

By Senator Bennett

21-1288-03

See HB 745

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to electrical and alarm system  
3           contracting; amending s. 489.517, F.S.;  
4           requiring certificateholders and registrants to  
5           have continuing education on false alarm  
6           prevention; amending s. 489.518, F.S.; revising  
7           qualifications for burglar alarm system agents;  
8           requiring additional criminal background check;  
9           removing an exemption from training  
10          requirements for persons who only perform  
11          sales; authorizing employment as an alarm  
12          system agent or burglar alarm system agent  
13          under supervision for a specified period  
14          pending completion of training and the criminal  
15          background check; providing format, validity  
16          period, and renewal requirements for burglar  
17          alarm system agent identification cards;  
18          requiring an updated criminal background check  
19          of each burglar alarm system agent renewing  
20          certification; providing continuing education  
21          requirements for burglar alarm system agents;  
22          amending s. 489.5185, F.S.; revising  
23          qualifications for fire alarm system agents;  
24          requiring additional criminal background check;  
25          requiring an updated criminal background check  
26          of each fire alarm system agent renewing  
27          certification; requiring fire alarm system  
28          agents to have continuing education on false  
29          alarm prevention; amending s. 489.529, F.S.;  
30          requiring a second alarm-verification call if  
31

1 the first call is unanswered; providing an  
2 effective date.

3  
4 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

5  
6 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section  
7 489.517, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

8 489.517 Renewal of certificate or registration;  
9 continuing education.--

10 (4)

11 (b) Of the 14 classroom hours of continuing education  
12 required, at least 7 hours must be on technical subjects, 2  
13 hours on false alarm prevention, 1 hour on workers'  
14 compensation, 1 hour on workplace safety, and 1 hour on  
15 business practices.

16 Section 2. Section 489.518, Florida Statutes, is  
17 amended to read:

18 489.518 Alarm system agents.--

19 (1) A licensed electrical or alarm system contractor  
20 may not employ a person to perform the duties of a burglar  
21 alarm system agent unless the person:

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

24 (b) Has successfully completed a minimum of 12 hours  
25 of training, to include basic alarm system electronics in  
26 addition to related training including CCTV and access control  
27 training, with at least 2 hours on false alarm prevention.

28 Such training shall be from a board-approved provider, and the  
29 employee or applicant for employment shall provide proof of  
30 successful completion to the licensed employer. The board  
31 shall by rule establish criteria for the approval of training

1 courses and providers and may by rule establish criteria for  
2 accepting alternative nonclassroom education on an  
3 hour-for-hour basis. The board shall approve providers that  
4 conduct training in other than the English language. The board  
5 shall establish a fee for the approval of training providers  
6 or courses, not to exceed \$60. Qualified employers may conduct  
7 training classes for their employees, with board approval.

8 (c) Has not been convicted within the last 3 years of  
9 a crime that directly relates to the business for which  
10 employment is being sought. Although the employee is barred  
11 from operating as an alarm system agent for 3 years subsequent  
12 to his or her conviction, the employer shall be supplied the  
13 information regarding any convictions occurring prior to that  
14 time, and the employer may at his or her discretion consider  
15 an earlier conviction to be a bar to employment as an alarm  
16 system agent. To ensure that this requirement has been met, a  
17 licensed electrical or alarm contractor must obtain from the  
18 Florida Department of Law Enforcement a completed fingerprint  
19 and criminal background check, including a check through the  
20 National Crime Information Center, for each applicant for  
21 employment as a burglar alarm system agent ~~or for each~~  
22 ~~individual currently employed on the effective date of this~~  
23 ~~act as a burglar alarm system agent.~~

24 (d) Has not been committed for controlled substance  
25 abuse or been found guilty of a crime under chapter 893 or a  
26 similar law relating to controlled substances in any other  
27 state within the 3-year period immediately preceding the date  
28 of application for employment, or the effective date of this  
29 act for an individual employed as a burglar alarm system agent  
30 on that date, unless he or she establishes that he or she is  
31

1 not currently abusing any controlled substance and has  
2 successfully completed a rehabilitation course.

3 (2)(a) Persons who perform only monitoring ~~or sales~~  
4 are not required to complete the training required for burglar  
5 alarm system agents.

6 (b) Persons who perform only monitoring at an  
7 out-of-state location are not required to comply with  
8 background check requirements.

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

13 (d) A state-certified electrical contractor, a  
14 state-certified alarm system contractor, a state-registered  
15 alarm system contractor, a journeyman electrician licensed by  
16 any local jurisdiction, or an alarm technician licensed by a  
17 local jurisdiction that requires an examination and experience  
18 or training as licensure qualifications, is not required to  
19 complete the training required for burglar alarm system  
20 agents. A state-registered electrical contractor is not  
21 required to complete the training required for burglar alarm  
22 system agents, so long as he or she is only doing electrical  
23 work up to the alarm panel.

24 (e) A nonsupervising employee working as a helper or  
25 apprentice under the direct, on-site, continuous supervision  
26 of a state-certified electrical contractor, a state-registered  
27 electrical contractor, a state-certified alarm system  
28 contractor, a state-registered alarm system contractor, a  
29 journeyman electrician licensed by any local jurisdiction, an  
30 alarm technician licensed by a local jurisdiction that  
31 requires an examination and experience or training as

1 licensure qualifications, or a qualified alarm system agent is  
2 not required to complete the training otherwise required and  
3 is not required to be 18 years of age or older.

4 (3) An applicant for employment as an alarm system  
5 agent, or an individual employed as a burglar alarm system  
6 agent on the effective date of this act, may commence or  
7 continue employment pending the completion of the required  
8 training and the results of the background check required by  
9 this section for a period not to exceed 90 ~~60~~ days after the  
10 date of application for employment, or 90 ~~60~~ days after the  
11 effective date of this act for individuals currently employed  
12 as burglar alarm system agents. However, the person must work  
13 under the direction and control of a sponsoring licensed  
14 electrical or burglar alarm system contractor pending the  
15 completion of the training and the criminal background check.  
16 If an applicant or an individual employed on the effective  
17 date of this act does not complete the training or receive a  
18 satisfactory criminal background check within the 90-day  
19 ~~60-day~~ period, the employment must be terminated immediately.

20 (4)(a) A licensed electrical or alarm system  
21 contractor shall furnish each of its burglar alarm system  
22 agents with an identification card.

23 (b) The card shall follow a board-approved format.The  
24 card shall include a picture of the agent, ~~and~~ shall specify  
25 at least the name of the holder of the card and the name and  
26 license number of the contractor, and shall be signed by the  
27 contractor and by the holder of the card. Each identification  
28 card shall be valid for a period of 2 years after the date of  
29 issuance.The identification card shall be in the possession  
30 of each burglar alarm system agent while engaged in burglar  
31 alarm system agent duties.

1           ~~(c)(b)~~ Each person to whom an identification card has  
2 been issued shall be responsible for the safekeeping thereof  
3 and shall not loan, or allow any other person to use or  
4 display, the identification card.

5           (d) Each identification card must be renewed every 2  
6 years and in a board-approved format to show compliance with  
7 the 6 hours of continuing education necessary to maintain  
8 certification as a burglar alarm system agent.

9           (e) Each licensed electrical or alarm system  
10 contractor must obtain an updated criminal background check  
11 from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for each  
12 burglar alarm system agent who renews certification.

13           (5) Each burglar alarm system agent must receive 6  
14 hours of continuing education on burglar alarm system  
15 installation and repair and false alarm prevention every 2  
16 years from a board-approved sponsor of training and through a  
17 board-approved training course.

18           ~~(6)(5)~~ Failure to comply with any of the provisions of  
19 this section shall be a disciplinable offense against the  
20 contractor pursuant to s. 489.533.

21           Section 3. Section 489.5185, Florida Statutes, is  
22 amended to read:

23           489.5185 Fire alarm system agents.--

24           (1) A certified unlimited electrical contractor or  
25 licensed fire alarm contractor may not employ a person to  
26 perform the duties of a fire alarm system agent unless the  
27 person:

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

30           (b) Has successfully completed a minimum of 18 hours  
31 of initial training, to include basic fire alarm system

1 technology in addition to related training in National Fire  
2 Protection Association (NFPA) codes and standards and access  
3 control training, with at least 2 hours on false alarm  
4 prevention. Such training must be from a board-approved  
5 provider, and the employee or applicant for employment must  
6 provide proof of successful completion to the licensed  
7 employer. The board, by rule, shall establish criteria for the  
8 approval of training courses and providers. The board shall  
9 approve qualified providers that conduct training in other  
10 than the English language. The board shall establish a fee for  
11 the approval of training providers, not to exceed \$200, and a  
12 fee for the approval of courses at \$25 per credit hour, not to  
13 exceed \$100 per course.

14 (c) Has not been convicted within the last 3 years of  
15 a crime that directly relates to the business for which  
16 employment is being sought. Although the employee is barred  
17 from operating as a fire alarm system agent for 3 years  
18 subsequent to his or her conviction, the employer shall be  
19 supplied the information regarding any convictions occurring  
20 prior to that time, and the employer may at his or her  
21 discretion consider an earlier conviction to be a bar to  
22 employment as a fire alarm system agent. To ensure that this  
23 requirement has been met, a certified unlimited electrical  
24 contractor or licensed fire alarm contractor must obtain from  
25 the Florida Department of Law Enforcement a completed  
26 fingerprint and criminal background check, including a check  
27 through the National Crime Information Center, for each  
28 applicant for employment as a fire alarm system agent ~~or for~~  
29 ~~each individual currently employed on the effective date of~~  
30 ~~this act as a fire alarm system agent.~~

31

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

11           (2)(a) Any applicant for employment as a fire alarm  
12 system agent, or any individual employed as a fire alarm  
13 system agent on the effective date of this act, who has  
14 completed alarm system agent or burglar alarm system agent  
15 training prior to the effective date of this act in a  
16 board-certified program is not required to take additional  
17 training in order to comply with the initial training  
18 requirements of this section.

19           (b) A state-certified electrical contractor, a  
20 state-certified fire alarm system contractor, a  
21 state-registered fire alarm system contractor, a journeyman  
22 electrician licensed by any local jurisdiction, or an alarm  
23 technician licensed by a local jurisdiction that requires an  
24 examination and experience or training as licensure  
25 qualifications is not required to complete the training  
26 required for fire alarm system agents. A state-registered  
27 electrical contractor is not required to complete the training  
28 required for fire alarm system agents, so long as he or she is  
29 only doing electrical work up to the alarm panel.

30           (c) A nonsupervising employee working as a helper or  
31 apprentice under the direct, onsite, continuous supervision of



1 a state-certified electrical contractor, a state-registered  
2 electrical contractor, a state-certified fire alarm system  
3 contractor, a state-registered fire alarm system contractor, a  
4 journeyman electrician licensed by any local jurisdiction, an  
5 alarm technician licensed by a local jurisdiction that  
6 requires an examination and experience or training as  
7 licensure qualifications, or a qualified fire alarm system  
8 agent is not required to complete the training otherwise  
9 required and is not required to be 18 years of age or older.

10 (d) A burglar alarm system agent employed by a  
11 licensed fire alarm contractor or certified unlimited  
12 electrical contractor who has fulfilled all requirements of s.  
13 489.518 prior to the effective date of this act is not  
14 required to complete the initial training required by this  
15 section for fire alarm system agents.

16 (e) Persons who perform only monitoring are not  
17 required to complete the training required for fire alarm  
18 system agents.

19 (3) An applicant for employment as a fire alarm system  
20 agent may commence employment, or an individual employed as a  
21 fire alarm system agent on the effective date of this act may  
22 continue employment, pending completion of both the training  
23 and the fingerprint and criminal background checks required by  
24 this section, for a period not to exceed 90 days after the  
25 date of application for employment or 90 days after the  
26 effective date of this act for individuals employed as fire  
27 alarm system agents on that date. However, the person must  
28 work under the direction and control of a sponsoring certified  
29 unlimited electrical contractor or licensed fire alarm  
30 contractor until completion of both the training and the  
31 fingerprint and criminal background checks. If an applicant or

1 an individual employed on the effective date of this act does  
2 not complete the training or receive satisfactory fingerprint  
3 and criminal background checks within the 90-day period, the  
4 employment must be terminated immediately.

5 (4)(a) A certified unlimited electrical contractor or  
6 licensed fire alarm contractor must furnish each of his or her  
7 fire alarm system agents with an identification card.

8 (b) The card shall follow a board-approved format, to  
9 include a picture of the agent; shall specify at least the  
10 name of the holder of the card and the name and license number  
11 of the certified unlimited electrical contractor or licensed  
12 fire alarm contractor; and shall be signed by both the  
13 contractor and the holder of the card. Each identification  
14 card shall be valid for a period of 2 years after the date of  
15 issuance. The identification card must be in the possession of  
16 the fire alarm system agent while engaged in fire alarm system  
17 agent duties.

18 (c) Each person to whom an identification card has  
19 been issued is responsible for the safekeeping thereof, and  
20 may not loan, or allow any other person to use or display, the  
21 identification card.

22 (d) Each identification card must be renewed every 2  
23 years and in a board-approved format to show compliance with  
24 the 6 hours of continuing education necessary to maintain  
25 certification as a fire alarm system agent.

26 (e) Each licensed electrical or alarm system  
27 contractor must obtain an updated criminal background check  
28 from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for each fire  
29 alarm system agent who renews certification.

30 (5) Each fire alarm system agent must receive 6 hours  
31 of continuing education on fire alarm system installation and

1 repair and false alarm prevention every 2 years from a  
2 board-approved sponsor of training and through a  
3 board-approved training course.

4 (6) Failure to comply with any of the provisions of  
5 this section shall be grounds for disciplinary action against  
6 the contractor pursuant to s. 489.533.

7 Section 4. Section 489.529, Florida Statutes, is  
8 amended to read:

9 489.529 Alarm verification calls required.--All  
10 residential or commercial intrusion/burglary alarms that have  
11 central monitoring must have a central monitoring verification  
12 call made to the premises generating the alarm signal, prior  
13 to alarm monitor personnel contacting a law enforcement agency  
14 for alarm dispatch. The central monitoring station should make  
15 a second call to the premises generating the alarm signal if  
16 the first call is not answered.However, if the  
17 intrusion/burglary alarms have properly operating visual or  
18 auditory sensors that enable the monitoring personnel to  
19 verify the alarm signal, verification calling is not required.

20 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31