

HOUSE No. 4547

Substituted by the House, on motion of Mr. Speliotis of Danvers, for a bill with the same title (House, No. 4129). July 25, 2016.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

An Act relative to streamlined low-voltage alarm system installation and permitting.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 40 of the General Laws is amended by adding the following
2 section:-

3 Section 70. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context
4 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

5 “Contractor”, a person who is qualified to engage in the business of electrical or alarm
6 system contracting pursuant to a certificate or registration issued by the office of consumer
7 affairs and business regulation.

8 “Low-voltage alarm system project”, a project related to the installation, maintenance,
9 inspection, replacement or service of a new or existing alarm system, as defined in the NFPA 70:
10 National Electrical Code, and ancillary components or equipment attached to a new or existing
11 alarm system including, but not limited to, home-automation equipment, smoke detectors, carbon
12 monoxide detectors, thermostats and video cameras, except equipment primarily used to provide

13 broadband internet services, cable service, as defined by 47 U.S.C. 522(6) or
14 telecommunications services, as defined by 47 U.S.C. 153(53) .

15 “Unit”, a security system, carbon monoxide detector, or smoke detector, or any
16 combination thereof.

17 “Wireless alarm system”, a burglar alarm system that is not hardwired.

18 “Wireless alarm system project”, a project related to the installation, maintenance,
19 inspection, replacement or service of a burglar alarm system that is not hardwired.

20 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, this section shall apply to
21 all low-voltage alarm system projects for which a permit is required by the local enforcement
22 agency without regard to the date of construction; provided, however, that nothing in this
23 section shall be construed as requiring a permit to install, maintain, inspect, replace, or service a
24 wireless alarm system, including any ancillary components or equipment attached to the system.

25 (c) A local enforcement agency shall make uniform basic permit labels available for
26 purchase by a contractor to be used for the installation or replacement of a new or existing alarm
27 system at a cost of not more than \$55 per label per project per unit.

28 (d) A local enforcement agency may not require a contractor to: (i) submit, as a condition
29 of purchasing a label, information other than identification information of the licensee and proof
30 of registration or certification as a contractor; and (ii) secure permits other than a low-voltage
31 alarm system permit for installation of such a system provided that the system complies with the
32 definition of low-voltage alarm system project in subsection (a).

33 (e) A label shall be valid for 1 year after the date of purchase and may only be used
34 within the jurisdiction of the issuing local enforcement agency. A contractor may purchase labels
35 in bulk for unspecified current or future projects.

36 (f) A contractor shall post an unused uniform basic permit label in a conspicuous place on
37 the premises of the low-voltage alarm system project site before beginning work on the project.

38 (g) A contractor shall not be required to notify the local enforcement agency before
39 commencing work on a low-voltage alarm system project; provided, however, that a contractor
40 shall submit a uniform notice of a low-voltage alarm system project or a wireless alarm system
41 project to the local enforcement agency within 14 days of the completion of the project. A local
42 enforcement agency may take disciplinary action against a contractor who fails to timely submit
43 a uniform notice of a low-voltage alarm system project or a wireless alarm system project.

44 (h) The uniform notice of a low-voltage alarm system project or a wireless alarm system
45 project may be submitted electronically or by facsimile if all submissions are signed by the
46 owner, tenant, contractor or the authorized representative. The uniform notice of a low-voltage
47 alarm system project shall contain the following:

48 UNIFORM NOTICE OF A LOW-VOLTAGE ALARM SYSTEM PROJECT

49 Owner's or Customer's Name:

50 Owner's or Customer's Address:

51 City:

52 State / Zip:

53 Phone Number:

54 E-mail Address:

55 Contractor's Name:

56 Contractor's Address:

57 City:

58 State / Zip:

59 Phone Number:

60 Contractor's License Number:

61 Date Project Completed:

62 Scope of Work:

63 Notice is hereby given that a low-voltage alarm system project has been completed at the
64 address specified above. I certify that all of the foregoing information is true and accurate.

65 (Signature of Owner, Tenant, Contractor, or Authorized Representative)

66 The uniform notice of a wireless alarm system project shall contain the following:

67 UNIFORM NOTICE OF A WIRELESS ALARM SYSTEM PROJECT

68 Owner's or Customer's Name:

69 Owner's or Customer's Address:

70 City:

71 State / Zip:

72 Phone Number:

73 E-mail Address:

74 Contractor's Name:

75 Contractor's Address:

76 City:

77 State / Zip:

78 Phone Number:

79 Contractor's License Number:

80 Date Project Completed:

81 Scope of Work:

82 Notice is hereby given that a wireless alarm system project has been completed at the
83 address specified above. I certify that all of the foregoing information is true and accurate.

84 (Signature of Owner, Tenant, Contractor, or Authorized Representative)

85 (i) A low-voltage alarm system project or a wireless alarm system project may be
86 inspected by the local enforcement agency to ensure compliance with applicable codes and
87 standards. If a low-voltage alarm system project or a wireless alarm system project fails an
88 inspection, the contractor shall take corrective action as necessary to pass inspection.

89 (j) A municipality, county, district or other entity of local government shall not adopt or
90 maintain in effect an ordinance or rule regarding a low-voltage alarm system project that is
91 inconsistent with this section, or require any permits for a low-voltage alarm system project in
92 addition to the uniform low-voltage alarm system permit required by this section.

93 (k) A uniform basic permit label shall not be required for the subsequent maintenance,
94 inspection or service of an alarm system that was permitted pursuant to this section.

95 (l) This section shall not apply to the installation or replacement of a fire alarm governed
96 by section 26A or 26C of chapter 148. Nothing in this section shall impose new or additional
97 licensure requirements in residential or commercial premises.

98 SECTION 2. (a) A local enforcement agency charging more than \$55 but less than \$175
99 for a uniform basic permit label on January 1, 2016 may continue to charge the same amount for
100 a uniform basic permit label issued pursuant to subsection (b) of section 70 of chapter 40 of the
101 General Laws until January 1, 2017.

102 (b) A local enforcement agency charging more than \$175 for a uniform basic permit label
103 on January 1, 2016 may charge a maximum of \$175 for a uniform basic permit label issued
104 pursuant to said subsection (b) of said section 70 of said chapter 40 until January 1, 2017.