

1 HB253
2 155485-2
3 By Representative Ball
4 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
5 First Read: 15-JAN-14

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, alarm systems are
9 licensed and regulated by the Electronic Security
10 Board of Licensure.

11 This bill would require an alarm monitoring
12 company to make at least two reasonable attempts to
13 verify that an alarm signal is valid and not a
14 false alarm. The bill would require the board to
15 implement and enforce this provision. The bill
16 would also exclude certain persons from the
17 definition of locksmith under certain conditions.

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19 A BILL
20 TO BE ENTITLED
21 AN ACT

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23 To amend Section 34-1A-1 of the Code of Alabama
24 1975, as last amended by Act 2013-221 of the 2013 Regular
25 Session, and to add Section 34-1A-11 to the Code of Alabama
26 1975, relating to the Electronic Security Board of Licensure;
27 to require an alarm monitoring company to make certain

1 reasonable attempts to verify that an alarm signal is valid
2 and to provide for implementation and enforcement by the
3 board; and to exempt certain persons from the definition of
4 locksmith under certain conditions.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

6 Section 1. Section 34-1A-1 of the Code of Alabama
7 1975, as last amended by Act 2013-221 of the 2013 Regular
8 Session, is further amended to read as follows:

9 "§34-1A-1.

10 "For the purpose of this chapter, the following
11 terms shall have the following meanings unless the context
12 clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "(1) ALARM MONITORING COMPANY. Any person, company,
14 corporation, partnership, or business, or a representative or
15 agency thereof, authorized to provide alarm monitoring
16 services for alarm systems or other similar electronic
17 security systems whether the systems are maintained on
18 commercial business property, public property, or individual
19 residential property.

20 "~~(1)~~(2) ALARM SYSTEM. Burglar alarms, security
21 cameras, or other electrical or electronic device used to
22 prevent or detect burglary, theft, shoplifting, pilferage, and
23 other similar losses. The term does not include any fire
24 detection, fire alarm, or fire communication system.

25 "~~(2)~~(3) ALARM SYSTEM INSTALLER. A person or business
26 entity that offers to undertake, represents itself as being
27 able to undertake, or does undertake the installation,

1 service, or monitoring, of alarm systems for the public for
2 any type of compensation.

3 "(4) ALARM VERIFICATION. A reasonable attempt by an
4 alarm monitoring company to contact the alarm site or alarm
5 user by telephone or other electronic means to determine
6 whether an alarm signal is valid prior to requesting law
7 enforcement to be dispatched to the location and, if the
8 initial attempted contact is not made, a second reasonable
9 attempt to make a contact utilizing a different telephone
10 number or electronic address or number.

11 "(3)(5) BURGLAR ALARM. An assembly of equipment and
12 devices, or a single device such as a solid-state unit which
13 plugs directly into an AC line, designed to detect an
14 unauthorized intrusion or an attempted robbery at a protected
15 premises or signal public police or private guards to respond,
16 or both.

17 "(4)(6) CENTRAL STATION. A location where alarm
18 signals are received as a part of an alarm system and then
19 relayed via operator to law enforcement officials.

20 "(5)(7) CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION SYSTEM (CCTV). A
21 combination of electronic equipment and devices designed and
22 arranged for the viewing, monitoring, or recording of video
23 signals transmitted from transmitters, such as cameras, to
24 receivers, such as monitors, digital video recorders, and
25 network video recorders (NVR) through a closed cable or other
26 video signal transmission method.

1 "~~(6)~~(8) ELECTRONIC ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM. A system
2 that is powered by the building's primary power source and is
3 used as a process to grant or deny an individual access to a
4 specific area or object based upon his or her possession of an
5 item, a code, or physical characteristic.

6 "~~(7)~~(9) INSTALLATION. The initial placement of
7 equipment or the extension, modification, or alteration of
8 equipment after initial placement.

9 "~~(8)~~(10) LOCKSMITH. A person or business entity that
10 offers to undertake, represents itself as being able to
11 undertake, or does undertake the installation or service of
12 locks for motor vehicles or for residential or commercial use.
13 The term does not include a person whose financial
14 compensation from services as a locksmith for the installation
15 or service of locks for residential use does not exceed five
16 hundred dollars (\$500) annually and who does not advertise for
17 his or her services as a locksmith.

18 "~~(9)~~(11) SERVICE. Necessary repair in order to
19 return the system to operational condition."

20 Section 2. Section 34-1A-11 is added to the Code of
21 Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

22 §34-1A-11.

23 (a) The board shall require an alarm monitoring
24 company to utilize a system providing for alarm verification
25 of all alarm signals, except alarm verification shall not be
26 required in the case of a fire alarm or a panic or

1 robbery-in-progress alarm or in cases where a crime in
2 progress has been verified to be true by video or audio means.

3 (b) The board shall provide by rule for the
4 implementation and enforcement of this section.

5 Section 3. This act shall become effective on the
6 first day of the third month following its passage and
7 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.