

By the Committees on Community Affairs; and Regulated Industries; and Senator Flores

578-03236A-16

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to alarm systems; amending s. 489.518,  
3 F.S.; exempting certain persons from initial training  
4 for burglar alarm system agents; amending s. 489.529,  
5 F.S.; providing for written consent to an alarm system  
6 monitoring company to contact a law enforcement  
7 agency; creating s. 553.7931, F.S.; defining the term  
8 "applicable local governmental entity"; providing a  
9 uniform process for the registration of home and  
10 business alarm systems under certain circumstances;  
11 requiring the owner, lessee, or occupant, or an  
12 authorized representative thereof, of a property to  
13 register an alarm system within 20 days after  
14 occupancy or after installation of the alarm system;  
15 authorizing the applicable local governmental entity  
16 to charge a registration fee; specifying the  
17 requirements of the application form; requiring the  
18 owner, lessee, or occupant, or an authorized  
19 representative thereof, to notify the applicable local  
20 governmental agency of a change in the information  
21 provided in the application form within 30 days;  
22 authorizing the applicable local governmental entity  
23 to assess or impose fines or penalties for a failure  
24 to register an alarm system or for excessive false  
25 alarms; providing that fines and penalties are the  
26 responsibility of the owner, lessee, or occupant of  
27 the property; providing an effective date.

28  
29 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

30  
31 Section 1. Present paragraphs (a) through (e) of subsection

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32 (2) of section 489.518, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
33 paragraphs (b) through (f), respectively, and a new paragraph  
34 (a) is added to that subsection, to read:

35 489.518 Alarm system agents.—

36 (2) (a) A person who performs only sales or installations of  
37 wireless alarm systems, other than fire alarm systems, in a  
38 single-family residence is not required to complete the initial  
39 training required for burglar alarm system agents.

40 Section 2. Section 489.529, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
41 read

42 489.529 (1) Alarm verification calls required.—All  
43 residential or commercial intrusion/burglary alarms that have  
44 central monitoring must have a central monitoring verification  
45 call made to the premises generating the alarm signal, prior to  
46 alarm monitor personnel contacting a law enforcement agency for  
47 alarm dispatch. The central monitoring station must employ call-  
48 verification methods for the premises generating the alarm  
49 signal if the first call is not answered. However, if the  
50 intrusion/burglary alarms have properly operating visual or  
51 auditory sensors that enable the monitoring personnel to verify  
52 the alarm signal, or upon authorization as provided in  
53 subsection (2), verification calling is not required.

54 (2) A residential or commercial intrusion/burglary alarm  
55 customer may give written authorization to the central  
56 monitoring alarm system company to contact a law enforcement  
57 agency immediately upon receiving an alarm signal. The customer  
58 giving the authorization is responsible for any penalties  
59 resulting from any false alarm signals.

60 Section 3. Section 553.7931, Florida Statutes, is created

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61 to read:

62 553.7931 Uniform alarm registration process.-

63 (1) As used in this section, the term "applicable local  
64 governmental entity" means the local enforcement agency or local  
65 law enforcement agency responsible for the administration of  
66 alarm system registration in a jurisdiction.

67 (2) This section creates a uniform process for the  
68 registration of a home or business alarm system and applies only  
69 if such registration is required by a local ordinance,  
70 regulation, or rule.

71 (a) The owner, lessee, or occupant, or an authorized  
72 representative thereof, of a property must file a uniform alarm  
73 registration application with the applicable local governmental  
74 entity that requires registration within 20 days after the  
75 installation or activation of an alarm system or occupancy of a  
76 property with an activated alarm system. During the intervening  
77 period, local first responders shall respond to a dispatch  
78 request. The application may be submitted electronically, or by  
79 facsimile, if signed by the owner, lessee, or occupant, or an  
80 authorized representative thereof.

81 (b) The applicable local governmental entity may charge the  
82 owner, lessee, or occupant an alarm registration fee of up to  
83 \$25. The registration is valid for as long as the registrant  
84 occupies the property. If possession of the property is  
85 transferred, the new occupant must file an application pursuant  
86 to paragraph (a).

87 (c) The uniform alarm registration application must contain  
88 substantially the following information:

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90 UNIFORM ALARM REGISTRATION APPLICATION

91

92 Owner, Lessee, or Occupant Name.....

93 Owner, Lessee, or Occupant Address.....

94 City.....

95 State.... Zip....

96 Phone Number.....

97 E-mail Address.....

98 Date of Occupancy.....

99 Name of Alarm Contractor.....

100 Phone Number of Alarm Contractor.....

101 Florida License Number of Alarm Contractor.....

102 Name of Alarm Monitoring Company.....

103 Phone Number of Alarm Monitoring Company.....

104 Florida License Number of Alarm Monitoring Company.....

105

106 Emergency Contact Information:

107 Name.....

108 Address.....

109 City.....

110 State.... Zip....

111 Phone Number.....

112

113 I certify that the foregoing information is true and accurate.

114 ...(Date)...

115 ...(Signature of Owner, Lessee, or Occupant, or Authorized

116 Representative)...

117

118 (d) The owner, lessee, or occupant, or an authorized

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119 representative thereof, shall notify the applicable local  
120 governmental entity within 30 days after any change in the  
121 information submitted pursuant to paragraph (c). A contractor,  
122 as defined in s. 553.793, must advise an owner, a lessee, an  
123 occupant, or an authorized representative thereof, at the time  
124 of an alarm system installation that an obligation to register  
125 the system may exist.

126 (3) Civil penalties and fines assessed or imposed by the  
127 applicable local governmental entity for a failure to register  
128 an alarm system as required under subsection (1) or for  
129 excessive false alarms shall be the responsibility of the owner,  
130 lessee, or occupant of the property. A local ordinance,  
131 regulation, or rule may not impose a civil penalty or fine  
132 against an alarm contractor or alarm monitoring company for  
133 excessive false alarms.

134 Section 4. This act shall take effect October 1, 2016.