

HB 2495 -- FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACTOR LICENSING

SPONSOR: Schroer

This bill creates provisions related to various fire sprinkler systems. The bill makes it unlawful for any person or entity to engage in the business of laying out, installing, modifying, repairing, inspecting, testing, or maintaining any water-based fire protection system unless it is in conformity with the requirements in the bill. The bill requires all fire protection contractor licenses to have statewide application and prohibits cities, counties, and political subdivisions from establishing local licenses, standards, or certification or registration requirements for fire protection contractors. The bill gives the State Fire Marshal the authorization to promulgate rules and regulations related to fire protection contractor license applications. The bill establishes requirements for fire protection contractors regarding maintaining and displaying a fire protection contractor license. A fire protection contractor's license will be valid for two years and failure to renew a license by its expiration date will render the license invalid. A license that has been invalidated because of a failure to renew will be re-validated upon payment of all applicable fees and any assessed penalty. If such an invalid license has lapsed for more than 30 days, a new application and fee must be submitted to obtain a new license.

The bill allows the Fire Marshal to refuse to issue a fire protection contractor's license and provides reasons for which the Fire Marshal may file a complaint with the Administrative Hearing Commission against a licensee. If the Fire Marshal has good cause to believe that a licensee is engaging or has engaged in conduct that violates provisions established in this bill, the Fire Marshal will, in addition to or in place of licensing sanctions, impose a civil penalty upon the licensee.

The provisions of this bill have a delayed effective date of August 28, 2023.