

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, backflow preventers,  
 18 switches, fire sprinklers, escutcheons, hangers, pumps, pump  
 19 motors and engines, compressors, hydrants, or any other item  
 20 deemed acceptable by the local enforcing agency.

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

22           1. Is qualified to engage in the business of electrical or  
 23 alarm system contracting pursuant to a certificate or  
 24 registration issued by the department under part II of chapter  
 25 489; or

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

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

35        (d) "Fire sprinkler system project" means a fire  
36 protection system alteration of a total of 20 or fewer fire  
37 sprinklers or the installation or replacement of an equivalent  
38 fire sprinkler system component in an existing commercial,  
39 residential, apartment, cooperative, or condominium building.  
40 For purposes of this paragraph, a component is equivalent if the  
41 component has the same or better characteristics, including  
42 electrical, hydraulic, pressure losses, and required listings  
43 and spacing as the component being replaced.

44        (2) (a) A local enforcement agency may require a  
45 contractor, as a condition of obtaining a permit for a fire  
46 alarm system project or fire sprinkler system project, to submit  
47 a completed application and payment.

48        (b) A local enforcement agency may not require a  
49 contractor to submit plans or specifications as a condition of  
50 obtaining a permit for a fire alarm system project or fire

51 sprinkler system project.

52 (3) A local enforcement agency must issue a permit for a  
53 fire alarm system project or fire sprinkler system project in  
54 person or electronically.

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

61 (5)(a) For a fire alarm system project, a contractor must  
62 keep a copy of the plans and specifications at the ~~a~~ fire alarm  
63 system project worksite and make such plans and specifications  
64 available to the inspector at each inspection.

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

70 (c) For a fire sprinkler system project to install or  
71 replace a component, a contractor must keep a copy of the  
72 manufacturer's installation instructions and any pertinent  
73 testing instructions needed to certify or accept the component  
74 at the fire sprinkler system project worksite and make such  
75 documents available to the inspector at each inspection.

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

78 633.102 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

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

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

94 (c) "Contractor III" means a contractor whose business is  
95 limited to the execution of contracts requiring the ability to  
96 fabricate, install, inspect, alter, repair, and service carbon  
97 dioxide systems, foam extinguishing systems, dry chemical  
98 systems, and Halon and other chemical systems, excluding  
99 preengineered systems.

100 (d) "Contractor IV" means a contractor whose business is

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

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

119  
120 This subsection may not be construed to include engineers or  
121 architects within the defined terms and does not limit or  
122 prohibit a licensed fire protection engineer or architect with  
123 fire protection design experience from designing any type of  
124 fire protection system. A distinction is made between system  
125 design concepts prepared by the design professional and system

126 layout as defined in this section and typically prepared by the  
127 contractor. However, a person certified under this chapter as a  
128 Contractor I or Contractor II may design new fire protection  
129 systems of 49 or fewer sprinklers; may design the alteration of  
130 an existing fire sprinkler system if the alteration consists of  
131 the relocation, addition, or deletion of 49 or fewer sprinklers,  
132 notwithstanding the size of the existing fire sprinkler system;  
133 and ~~or~~ may design the alteration of an existing fire sprinkler  
134 system if the alteration consists of the relocation or deletion  
135 of 249 or fewer sprinklers and no more than 49 altered  
136 sprinklers are added to the total number of sprinklers  
137 previously protecting the permitted space, notwithstanding the  
138 size of the existing fire sprinkler system, if there is no  
139 change of occupancy of the affected areas, as defined in the  
140 Florida Building Code and the Florida Fire Prevention Code, and  
141 there is no change in the water demand as defined in NFPA 13,  
142 "Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems," and if the  
143 occupancy hazard classification as defined in NFPA 13 is reduced  
144 or remains the same as a result of the alteration. Conflicts  
145 between the Florida Building Code and the Florida Fire  
146 Prevention Code shall be resolved pursuant to s. 553.73(1)(d). A  
147 person certified as a Contractor I, Contractor II, or Contractor  
148 IV may design a new fire protection system or design the  
149 alteration of an existing fire protection system, the scope of  
150 which complies with NFPA 13D, "Standard for the Installation of

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151 Sprinkler Systems in One- and Two-Family Dwellings and  
152 Manufactured Homes," as adopted by the State Fire Marshal,  
153 notwithstanding the number of fire sprinklers. Contractor-  
154 developed plans may not be required by any local permitting  
155 authority to be sealed by a registered professional engineer.

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