

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to alarm systems; amending s.
3 489.5185, F.S.; authorizing individuals with certain
4 fire alarm certifications to complete a reduced number
5 of training and continuing education hours for the
6 prevention of false alarms; requiring the training and
7 continuing education sponsors and courses to be
8 approved by the Electrical Contractors' Licensing
9 Board; amending s. 553.793, F.S.; revising the
10 definition of the term "low-voltage alarm system
11 project" to include certain closed-circuit television
12 systems; creating s. 553.7932, F.S.; providing
13 definitions; authorizing a local enforcement agency to
14 require a contractor to submit certain documentation
15 for a fire alarm system project; prohibiting a local
16 enforcement agency from requiring plans and
17 specifications as a condition for obtaining a permit
18 for a fire alarm system project; authorizing a local
19 enforcement agency to issue certain permits in person
20 or electronically; requiring a local enforcement
21 agency to perform at least one inspection for a fire
22 alarm system project; requiring a contractor to keep
23 certain documentation at a worksite for a fire alarm
24 system project; providing an effective date.
25

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

27

28 Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 489.5185, Florida
29 Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (f) is added to subsection
30 (2) of that section, to read:

31 489.5185 Fire alarm system agents.—

32 (2)

33 (f) If a person holds a current National Institute of
34 Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) Level II
35 certification or higher in Fire Alarm Systems or Inspection and
36 Testing of Fire Alarm Systems, a current certification as an
37 Electronic Security Association (ESA) Certified Fire Alarm
38 Technician, or a current certification as an ESA Certified Fire
39 Alarm Designer, he or she is required to complete only the 2
40 hours of training in the prevention of false alarms required by
41 paragraph (1)(b) from a board-approved sponsor of training and
42 through a board-approved training course.

43 (5)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), each fire
44 alarm system agent must receive 6 hours of continuing education
45 on fire alarm system installation and repair and false alarm
46 prevention every 2 years from a board-approved sponsor of
47 training and through a board-approved training course.

48 (b) A person holding a current NICET Level II
49 certification or higher in Fire Alarm Systems or Inspection and
50 Testing of Fire Alarm Systems, certification as an ESA Certified

51 Fire Alarm Technician, or certification as an ESA Certified Fire
52 Alarm Designer is required to complete only 2 hours of
53 continuing education training in the prevention of false alarms
54 every 2 years from a board-approved sponsor of training and
55 through a board-approved training course.

56 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
57 553.793, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

58 553.793 Streamlined low-voltage alarm system installation
59 permitting.—

60 (1) As used in this section, the term:

61 (b) "Low-voltage alarm system project" means a project
62 related to the installation, maintenance, inspection,
63 replacement, or service of a new or existing alarm system, as
64 defined in s. 489.505, including closed-circuit television
65 systems used to signal or detect a burglary, fire, robbery, or
66 medical emergency, that is hardwired and operating at low
67 voltage, as defined in the National Electrical Code Standard 70,
68 Current Edition, or a new or existing low-voltage electric
69 fence. The term also includes,~~and~~ ancillary components or
70 equipment attached to ~~such a~~ low-voltage alarm system or low-
71 voltage electric fence, including, but not limited to, home-
72 automation equipment, thermostats, closed-circuit television
73 systems, access controls, battery recharging devices, and video
74 cameras.

75 Section 3. Section 553.7932, Florida Statutes, is created

76 to read:

77 553.7932 Simplified permitting process for fire alarm
78 system projects.-

79 (1) As used in this section, the term:

80 (a) "Contractor" means a person who is qualified to engage
81 in the business of electrical or alarm system contracting
82 pursuant to a certificate or registration issued by the
83 department under part II of chapter 489.

84 (b) "Fire alarm system project" means a fire alarm system
85 alteration of a total of 20 or fewer initiating devices and
86 notification devices, or the installation or replacement of a
87 fire communicator connected to an existing fire alarm control
88 panel in an existing commercial, residential, apartment,
89 cooperative, or condominium building.

90 (2) (a) A local enforcement agency may require a
91 contractor, as a condition of obtaining a permit for a fire
92 alarm system project, to submit a completed application and
93 payment.

94 (b) A local enforcement agency may not require a
95 contractor to submit plans or specifications as a condition of
96 obtaining a permit for a fire alarm system project.

97 (3) A local enforcement agency may issue a permit for a
98 fire alarm system project in person or electronically.

99 (4) A local enforcement agency must require at least one
100 inspection of a fire alarm system project to ensure compliance

101 with applicable codes and standards. If a fire alarm system
102 project fails an inspection, the contractor must take corrective
103 action as necessary to pass inspection.

104 (5) A contractor must keep a copy of the plans and
105 specifications at a fire alarm system project worksite and make
106 such plans and specifications available to the inspector at each
107 inspection.

108 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.