

By the Committee on Regulated Industries; and Senator Flores

580-01940-15

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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 prohibiting a local enforcement agency from requiring
11 the payment of any additional fees, charges, or
12 expenses associated with the installation or
13 replacement of a new or existing alarm system;
14 authorizing a local enforcement agency to coordinate
15 the inspection of certain alarm system projects;
16 providing an effective date.

17
18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

19
20 Section 1. Subsections (1), (2), (4), (8), and (9) of
21 section 553.793, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

22 553.793 Streamlined low-voltage alarm system installation
23 permitting.—

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

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

29 (b) "Low-voltage alarm system project" means a project

580-01940-15

2015466c1

30 related to the installation, maintenance, inspection,
31 replacement, or service of a new or existing alarm system, as
32 defined in s. 489.505, that is hardwired and operating at low
33 voltage, as defined in the National Electrical Code Standard 70,
34 Current Edition, and ancillary components or equipment attached
35 to such a system, including, but not limited to, home-automation
36 equipment, thermostats, and video cameras.

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

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

45 (4) A local enforcement agency shall make uniform basic
46 permit labels available for purchase by a contractor to be used
47 for the installation or replacement of a new or existing alarm
48 system at a cost of not more than \$40 ~~\$55~~ per label per project
49 per unit. The local enforcement agency may not require the
50 payment of any additional fees, charges, or expenses associated
51 with the installation or replacement of a new or existing alarm
52 system. ~~However, a local enforcement agency charging more than~~
53 ~~\$55, but less than \$175, for such a permit as of January 1,~~
54 ~~2013, may continue to charge the same amount for a uniform basic~~
55 ~~permit label until January 1, 2015. A local enforcement agency~~
56 ~~charging more than \$175 for such a permit as of January 1, 2013,~~
57 ~~may charge a maximum of \$175 for a uniform basic permit label~~
58 ~~until January 1, 2015.~~

580-01940-15

2015466c1

59 (a) A local enforcement agency may not require a
60 contractor, as a condition of purchasing a label, to submit any
61 information other than identification information of the
62 licensee and proof of registration or certification as a
63 contractor.

64 (b) A label is valid for 1 year after the date of purchase
65 and may only be used within the jurisdiction of the local
66 enforcement agency that issued the label. A contractor may
67 purchase labels in bulk for one or more unspecified current or
68 future projects.

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

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

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