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A bill to be entitled  
 An act relating to electrical and alarm system  
 contracting; amending s. 489.517, F.S.; requiring  
 certificateholders and registrants to have continuing  
 education on false alarm prevention; amending s. 489.518,  
 F.S.; revising qualifications for burglar alarm system  
 agents; requiring additional criminal background check;  
 removing an exemption from training requirements for  
 persons who only perform sales; authorizing employment as  
 an alarm system agent or burglar alarm system agent under  
 supervision for a specified period pending completion of  
 training and the criminal background check; providing  
 format, validity period, and renewal requirements for  
 burglar alarm system agent identification cards; requiring  
 an updated criminal background check of each burglar alarm  
 system agent renewing certification; providing continuing  
 education requirements for burglar alarm system agents;  
 amending s. 489.5185, F.S.; revising qualifications for  
 fire alarm system agents; requiring additional criminal  
 background check; requiring an updated criminal background  
 check of each fire alarm system agent renewing  
 certification; requiring fire alarm system agents to have  
 continuing education on false alarm prevention; amending  
 s. 489.529, F.S.; requiring a second alarm verification  
 call if the first call is unanswered; providing an  
 effective date.

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



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30 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section  
31 489.517, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

32 489.517 Renewal of certificate or registration; continuing  
33 education.--

34 (4)

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

40 Section 2. Section 489.518, Florida Statutes, is amended  
41 to read:

42 489.518 Alarm system agents.--

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

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

48 (b) Has successfully completed a minimum of 12 hours of  
49 training, to include basic alarm system electronics in addition  
50 to related training including CCTV and access control training,  
51 with at least 2 hours on false alarm prevention. Such training  
52 shall be from a board-approved provider, and the employee or  
53 applicant for employment shall provide proof of successful  
54 completion to the licensed employer. The board shall by rule  
55 establish criteria for the approval of training courses and  
56 providers and may by rule establish criteria for accepting  
57 alternative nonclassroom education on an hour-for-hour basis.  
58 The board shall approve providers that conduct training in other  
59 than the English language. The board shall establish a fee for



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60 the approval of training providers or courses, not to exceed  
61 \$60. Qualified employers may conduct training classes for their  
62 employees, with board approval.

63 (c) Has not been convicted within the last 3 years of a  
64 crime that directly relates to the business for which employment  
65 is being sought. Although the employee is barred from operating  
66 as an alarm system agent for 3 years subsequent to his or her  
67 conviction, the employer shall be supplied the information  
68 regarding any convictions occurring prior to that time, and the  
69 employer may at his or her discretion consider an earlier  
70 conviction to be a bar to employment as an alarm system agent.  
71 To ensure that this requirement has been met, a licensed  
72 electrical or alarm contractor must obtain from the Florida  
73 Department of Law Enforcement a completed fingerprint and  
74 criminal background check, including a check through the  
75 National Crime Information Center, for each applicant for  
76 employment as a burglar alarm system agent ~~or for each~~  
77 ~~individual currently employed on the effective date of this act~~  
78 ~~as a burglar alarm system agent.~~

79 (d) Has not been committed for controlled substance abuse  
80 or been found guilty of a crime under chapter 893 or a similar  
81 law relating to controlled substances in any other state within  
82 the 3-year period immediately preceding the date of application  
83 for employment, or the effective date of this act for an  
84 individual employed as a burglar alarm system agent on that  
85 date, unless he or she establishes that he or she is not  
86 currently abusing any controlled substance and has successfully  
87 completed a rehabilitation course.



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

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

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

98           (d) A state-certified electrical contractor, a state-  
99 certified alarm system contractor, a state-registered alarm  
100 system contractor, a journeyman electrician licensed by any  
101 local jurisdiction, or an alarm technician licensed by a local  
102 jurisdiction that requires an examination and experience or  
103 training as licensure qualifications, is not required to  
104 complete the training required for burglar alarm system agents.  
105 A state-registered electrical contractor is not required to  
106 complete the training required for burglar alarm system agents,  
107 so long as he or she is only doing electrical work up to the  
108 alarm panel.

109           (e) A nonsupervising employee working as a helper or  
110 apprentice under the direct, on-site, continuous supervision of  
111 a state-certified electrical contractor, a state-registered  
112 electrical contractor, a state-certified alarm system  
113 contractor, a state-registered alarm system contractor, a  
114 journeyman electrician licensed by any local jurisdiction, an  
115 alarm technician licensed by a local jurisdiction that requires  
116 an examination and experience or training as licensure  
117 qualifications, or a qualified alarm system agent is not



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118 required to complete the training otherwise required and is not  
119 required to be 18 years of age or older.

120 (3) An applicant for employment as an alarm system agent,  
121 or an individual employed as a burglar alarm system agent on the  
122 effective date of this act, may commence or continue employment  
123 pending the completion of the required training and the results  
124 of the background check required by this section for a period  
125 not to exceed 90 ~~60~~ days after the date of application for  
126 employment, or 90 ~~60~~ days after the effective date of this act  
127 for individuals currently employed as burglar alarm system  
128 agents. However, the person must work under the direction and  
129 control of a sponsoring licensed electrical or burglar alarm  
130 system contractor pending the completion of the training and the  
131 criminal background check. If an applicant or an individual  
132 employed on the effective date of this act does not complete the  
133 training or receive a satisfactory criminal background check  
134 within the 90-day ~~60-day~~ period, the employment must be  
135 terminated immediately.

136 (4)(a) A licensed electrical or alarm system contractor  
137 shall furnish each of its burglar alarm system agents with an  
138 identification card.

139 (b) The card shall follow a board-approved format. The  
140 card shall include a picture of the agent, ~~and~~ shall specify at  
141 least the name of the holder of the card and the name and  
142 license number of the contractor, and shall be signed by the  
143 contractor and by the holder of the card. Each identification  
144 card shall be valid for a period of 2 years after the date of  
145 issuance. The identification card shall be in the possession of  
146 each burglar alarm system agent while engaged in burglar alarm  
147 system agent duties.



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

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

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

160        (5) Each burglar alarm system agent must receive 6 hours  
 161 of continuing education on burglar alarm system installation and  
 162 repair and false alarm prevention every 2 years from a board-  
 163 approved sponsor of training and through a board-approved  
 164 training course.

165        ~~(6)(5)~~ Failure to comply with any of the provisions of  
 166 this section shall be a disciplinable offense against the  
 167 contractor pursuant to s. 489.533.

168        Section 3. Section 489.5185, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 169 to read:

170        489.5185 Fire alarm system agents.--

171        (1) A certified unlimited electrical contractor or  
 172 licensed fire alarm contractor may not employ a person to  
 173 perform the duties of a fire alarm system agent unless the  
 174 person:

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



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177 (b) Has successfully completed a minimum of 18 hours of  
178 initial training, to include basic fire alarm system technology  
179 in addition to related training in National Fire Protection  
180 Association (NFPA) codes and standards and access control  
181 training, with at least 2 hours on false alarm prevention. Such  
182 training must be from a board-approved provider, and the  
183 employee or applicant for employment must provide proof of  
184 successful completion to the licensed employer. The board, by  
185 rule, shall establish criteria for the approval of training  
186 courses and providers. The board shall approve qualified  
187 providers that conduct training in other than the English  
188 language. The board shall establish a fee for the approval of  
189 training providers, not to exceed \$200, and a fee for the  
190 approval of courses at \$25 per credit hour, not to exceed \$100  
191 per course.

192 (c) Has not been convicted within the last 3 years of a  
193 crime that directly relates to the business for which employment  
194 is being sought. Although the employee is barred from operating  
195 as a fire alarm system agent for 3 years subsequent to his or  
196 her conviction, the employer shall be supplied the information  
197 regarding any convictions occurring prior to that time, and the  
198 employer may at his or her discretion consider an earlier  
199 conviction to be a bar to employment as a fire alarm system  
200 agent. To ensure that this requirement has been met, a certified  
201 unlimited electrical contractor or licensed fire alarm  
202 contractor must obtain from the Florida Department of Law  
203 Enforcement a completed fingerprint and criminal background  
204 check, including a check through the National Crime Information  
205 Center, for each applicant for employment as a fire alarm system



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206 ~~agent or for each individual currently employed on the effective~~  
207 ~~date of this act as a fire alarm system agent.~~

208 (d) Has not been committed for controlled substance abuse  
209 or been found guilty of a crime under chapter 893 or any similar  
210 law relating to controlled substances in any other state within  
211 the 3-year period immediately preceding the date of application  
212 for employment, or immediately preceding the effective date of  
213 this act for an individual employed as a fire alarm system agent  
214 on that date, unless the person establishes that he or she is  
215 not currently abusing any controlled substance and has  
216 successfully completed a rehabilitation course.

217 (2)(a) Any applicant for employment as a fire alarm system  
218 agent, or any individual employed as a fire alarm system agent  
219 on the effective date of this act, who has completed alarm  
220 system agent or burglar alarm system agent training prior to the  
221 effective date of this act in a board-certified program is not  
222 required to take additional training in order to comply with the  
223 initial training requirements of this section.

224 (b) A state-certified electrical contractor, a state-  
225 certified fire alarm system contractor, a state-registered fire  
226 alarm system contractor, a journeyman electrician licensed by  
227 any local jurisdiction, or an alarm technician licensed by a  
228 local jurisdiction that requires an examination and experience  
229 or training as licensure qualifications is not required to  
230 complete the training required for fire alarm system agents. A  
231 state-registered electrical contractor is not required to  
232 complete the training required for fire alarm system agents, so  
233 long as he or she is only doing electrical work up to the alarm  
234 panel.





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235 (c) A nonsupervising employee working as a helper or  
 236 apprentice under the direct, onsite, continuous supervision of a  
 237 state-certified electrical contractor, a state-registered  
 238 electrical contractor, a state-certified fire alarm system  
 239 contractor, a state-registered fire alarm system contractor, a  
 240 journeyman electrician licensed by any local jurisdiction, an  
 241 alarm technician licensed by a local jurisdiction that requires  
 242 an examination and experience or training as licensure  
 243 qualifications, or a qualified fire alarm system agent is not  
 244 required to complete the training otherwise required and is not  
 245 required to be 18 years of age or older.

246 (d) A burglar alarm system agent employed by a licensed  
 247 fire alarm contractor or certified unlimited electrical  
 248 contractor who has fulfilled all requirements of s. 489.518  
 249 prior to the effective date of this act is not required to  
 250 complete the initial training required by this section for fire  
 251 alarm system agents.

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

254 (3) An applicant for employment as a fire alarm system  
 255 agent may commence employment, or an individual employed as a  
 256 fire alarm system agent on the effective date of this act may  
 257 continue employment, pending completion of both the training and  
 258 the fingerprint and criminal background checks required by this  
 259 section, for a period not to exceed 90 days after the date of  
 260 application for employment or 90 days after the effective date  
 261 of this act for individuals employed as fire alarm system agents  
 262 on that date. However, the person must work under the direction  
 263 and control of a sponsoring certified unlimited electrical  
 264 contractor or licensed fire alarm contractor until completion of



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265 both the training and the fingerprint and criminal background  
266 checks. If an applicant or an individual employed on the  
267 effective date of this act does not complete the training or  
268 receive satisfactory fingerprint and criminal background checks  
269 within the 90-day period, the employment must be terminated  
270 immediately.

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

274 (b) The card shall follow a board-approved format, to  
275 include a picture of the agent; shall specify at least the name  
276 of the holder of the card and the name and license number of the  
277 certified unlimited electrical contractor or licensed fire alarm  
278 contractor; and shall be signed by both the contractor and the  
279 holder of the card. Each identification card shall be valid for  
280 a period of 2 years after the date of issuance. The  
281 identification card must be in the possession of the fire alarm  
282 system agent while engaged in fire alarm system agent duties.

283 (c) Each person to whom an identification card has been  
284 issued is responsible for the safekeeping thereof, and may not  
285 loan, or allow any other person to use or display, the  
286 identification card.

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

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



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295 (5) Each fire alarm system agent must receive 6 hours of  
296 continuing education on fire alarm system installation and  
297 repair and false alarm prevention every 2 years from a board-  
298 approved sponsor of training and through a board-approved  
299 training course.

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

303 Section 4. Section 489.529, Florida Statutes, is amended  
304 to read:

305 489.529 Alarm verification calls required.--All  
306 residential or commercial intrusion/burglary alarms that have  
307 central monitoring must have a central monitoring verification  
308 call made to the premises generating the alarm signal, prior to  
309 alarm monitor personnel contacting a law enforcement agency for  
310 alarm dispatch. The central monitoring station should make a  
311 second call to the premises generating the alarm signal if the  
312 first call is not answered. However, if the intrusion/burglary  
313 alarms have properly operating visual or auditory sensors that  
314 enable the monitoring personnel to verify the alarm signal,  
315 verification calling is not required.

316 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.