

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 video cameras and closed-  
 12          circuit television systems; creating s. 553.7932,  
 13          F.S.; providing definitions; authorizing a local  
 14          enforcement agency to require a contractor to submit  
 15          certain documentation for a fire alarm system project;  
 16          prohibiting a local enforcement agency from requiring  
 17          plans and specifications as a condition for obtaining  
 18          a permit for a fire alarm system project; requiring a  
 19          local enforcement agency to issue certain permits in  
 20          person or electronically; requiring a local  
 21          enforcement agency to perform at least one inspection  
 22          for a fire alarm system project; requiring a  
 23          contractor to keep certain documentation at a worksite  
 24          for a fire alarm system project; providing an  
 25          effective date.

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

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

489.5185 Fire alarm system agents.—

(2)

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

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

(b) A person holding a current NICET Level II certification or higher in Fire Alarm Systems or Inspection and

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

57 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
58 553.793, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

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

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

76 Section 3. Section 553.7932, Florida Statutes, is created  
 77 to read:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

100 (4) A local enforcement agency must require at least one

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

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

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