

HB 769 -- Registration of Fire Sprinkler System Contractors

Sponsor: Wells

This bill requires any contractor who engages in the installation or service of fire sprinkler systems to register with the State Fire Marshal within the Department of Public Safety. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Allows a municipality, county, or any other local governmental body or jurisdiction to require a contractor to obtain a permit and pay a fee for the installation of a fire sprinkler system and the installation to be in conformance with its building code or other construction requirements;
- (2) Exempts certain persons and organizations from the provisions of the bill;
- (3) Establishes the Fire Sprinkler System Advisory Council within the Office of the State Fire Marshal in the department to establish rules and regulations regarding the application content and the procedures for filing an application for a certificate of registration or a renewal of certification, education or experience requirements, standards and methods for assessing the competency of applicants, setting licensing fees, and establishing procedures for granting reciprocity with other states;
- (4) Establishes requirements which a contractor must meet in order to obtain a certificate of registration, including demonstrating his or her own knowledge or the employment of a person with experience and certification in the area of fire sprinkler installation and service;
- (5) Requires the certificate of registration to be displayed conspicuously in the contractor's place of business;
- (6) Creates the Fire Sprinkler Contractor Registration Fund for the deposit of fees collected by the council for the administration of the provisions of the bill;
- (7) Specifies the procedure for the certification renewal process;
- (8) Requires the fire marshal to send a written notice at least 30 days prior to the expiration of a certificate;
- (9) Requires an applicant to provide evidence of liability insurance in the amount of at least \$1 million per policy year;

(10) Authorizes the fire marshal to file a complaint with the Administrative Hearing Commission against certified contractors for specific violations. If grounds for discipline are found, the council is authorized to censure or place a contractor on probation for up to five years or suspend or revoke the contractor's certificate of registration for a period not to exceed three years; and

(11) Authorizes the fire marshal to seek an injunction, restraining order, or other order against a contractor who operates without a certificate or presents a probability of serious danger to any resident of this state.