



CHAMBER ACTION

The Committee on Business Regulation recommends the following:

Committee Substitute

Remove the entire bill and insert:

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



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29 background check; requiring an updated criminal background
30 check of each fire alarm system agent renewing
31 certification; requiring fire alarm system agents to have
32 continuing education on false alarm prevention; amending
33 s. 489.529, F.S.; requiring a second alarm verification
34 call if the first call is unanswered; providing an
35 effective date.

36

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

38

39 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
40 489.517, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

41 489.517 Renewal of certificate or registration; continuing
42 education.--

43 (4)

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

49 Section 2. Section 489.518, Florida Statutes, is amended
50 to read:

51 489.518 Alarm system agents.--

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

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



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57 | (b) Has successfully completed a minimum of 14 ~~12~~ hours of
58 | training, to include basic alarm system electronics in addition
59 | to related training including CCTV and access control training,
60 | with at least 2 hours on false alarm prevention. Such training
61 | shall be from a board-approved provider, and the employee or
62 | applicant for employment shall provide proof of successful
63 | completion to the licensed employer. The board shall by rule
64 | establish criteria for the approval of training courses and
65 | providers and may by rule establish criteria for accepting
66 | alternative nonclassroom education on an hour-for-hour basis.
67 | The board shall approve providers that conduct training in other
68 | than the English language. The board shall establish a fee for
69 | the approval of training providers or courses, not to exceed
70 | \$60. Qualified employers may conduct training classes for their
71 | employees, with board approval.

72 | (c) Has not been convicted within the last 3 years of a
73 | crime that directly relates to the business for which employment
74 | is being sought. Although the employee is barred from operating
75 | as an alarm system agent for 3 years subsequent to his or her
76 | conviction, the employer shall be supplied the information
77 | regarding any convictions occurring prior to that time, and the
78 | employer may at his or her discretion consider an earlier
79 | conviction to be a bar to employment as an alarm system agent.
80 | To ensure that this requirement has been met, a licensed
81 | electrical or alarm contractor must obtain from the Florida
82 | Department of Law Enforcement a completed fingerprint and
83 | criminal background check, including a check through the
84 | National Crime Information Center, for each applicant for



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85 employment as a burglar alarm system agent ~~or for each~~
86 ~~individual currently employed on the effective date of this act~~
87 ~~as a burglar alarm system agent.~~

88 (d) Has not been committed for controlled substance abuse
89 or been found guilty of a crime under chapter 893 or a similar
90 law relating to controlled substances in any other state within
91 the 3-year period immediately preceding the date of application
92 for employment, or the effective date of this act for an
93 individual employed as a burglar alarm system agent on that
94 date, unless he or she establishes that he or she is not
95 currently abusing any controlled substance and has successfully
96 completed a rehabilitation course.

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

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

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

107 (d) A state-certified electrical contractor, a state-
108 certified alarm system contractor, a state-registered alarm
109 system contractor, a journeyman electrician licensed by any
110 local jurisdiction, or an alarm technician licensed by a local
111 jurisdiction that requires an examination and experience or
112 training as licensure qualifications, is not required to



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113 complete the training required for burglar alarm system agents.
114 A state-registered electrical contractor is not required to
115 complete the training required for burglar alarm system agents,
116 so long as he or she is only doing electrical work up to the
117 alarm panel.

118 (e) A nonsupervising employee working as a helper or
119 apprentice under the direct, on-site, continuous supervision of
120 a state-certified electrical contractor, a state-registered
121 electrical contractor, a state-certified alarm system
122 contractor, a state-registered alarm system contractor, a
123 journeyman electrician licensed by any local jurisdiction, an
124 alarm technician licensed by a local jurisdiction that requires
125 an examination and experience or training as licensure
126 qualifications, or a qualified alarm system agent is not
127 required to complete the training otherwise required and is not
128 required to be 18 years of age or older.

129 (3) An applicant for employment as an alarm system agent,
130 or an individual employed as a burglar alarm system agent on the
131 effective date of this act, may commence or continue employment
132 pending the completion of the required training and the results
133 of the background check required by this section for a period
134 not to exceed 90 ~~60~~ days after the date of application for
135 employment, or 90 ~~60~~ days after the effective date of this act
136 for individuals currently employed as burglar alarm system
137 agents. However, the person must work under the direction and
138 control of a sponsoring licensed electrical or burglar alarm
139 system contractor pending the completion of the training and the
140 criminal background check. If an applicant or an individual



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141 employed on the effective date of this act does not complete the
142 training or receive a satisfactory criminal background check
143 within the 90-day ~~60-day~~ period, the employment must be
144 terminated immediately.

145 (4)(a) A licensed electrical or alarm system contractor
146 shall furnish each of its burglar alarm system agents with an
147 identification card.

148 (b) The card shall follow a board-approved format. The
149 card shall include a picture of the agent, ~~and~~ shall specify at
150 least the name of the holder of the card and the name and
151 license number of the contractor, and shall be signed by the
152 contractor and by the holder of the card. Each identification
153 card shall be valid for a period of 2 years after the date of
154 issuance. The identification card shall be in the possession of
155 each burglar alarm system agent while engaged in burglar alarm
156 system agent duties.

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

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

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



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169 (5) Each burglar alarm system agent must receive 6 hours
170 of continuing education on burglar alarm system installation and
171 repair and false alarm prevention every 2 years from a board-
172 approved sponsor of training and through a board-approved
173 training course.

174 ~~(6)(5)~~ Failure to comply with any of the provisions of
175 this section shall be a disciplinable offense against the
176 contractor pursuant to s. 489.533.

177 Section 3. Section 489.5185, Florida Statutes, is amended
178 to read:

179 489.5185 Fire alarm system agents.--

180 (1) A certified unlimited electrical contractor or
181 licensed fire alarm contractor may not employ a person to
182 perform the duties of a fire alarm system agent unless the
183 person:

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

186 (b) Has successfully completed a minimum of 14 ~~18~~ hours of
187 initial training, to include basic fire alarm system technology
188 in addition to related training in National Fire Protection
189 Association (NFPA) codes and standards and access control
190 training, with at least 2 hours on false alarm prevention. Such
191 training must be from a board-approved provider, and the
192 employee or applicant for employment must provide proof of
193 successful completion to the licensed employer. The board, by
194 rule, shall establish criteria for the approval of training
195 courses and providers. The board shall approve qualified
196 providers that conduct training in other than the English



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197 language. The board shall establish a fee for the approval of
198 training providers, not to exceed \$200, and a fee for the
199 approval of courses at \$25 per credit hour, not to exceed \$100
200 per course.

201 (c) Has not been convicted within the last 3 years of a
202 crime that directly relates to the business for which employment
203 is being sought. Although the employee is barred from operating
204 as a fire alarm system agent for 3 years subsequent to his or
205 her conviction, the employer shall be supplied the information
206 regarding any convictions occurring prior to that time, and the
207 employer may at his or her discretion consider an earlier
208 conviction to be a bar to employment as a fire alarm system
209 agent. To ensure that this requirement has been met, a certified
210 unlimited electrical contractor or licensed fire alarm
211 contractor must obtain from the Florida Department of Law
212 Enforcement a completed fingerprint and criminal background
213 check, including a check through the National Crime Information
214 Center, for each applicant for employment as a fire alarm system
215 ~~agent or for each individual currently employed on the effective~~
216 ~~date of this act as a fire alarm system agent.~~

217 (d) Has not been committed for controlled substance abuse
218 or been found guilty of a crime under chapter 893 or any similar
219 law relating to controlled substances in any other state within
220 the 3-year period immediately preceding the date of application
221 for employment, or immediately preceding the effective date of
222 this act for an individual employed as a fire alarm system agent
223 on that date, unless the person establishes that he or she is



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224 | not currently abusing any controlled substance and has
225 | successfully completed a rehabilitation course.

226 | (2)(a) Any applicant for employment as a fire alarm system
227 | agent, or any individual employed as a fire alarm system agent
228 | on the effective date of this act, who has completed alarm
229 | system agent or burglar alarm system agent training prior to the
230 | effective date of this act in a board-certified program is not
231 | required to take additional training in order to comply with the
232 | initial training requirements of this section.

233 | (b) A state-certified electrical contractor, a state-
234 | certified fire alarm system contractor, a state-registered fire
235 | alarm system contractor, a journeyman electrician licensed by
236 | any local jurisdiction, or an alarm technician licensed by a
237 | local jurisdiction that requires an examination and experience
238 | or training as licensure qualifications is not required to
239 | complete the training required for fire alarm system agents. A
240 | state-registered electrical contractor is not required to
241 | complete the training required for fire alarm system agents, so
242 | long as he or she is only doing electrical work up to the alarm
243 | panel.

244 | (c) A nonsupervising employee working as a helper or
245 | apprentice under the direct, onsite, continuous supervision of a
246 | state-certified electrical contractor, a state-registered
247 | electrical contractor, a state-certified fire alarm system
248 | contractor, a state-registered fire alarm system contractor, a
249 | journeyman electrician licensed by any local jurisdiction, an
250 | alarm technician licensed by a local jurisdiction that requires
251 | an examination and experience or training as licensure



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252 qualifications, or a qualified fire alarm system agent is not
253 required to complete the training otherwise required and is not
254 required to be 18 years of age or older.

255 (d) A burglar alarm system agent employed by a licensed
256 fire alarm contractor or certified unlimited electrical
257 contractor who has fulfilled all requirements of s. 489.518
258 prior to the effective date of this act is not required to
259 complete the initial training required by this section for fire
260 alarm system agents.

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

263 (3) An applicant for employment as a fire alarm system
264 agent may commence employment, or an individual employed as a
265 fire alarm system agent on the effective date of this act may
266 continue employment, pending completion of both the training and
267 the fingerprint and criminal background checks required by this
268 section, for a period not to exceed 90 days after the date of
269 application for employment or 90 days after the effective date
270 of this act for individuals employed as fire alarm system agents
271 on that date. However, the person must work under the direction
272 and control of a sponsoring certified unlimited electrical
273 contractor or licensed fire alarm contractor until completion of
274 both the training and the fingerprint and criminal background
275 checks. If an applicant or an individual employed on the
276 effective date of this act does not complete the training or
277 receive satisfactory fingerprint and criminal background checks
278 within the 90-day period, the employment must be terminated
279 immediately.



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

283 (b) The card shall follow a board-approved format, to
284 include a picture of the agent; shall specify at least the name
285 of the holder of the card and the name and license number of the
286 certified unlimited electrical contractor or licensed fire alarm
287 contractor; and shall be signed by both the contractor and the
288 holder of the card. Each identification card shall be valid for
289 a period of 2 years after the date of issuance. The
290 identification card must be in the possession of the fire alarm
291 system agent while engaged in fire alarm system agent duties.

292 (c) Each person to whom an identification card has been
293 issued is responsible for the safekeeping thereof, and may not
294 loan, or allow any other person to use or display, the
295 identification card.

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

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

304 (5) Each fire alarm system agent must receive 6 hours of
305 continuing education on fire alarm system installation and
306 repair and false alarm prevention every 2 years from a board-



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307 approved sponsor of training and through a board-approved
308 training course.

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

312 Section 4. Section 489.529, Florida Statutes, is amended
313 to read:

314 489.529 Alarm verification calls required.--All
315 residential or commercial intrusion/burglary alarms that have
316 central monitoring must have a central monitoring verification
317 call made to the premises generating the alarm signal, prior to
318 alarm monitor personnel contacting a law enforcement agency for
319 alarm dispatch. The central monitoring station should make a
320 second call to the premises generating the alarm signal if the
321 first call is not answered. However, if the intrusion/burglary
322 alarms have properly operating visual or auditory sensors that
323 enable the monitoring personnel to verify the alarm signal,
324 verification calling is not required.

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