

HB 384 -- Registration of Fire Sprinkler System Contractors

Sponsor: Lant

This bill allows any contractor who engages in the installation or service of fire sprinkler systems to register with the State Fire Marshal. 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) Authorizes the Office of the State Fire Marshal within the Department of Public Safety 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, all applicable fees, and establishing procedures for granting reciprocity with other states;

(3) 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 specified training or certification in the area of fire sprinkler installation and service;

(4) Specifies the procedure for the certification renewal process;

(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 for the administration of the provisions of the bill;

(7) Requires the fire marshal to send a written notice at least 30 days prior to the expiration of a certificate;

(8) Requires an applicant to provide evidence of liability insurance in the amount of at least \$1 million for all occurrences per policy year;

(9) 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 fire marshal is authorized to censure or place a contractor on probation for up to five years or suspend for up to three years or revoke the contractor's certificate of registration; and

(10) Authorizes the fire marshal to seek an injunction, restraining order, or other order, if appropriate, to prevent a person or organization from holding himself, herself, or itself out as a certified fire sprinkler contractor.