

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to electrical and alarm system
 3 contracting; amending s. 489.505, F.S.; revising
 4 definitions; amending s. 489.513, F.S.; providing
 5 additional requirements for registration as a contractor;
 6 amending s. 489.529, F.S.; requiring central monitoring
 7 stations to employ enhanced call verification methods
 8 under certain circumstances; amending s. 489.530, F.S.;
 9 exempting fire alarm systems from certain audible alarm
 10 requirements; providing an effective date.

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

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 14 Section 1. Subsections (2), (7), (25), (27), and (28) of
 15 section 489.505, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

16 489.505 Definitions.--As used in this part:

17 (2) "Alarm system contractor" means a person whose
 18 business includes the execution of contracts requiring the
 19 ability, experience, science, knowledge, and skill to lay out,
 20 fabricate, install, maintain, alter, repair, monitor, inspect,
 21 replace, or service alarm systems for compensation, including,
 22 but not limited to, all types of alarm systems for all purposes.
 23 The term also means any person, firm, or corporation that
 24 engages in the business of alarm system contracting under an
 25 expressed or implied contract; that undertakes, offers to
 26 undertake, purports to have the capacity to undertake, or
 27 submits a bid to engage in the business of alarm system
 28 contracting; or that does, itself or by or through others,

29 engage in the business of alarm system contracting.

30 (a) "Alarm system contractor I" means an alarm system
 31 contractor whose business includes all types of alarm systems
 32 for all purposes.

33 (b) "Alarm system contractor II" means an alarm system
 34 contractor whose business includes all types of alarm systems
 35 other than fire, for all purposes, except as herein provided.

36 (7) "Certified alarm system contractor" means an alarm
 37 system contractor who possesses a certificate of competency
 38 issued by the department. The scope of certification is limited
 39 to alarm circuits originating in the alarm control panel and
 40 equipment governed by the applicable provisions of Articles 725,
 41 760, 770, 800, and 810 of the National Electrical Code, Current
 42 Edition, and National Fire Protection Association Standard 72,
 43 Current Edition. The scope of certification for alarm system
 44 contractors also includes the installation, repair, fabrication,
 45 erection, alteration, addition, inspection, monitoring, or
 46 design of electrical wiring, fixtures, appliances, thermostats,
 47 apparatus, raceways, and conduit, or any part thereof not to
 48 exceed 98 volts (RMS) ~~77 volts~~, when those items are for the
 49 purpose of transmitting data or proprietary video (satellite
 50 systems that are not part of a community antenna television or
 51 radio distribution system) or providing central vacuum
 52 capability or electric locks; ~~however, this provision governing~~
 53 ~~the scope of certification does not create any mandatory~~
 54 ~~licensure requirement.~~

55 (25) "Burglar alarm system agent" means a person:

56 (a) Who is employed by a licensed alarm system contractor

57 or licensed electrical contractor;

58 (b) Who is performing duties which are an element of an
 59 activity which constitutes alarm system contracting requiring
 60 licensure under this part; and

61 (c) Whose specific duties include any of the following:
 62 altering, installing, maintaining, moving, repairing, replacing,
 63 servicing, inspecting, ~~selling onsite~~, or monitoring an
 64 intrusion or burglar alarm system for compensation.

65 (27) "Monitoring" means to receive electrical or
 66 electronic signals, originating from any structure building
 67 within or outside of the state, regardless of whether those
 68 signals are relayed through a jurisdiction outside of the state,
 69 where such signals are produced by any security, medical, fire,
 70 or burglar alarm, closed circuit television camera, access
 71 control system, or related or similar protective system and are
 72 intended by design to initiate a response thereto. A person
 73 shall not have committed the act of monitoring if:

74 (a) The person is an occupant of, or an employee working
 75 within, protected premises;

76 (b) The person initiates emergency action in response to
 77 hearing or observing an alarm signal;

78 (c) The person's action is incidental to his or her
 79 primary responsibilities; and

80 (d) The person is not employed in a proprietary monitoring
 81 facility, as defined by the National Fire Protection Association
 82 pursuant to rule adopted under chapter 633.

83 (28) "Fire alarm system agent" means a person:

84 (a) Who is employed by a licensed fire alarm contractor or

85 certified unlimited electrical contractor;

86 (b) Who is performing duties which are an element of an
 87 activity that constitutes fire alarm system contracting
 88 requiring certification under this part; and

89 (c) Whose specific duties include any of the following:
 90 altering, installing, maintaining, moving, repairing, replacing,
 91 servicing, selling ~~onsite~~, or monitoring a fire alarm system for
 92 compensation.

93 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 489.513, Florida
 94 Statutes, is amended to read:

95 489.513 Registration; application; requirements.--

96 (1) Any person engaged in the business of contracting in
 97 the state shall be registered in the proper classification,
 98 unless he or she is certified. Any person desiring to be a
 99 registered contractor shall apply to the department for
 100 registration, and:

101 (a) Be at least 18 years old.

102 (b) Be of good moral character.

103 1. "Good moral character" means a personal history of
 104 honesty, fairness, and respect for the rights of others and for
 105 the laws of this state and nation.

106 2. The board may determine that a person applying for
 107 registration is ineligible for failure to satisfy the
 108 requirement of good moral character only if:

109 a. There is a substantial connection between the lack of
 110 good moral character of the individual and the professional
 111 responsibilities of a registered contractor.

112 b. The finding by the board of lack of good moral

113 character is supported by clear and convincing evidence.

114 3. When a person is found to be unqualified because of a
 115 lack of good moral character, the board shall furnish the person
 116 a statement containing the findings of the board, a complete
 117 record of evidence upon which the determination was based, and a
 118 notice of the rights of the person to a rehearing and appeal.

119 Section 3. Section 489.529, Florida Statutes, is amended
 120 to read:

121 489.529 Alarm verification calls required.--All
 122 residential or commercial intrusion/burglary alarms that have
 123 central monitoring must have a central monitoring verification
 124 call made to the premises generating the alarm signal, prior to
 125 alarm monitor personnel contacting a law enforcement agency for
 126 alarm dispatch. The central monitoring station must employ
 127 enhanced call verification methods for the premises generating
 128 the alarm signal if the first call is not answered. However, if
 129 the intrusion/burglary alarms have properly operating visual or
 130 auditory sensors that enable the monitoring personnel to verify
 131 the alarm signal, verification calling is not required.

132 Section 4. Section 489.530, Florida Statutes, is amended
 133 to read:

134 489.530 Audible alarms.--Every audible alarm system
 135 installed by a licensed contractor shall have a device to
 136 automatically terminate the audible signal within 15 minutes of
 137 activation. Fire alarms systems, whether installed voluntarily
 138 or as a requirement of an adopted code employing audible fire
 139 signals, shall be exempted as required by such code.

140 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.