

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to fire sprinkler system projects;
 3 amending s. 553.7932, F.S.; revising and providing
 4 definitions; providing requirements for a simplified
 5 permitting process for certain fire sprinkler system
 6 projects; amending s. 633.102, F.S.; revising the
 7 definition of the term "contractor" as it relates to
 8 fire sprinkler systems; providing an effective date.

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

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 12 Section 1. Section 553.7932, Florida Statutes, is amended
 13 to read:

14 553.7932 Simplified permitting processes ~~process for fire~~
 15 ~~alarm system projects.~~-

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

17 (a) "Component" means valves, fire sprinklers,
 18 escutcheons, hangers, compressors, or any other item deemed
 19 acceptable by the local enforcing agency. For purposes of this
 20 paragraph, a valve does not include pressure-regulating,
 21 pressure-reducing, or pressure-control valves.

22 (b)-(a) "Contractor" means a person who:

23 1. Is qualified to engage in the business of electrical or
 24 alarm system contracting pursuant to a certificate or
 25 registration issued by the department under part II of chapter

26 489; or

27 2. Is qualified to engage in the business of fire
 28 protection system contracting pursuant to a license or
 29 certificate issued by the State Fire Marshal.

30 ~~(c)-(b)~~ "Fire alarm system project" means a fire alarm
 31 system alteration of a total of 20 or fewer initiating devices
 32 and notification devices, or the installation or replacement of
 33 a fire communicator connected to an existing fire alarm control
 34 panel in an existing commercial, residential, apartment,
 35 cooperative, or condominium building.

36 (d) "Fire sprinkler system project" means a fire
 37 protection system alteration of a total of 20 or fewer fire
 38 sprinklers in which the sprinklers are of the same K-factor and
 39 located in spaces where there is no change of hazard
 40 classification or increased system coverage area, or the
 41 installation or replacement of an equivalent fire sprinkler
 42 system component in an existing commercial, residential,
 43 apartment, cooperative, or condominium building. For purposes of
 44 this paragraph, a component is equivalent if the component has
 45 the same or better characteristics, including electrical,
 46 hydraulic, pressure losses, and required listings and spacing as
 47 the component being replaced.

48 (2) (a) A local enforcement agency may require a
 49 contractor, as a condition of obtaining a permit for a fire
 50 alarm system project or fire sprinkler system project, to submit

51 a completed application and payment.

52 (b) A local enforcement agency may not require a
53 contractor to submit plans or specifications as a condition of
54 obtaining a permit for a fire alarm system project or fire
55 sprinkler system project.

56 (3) A local enforcement agency must issue a permit for a
57 fire alarm system project or fire sprinkler system project in
58 person or electronically.

59 (4) A local enforcement agency must require at least one
60 inspection of a fire alarm system project or fire sprinkler
61 system project to ensure compliance with applicable codes and
62 standards. If a fire alarm system project or fire sprinkler
63 system project fails an inspection, the contractor must take
64 corrective action as necessary to pass inspection.

65 (5)(a) For a fire alarm system project, a contractor must
66 keep a copy of the plans and specifications at the ~~a~~ fire alarm
67 system project worksite and make such plans and specifications
68 available to the inspector at each inspection.

69 (b) For a fire sprinkler system project to alter an
70 existing fire protection system, a contractor must keep a copy
71 of the plans and specifications at the fire sprinkler system
72 project worksite and make such plans and specifications
73 available to the inspector at each inspection.

74 (c) For a fire sprinkler system project to install or
75 replace a component, a contractor must keep a copy of the

76 manufacturer's installation instructions and any pertinent
 77 testing instructions needed to certify or accept the component
 78 at the fire sprinkler system project worksite and make such
 79 documents available to the inspector at each inspection.

80 Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 633.102, Florida
 81 Statutes, is amended to read:

82 633.102 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

83 (3) (a) "Contractor I" means a contractor whose business
 84 includes the execution of contracts requiring the ability to lay
 85 out, fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and service all
 86 types of fire protection systems, excluding preengineered
 87 systems.

88 (b) "Contractor II" means a contractor whose business is
 89 limited to the execution of contracts requiring the ability to
 90 lay out, fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and service
 91 water sprinkler systems, water spray systems, foam-water
 92 sprinkler systems, foam-water spray systems, standpipes,
 93 combination standpipes and sprinkler risers, all piping that is
 94 an integral part of the system beginning at the point of service
 95 as defined in this section, sprinkler tank heaters, air lines,
 96 thermal systems used in connection with sprinklers, and tanks
 97 and pumps connected thereto, excluding preengineered systems.

98 (c) "Contractor III" means a contractor whose business is
 99 limited to the execution of contracts requiring the ability to
 100 fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and service carbon

101 dioxide systems, foam extinguishing systems, dry chemical
102 systems, and Halon and other chemical systems, excluding
103 preengineered systems.

104 (d) "Contractor IV" means a contractor whose business is
105 limited to the execution of contracts requiring the ability to
106 lay out, fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and service
107 automatic fire sprinkler systems for detached one-family
108 dwellings, detached two-family dwellings, and mobile homes,
109 excluding preengineered systems and excluding single-family
110 homes in cluster units, such as apartments, condominiums, and
111 assisted living facilities or any building that is connected to
112 other dwellings. A Contractor IV is limited to the scope of
113 practice specified in NFPA 13D.

114 (e) "Contractor V" means a contractor whose business is
115 limited to the execution of contracts requiring the ability to
116 fabricate, install, alter, repair, and service the underground
117 piping for a fire protection system using water as the
118 extinguishing agent beginning at the point of service as defined
119 in this act and ending no more than 1 foot above the finished
120 floor. A Contractor V may inspect underground piping for a
121 water-based fire protection system under the direction of a
122 Contractor I or Contractor II.

123
124 This subsection may not be construed to include engineers or
125 architects within the defined terms and does not limit or

126 prohibit a licensed fire protection engineer or architect with
127 fire protection design experience from designing any type of
128 fire protection system. A distinction is made between system
129 design concepts prepared by the design professional and system
130 layout as defined in this section and typically prepared by the
131 contractor. However, a person certified under this chapter as a
132 Contractor I or Contractor II may design new fire protection
133 systems of 49 or fewer sprinklers; may design the alteration of
134 an existing fire sprinkler system if the alteration consists of
135 the relocation, addition, or deletion of 49 or fewer sprinklers,
136 notwithstanding the size of the existing fire sprinkler system;
137 and ~~or~~ may design the alteration of an existing fire sprinkler
138 system if the alteration consists of the relocation or deletion
139 of 249 or fewer sprinklers and the addition of up to 49
140 sprinklers, as long as the cumulative total number of fire
141 sprinklers being added, relocated, or deleted does not exceed
142 249, notwithstanding the size of the existing fire sprinkler
143 system, if there is no change of occupancy of the affected
144 areas, as defined in the Florida Building Code and the Florida
145 Fire Prevention Code, and there is no change in the water demand
146 as defined in NFPA 13, "Standard for the Installation of
147 Sprinkler Systems," and if the occupancy hazard classification
148 as defined in NFPA 13 is reduced or remains the same as a result
149 of the alteration. Conflicts between the Florida Building Code
150 and the Florida Fire Prevention Code shall be resolved pursuant

151 to s. 553.73(1)(d). A person certified as a Contractor I,
152 Contractor II, or Contractor IV may design a new fire protection
153 system or design the alteration of an existing fire protection
154 system, the scope of which complies with NFPA 13D, "Standard for
155 the Installation of Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family
156 Dwellings and Manufactured Homes," as adopted by the State Fire
157 Marshal, notwithstanding the number of fire sprinklers.
158 Contractor-developed plans may not be required by any local
159 permitting authority to be sealed by a registered professional
160 engineer.

161 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.