  
28 documents for any new building or addition which requires more  
29 than a 15-ton-per-system capacity which is designed to  
30 accommodate 100 or more persons or for which the system costs  
31 more than \$50,000. This paragraph does not include any

1 document for the replacement or repair of an existing system  
2 in which the work does not require altering a structural part  
3 of the building or for work on a residential one-family,  
4 two-family, three-family, or four-family structure.

5 (e) Any specialized mechanical, electrical, or  
6 plumbing document for any new building or addition which  
7 includes a medical gas, oxygen, steam, vacuum, toxic air  
8 filtration, halon, or fire detection and alarm system which  
9 costs more than \$5,000.

10

11 Documents requiring an engineer seal by this part ~~No such~~  
12 ~~document~~ shall not be valid unless a professional engineer who  
13 possesses a valid certificate of registration has signed,  
14 dated, and stamped such document as provided in s. 471.025.

15 Section 2. Effective January 1, 2001, subsection (6)  
16 of section 553.79, Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter  
17 98-287, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

18 553.79 Permits; applications; issuance; inspections.--

19 (6) No permit may be issued for any building  
20 construction, erection, alteration, ~~modification,~~ repair, or  
21 addition unless the applicant for such permit provides to the  
22 enforcing agency which issues the permit any of the following  
23 documents which apply to the construction for which the permit  
24 is to be issued ~~and which shall be prepared by or under the~~  
25 ~~direction of an engineer registered under chapter 471:~~

26 (a) Electrical documents for any new building or  
27 addition which requires an aggregate service capacity of 600  
28 amperes (240 volts) or more on a residential electrical system  
29 or 800 amperes (240 volts) or more on a commercial or  
30 industrial electrical system and which costs more than  
31 \$50,000.

1           (b) Plumbing documents for any new building or  
2 addition which requires a plumbing system with more than 250  
3 fixture units or which costs more than \$50,000.

4           (c) 1. Fire sprinkler design criteria documents for any  
5 new building, for a new fire sprinkler system in an existing  
6 building, or for any addition to an existing fire sprinkler  
7 system when the ~~which includes~~ a fire sprinkler system or  
8 addition to be installed ~~which~~ contains 100 ~~50~~ or more  
9 sprinkler heads, which must be prepared by or under the  
10 supervision of, and bear the seal of, a professional engineer  
11 registered in this state who is qualified to perform such  
12 work.

13           a. The fire sprinkler design criteria documents  
14 required by this subparagraph shall include, where applicable,  
15 the following:

16           (I) National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) hazard  
17 classifications.

18           (II) Prescriptive National Fire Protection Association  
19 (NFPA) standards.

20           (III) Water supply characteristics and requirements.  
21           (IV) Special fire department requirements, if any.  
22           (V) Special water purveyor requirements, if any.  
23           (VI) Special insurance requirements, if any.  
24           (VII) Interface direction with other building  
25 components.

26

27 However, the engineer of record may determine that the  
28 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards adopted  
29 by the State Fire Marshal provide sufficient design parameters  
30 for the project's fire sprinkler system without further  
31 engineer involvement and, therefore, may specify such

1 prescriptive standards as the design criteria for that  
2 project. In such event, the fire sprinkler design criteria  
3 documents are not required to be sealed by the engineer of  
4 record as otherwise required by this subparagraph.

5 b. Upon review and approval of the fire sprinkler  
6 design criteria documents by the permitting authority, the  
7 permit for construction of the building may be issued.  
8 Thereafter, a permit for the installation of the fire  
9 sprinkler system shall be requested by and issued to a fire  
10 protection system contractor certified under s. 633.521, upon  
11 review and approval by the permitting authority of the  
12 technical installation drawings and installation hydraulic  
13 calculations. Such technical installation drawings and  
14 installation hydraulic calculations are not required to be  
15 sealed by a registered professional engineer.

16 2. A Contractor I, Contractor II, or Contractor IV,  
17 certified under s. 633.521, may design a fire sprinkler system  
18 of ~~99~~ <sup>49</sup> or fewer heads and may design the alteration of an  
19 existing fire sprinkler system if the alteration consists of  
20 the relocation ~~or, addition, or deletion~~ of not more than ~~99~~  
21 ~~49~~ heads, notwithstanding the size of the existing fire  
22 sprinkler system. Such plans may not be required by any local  
23 permitting authority to be sealed by a registered professional  
24 engineer.

25 (d) Heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning  
26 documents for any new building or addition which requires more  
27 than a 15-ton-per-system capacity which is designed to  
28 accommodate 100 or more persons or for which the system costs  
29 more than \$50,000. This paragraph does not include any  
30 document for the replacement or repair of an existing system  
31 in which the work does not require altering a structural part

1 of the building or for work on a residential one-family,  
2 two-family, three-family, or four-family structure.

3 (e) Any specialized mechanical, electrical, or  
4 plumbing document for any new building or addition which  
5 includes a medical gas, oxygen, steam, vacuum, toxic air  
6 filtration, halon, or fire detection and alarm system which  
7 costs more than \$5,000.

8  
9 Documents requiring an engineer seal by this part shall not be  
10 valid unless a professional engineer who possesses a valid  
11 certificate of registration has signed, dated, and stamped  
12 such document as provided in s. 471.025.

13 Section 3. Subsections (5) and (17) of section  
14 633.021, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

15 633.021 Definitions.--As used in this chapter:

16 (5)(a) "Contractor I" means a contractor whose  
17 business includes the execution of contracts requiring the  
18 ability to lay out, fabricate, install, inspect, alter,  
19 repair, and service all types of fire protection systems,  
20 excluding preengineered systems.

21 (b) "Contractor II" means a contractor whose business  
22 is limited to the execution of contracts requiring the ability  
23 to lay out, fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and  
24 service water sprinkler systems, water spray systems,  
25 foam-water sprinkler systems, foam-water spray systems,  
26 standpipes, combination standpipes and sprinkler risers, all  
27 piping that is an integral part of the system beginning at the  
28 point where the piping is used exclusively for fire  
29 protection, sprinkler tank heaters, air lines, thermal systems  
30 used in connection with sprinklers, and tanks and pumps  
31 connected thereto, excluding preengineered systems.

1           (c) "Contractor III" means a contractor whose business  
2 is limited to the execution of contracts requiring the ability  
3 to lay out, fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and  
4 service CO<sub>2</sub> systems, foam extinguishing systems, dry  
5 chemical systems, and Halon and other chemical systems,  
6 excluding preengineered systems.

7           (d) "Contractor IV" means a contractor whose business  
8 is limited to the execution of contracts requiring the ability  
9 to lay out, fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and  
10 service automatic fire sprinkler systems for detached  
11 one-family dwellings, detached two-family dwellings, and  
12 mobile homes, excluding preengineered systems and excluding  
13 single-family homes in cluster units, such as apartments,  
14 condominiums, and assisted living facilities or any building  
15 that is connected to other dwellings.

16           (e) "Contractor V" means a contractor whose business  
17 is limited to the execution of contracts requiring the ability  
18 to lay out, fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and  
19 service the underground piping for a fire protection system  
20 using water as the extinguishing agent beginning at the point  
21 at which the piping is used exclusively for fire protection  
22 and ending no more than 1 foot above the finished floor.

23  
24 The definitions in this subsection must not be construed to  
25 include fire protection engineers or architects and do not  
26 limit or prohibit a licensed fire protection engineer or  
27 architect from designing any type of fire protection system.  
28 However, persons certified as a Contractor I, Contractor II,  
29 or Contractor IV under this chapter may design fire protection  
30 systems of 99 ~~49~~ or fewer heads, and may design the alteration  
31 of an existing fire sprinkler system if the alteration



1 consists of the relocation ~~or~~, addition, ~~or deletion~~ of not  
2 more than 99 ~~49~~ heads, notwithstanding the size of the  
3 existing fire sprinkler system. Such plans may not be required  
4 by any local permitting authority to be sealed by a registered  
5 professional engineer. Furthermore, the Legislature recognizes  
6 and finds that for the safety and welfare of the public the  
7 State Fire Marshal has been authorized under this chapter to  
8 establish fire protection system design criteria, that the  
9 State Fire Marshal has adopted and may continue to adopt  
10 nationally recognized fire protection system design criteria  
11 pursuant to the authority granted under this chapter, that the  
12 repetitive and routine process of preparing technical drawings  
13 and installation hydraulic calculations for the layout of a  
14 fire protection system based on the adopted national fire  
15 protection design standards and engineer design criteria does  
16 not require the use of engineering principles and knowledge,  
17 and that preparing the technical drawings and installation  
18 hydraulic calculations for the installation or alteration of a  
19 fire protection system by a fire protection system contractor  
20 as defined and certified under this chapter, when such  
21 contractor follows the engineer design criteria or the fire  
22 sprinkler design criteria adopted by the State Fire Marshal or  
23 both, does not constitute the practice of engineering.

24 (17) "Point-of-service" means the point at which the  
25 underground piping for a sprinkler system using water as the  
26 extinguishing agent becomes used exclusively for the sprinkler  
27 system. The point-of-service is designated by the engineer  
28 who sealed the plans for a system of 100 ~~50~~ or more heads or  
29 by the contractor who designed the plans for a system of 99 ~~49~~  
30 or fewer heads.

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1           Section 4. Except as otherwise provided herein, this  
2 act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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5                                   HOUSE SUMMARY

6           Revises provisions relating to fire sprinkler documents  
7 required for issuance of certain building construction  
8 permits. Raises the threshold for which such documents  
9 are required. Provides permitting requirements for  
10 installation of fire sprinkler systems. Revises  
11 definitions relating to fire protection system  
12 contractors and sprinkler system point-of-service, to  
13 conform. Provides legislative findings with respect to  
14 fire protection system design and installation. See bill  
15 for details.  
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