

By Senator Brodeur

9-00858C-21

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to contractor advertising; amending s.
3 489.521, F.S.; providing that alarm system contractors
4 are not required to state their certification and
5 registration numbers in or on certain advertisements
6 if the contractor maintains an Internet website that
7 displays such information and the advertisement
8 directs consumers to the website; amending s.
9 553.7921, F.S.; authorizing a contractor to begin
10 repairing certain fire alarm systems after filing an
11 application for a required permit but before receiving
12 the permit; prohibiting such repaired fire alarm
13 systems from being considered compliant until certain
14 requirements are met; providing an effective date.

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16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18 Section 1. Subsection (7) of section 489.521, Florida
19 Statutes, is amended to read:

20 489.521 Business organizations; qualifying agents.—

21 (7) ~~(a)~~ Each registered or certified contractor shall:

22 (a) Affix the number of his or her registration or
23 certification to each application for a building permit and to
24 each building permit issued and recorded. Each city or county
25 building department shall require, as a precondition for the
26 issuance of a building permit, that the contractor applying for
27 the permit provide verification giving the number of his or her
28 registration or certification under this part.

29 (b) State his or her ~~the~~ registration or certification

9-00858C-21

2021998__

30 number ~~of a contractor shall be stated~~ in each offer of
31 services, business proposal, or advertisement, regardless of
32 medium, used by that contractor.

33 1. This paragraph does not apply to an advertisement
34 appearing in a printed publication; an advertisement appearing
35 on a flyer, a billboard, or an Internet website; or a broadcast
36 advertisement placed by an alarm system contractor if the
37 contractor maintains an Internet website that displays the
38 contractor's registration or certification number and the
39 advertisement directs consumers to the information on the
40 contractor's Internet website.

41 2. As used in this paragraph ~~For the purposes of this part,~~
42 the term "advertisement" does not include business stationery or
43 any promotional novelties such as balloons, pencils, trinkets,
44 or articles of clothing.

45 3. The board shall assess a fine of not less than \$100 or
46 issue a citation to any contractor who fails to include that
47 contractor's certification or registration number when
48 submitting an advertisement for publication, broadcast, or
49 printing. In addition, any person who claims in any
50 advertisement to be a certified or registered contractor, but
51 who does not hold a valid state certification or registration,
52 commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as
53 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

54 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 553.7921, Florida
55 Statutes, is amended to read:

56 553.7921 Fire alarm permit application to local enforcement
57 agency.—

58 (1) (a) A contractor must file a Uniform Fire Alarm Permit

9-00858C-21

2021998__

59 Application as provided in subsection (2) with the local
60 enforcement agency and must receive the fire alarm permit
61 before:

62 ~~(a)~~ installing or replacing a fire alarm if the local
63 enforcement agency requires a plan review for the installation
64 or replacement.

65 (b) If the local enforcement agency requires a fire alarm
66 permit for repair of an existing alarm system that was
67 previously permitted by the local enforcement agency, a
68 contractor may begin the repair work after filing a Uniform Fire
69 Alarm Permit Application as provided in subsection (2). A fire
70 alarm repaired pursuant to this paragraph may not be considered
71 compliant until the required permit has been issued and the
72 local enforcement agency has approved the repair; or

73 ~~(b) Repairing an existing alarm system that was previously~~
74 ~~permitted by the local enforcement agency if the local~~
75 ~~enforcement agency requires a fire alarm permit for the repair.~~

76 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.