

By Senator Flores

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to low-voltage alarm systems; amending
3 s. 553.793, F.S.; revising the definition of the term
4 "low-voltage alarm system project" and adding the
5 definition of the term "wireless alarm system";
6 providing that a permit is not required to install,
7 maintain, inspect, replace, or service a wireless
8 alarm system and its ancillary components; reducing
9 the maximum price for permit labels for alarm systems;
10 authorizing a local enforcement agency to coordinate
11 the inspection of certain alarm system projects;
12 providing an effective date.

13
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16 Section 1. Subsections (1), (2), (4), (8), and (9) of
17 section 553.793, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

18 553.793 Streamlined low-voltage alarm system installation
19 permitting.—

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

21 (a) "Contractor" means a person who is qualified to engage
22 in the business of electrical or alarm system contracting
23 pursuant to a certificate or registration issued by the
24 department under part II of chapter 489.

25 (b) "Low-voltage alarm system project" means a project
26 related to the installation, maintenance, inspection,
27 replacement, or service of a new or existing alarm system, as
28 defined in s. 489.505, that is hardwired and operating at low
29 voltage, as defined in the National Electrical Code Standard 70,

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30 Current Edition, and ancillary components or equipment attached
31 to such a system, including, but not limited to, home-automation
32 equipment, thermostats, and video cameras.

33 (c) "Wireless alarm system" means a burglar alarm system or
34 smoke detector that is not hardwired.

35 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of law, this section
36 applies to all low-voltage alarm system projects for which a
37 permit is required by a local enforcement agency. However, a
38 permit is not required to install, maintain, inspect, replace,
39 or service a wireless alarm system, including any ancillary
40 components or equipment attached to the system.

41 (4) A local enforcement agency shall make uniform basic
42 permit labels available for purchase by a contractor to be used
43 for the installation or replacement of a new or existing alarm
44 system at a cost of not more than \$40 ~~\$55~~ per label per project
45 per unit. ~~However, a local enforcement agency charging more than~~
46 ~~\$55, but less than \$175, for such a permit as of January 1,~~
47 ~~2013, may continue to charge the same amount for a uniform basic~~
48 ~~permit label until January 1, 2015. A local enforcement agency~~
49 ~~charging more than \$175 for such a permit as of January 1, 2013,~~
50 ~~may charge a maximum of \$175 for a uniform basic permit label~~
51 ~~until January 1, 2015.~~

52 (a) A local enforcement agency may not require a
53 contractor, as a condition of purchasing a label, to submit any
54 information other than identification information of the
55 licensee and proof of registration or certification as a
56 contractor.

57 (b) A label is valid for 1 year after the date of purchase
58 and may only be used within the jurisdiction of the local

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59 enforcement agency that issued the label. A contractor may
60 purchase labels in bulk for one or more unspecified current or
61 future projects.

62 (8) A local enforcement agency may coordinate directly with
63 the owner or customer to inspect a low-voltage alarm system
64 project ~~may be inspected by the local enforcement agency~~ to
65 ensure compliance with applicable codes and standards. If a low-
66 voltage alarm system project fails an inspection, the contractor
67 must take corrective action as necessary to pass inspection.

68 (9) A municipality, county, district, or other entity of
69 local government may not adopt or maintain in effect any ~~an~~
70 ordinance or rule regarding a low-voltage alarm system project
71 that is inconsistent with this section.

72 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.