

By Senator Perry

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to fire sprinkler system project
3 permitting; creating s. 553.7953, F.S.; defining
4 terms; requiring replacement fire sprinkler system
5 components to meet certain criteria; authorizing local
6 enforcement agencies to require contractors to submit
7 certain documentation and payment for obtaining a
8 permit for a fire sprinkler system project;
9 prohibiting local enforcement agencies from requiring
10 contractors to submit certain documentation and
11 payment for obtaining a permit for a fire sprinkler
12 system project; requiring local enforcement agencies
13 to issue certain permits in person or electronically;
14 requiring local enforcement agencies to perform at
15 least one inspection for a fire sprinkler system
16 project; requiring contractors to keep certain
17 documentation available at a worksite for a fire
18 sprinkler system project and make such documentation
19 available for inspection; requiring contractors to
20 retain instructions for components; providing an
21 effective date.

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

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25 Section 1. Section 553.7953, Florida Statutes, is created
26 to read:

27 553.7953 Simplified permitting process for fire sprinkler
28 system projects.-

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

9-00412-23

2023408__

30 (a) "Component" means valves, backflow preventers,
31 switches, fire sprinklers, escutcheons, hangers, pumps, pump
32 motors and engines, compressors, hydrants, or any other item
33 deemed acceptable by the local enforcement agency.

34 (b) "Contractor" means a person qualified to engage in the
35 business of fire sprinkler systems contracting pursuant to a
36 certificate or registration issued by the department under s.
37 633.318.

38 (c) "Fire sprinkler system project" means a fire protection
39 system alteration of a total of 20 or fewer fire sprinklers, or
40 the installation or replacement of an equal or equivalent fire
41 sprinkler system component, in an existing commercial,
42 residential, apartment, cooperative, or condominium building.

43 (2) A contractor replacing a fire sprinkler system
44 component must use a component with the same or better
45 characteristics as the component being replaced, including
46 electrical, hydraulic, pressure losses, required listings, and
47 spacings.

48 (3) (a) A local enforcement agency may require a contractor,
49 as a condition of obtaining a permit for a fire sprinkler system
50 project, to submit a completed application and make a payment.

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

55 (4) A local enforcement agency shall issue a permit for a
56 fire sprinkler system project in person or electronically.

57 (5) A local enforcement agency shall require a fire
58 sprinkler system project to have at least one inspection to

9-00412-23

2023408__

59 ensure compliance with applicable codes and standards. If a fire
60 sprinkler system project fails an inspection, the contractor
61 must take corrective action as necessary to pass inspection.

62 (6) If the fire sprinkler system project is to alter a fire
63 sprinkler system, the contractor must keep a copy of the plans
64 or as-built plans at the fire sprinkler system project worksite
65 and make such plans available to the inspector at each
66 inspection.

67 (7) If the project is to replace a component of the fire
68 system, the contractor must keep a copy of the manufacturer's
69 installation instructions and any related testing instructions
70 needed to certify or accept the component at a fire sprinkler
71 system project and must make such documents available to the
72 inspector at each inspection.

73 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.