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CS/CS/HB 241, Engrossed 1

2017 Legislature

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2       An act relating to alarm systems; amending s. 553.793,  
3       F.S.; redefining the term "low-voltage alarm system  
4       project" to include low-voltage electric fences;  
5       defining the term "low-voltage electric fence";  
6       providing requirements for a low-voltage electric  
7       fence to be permitted as a low-voltage alarm system  
8       project; conforming a cross-reference; amending s.  
9       489.529, F.S.; providing exclusions from the  
10      requirement for a verification call before alarm  
11      dispatch for specified premises under certain  
12      circumstances; requiring alarm monitoring companies to  
13      make reasonable efforts to inform certain customers of  
14      specified rights; providing effective dates.

15  
16   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17  
18       Section 1. Subsections (3) through (10) of section  
19      553.793, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (4)  
20      through (11), respectively, subsection (1) and present  
21      subsection (6) are amended, and a new subsection (3) is added to  
22      that section, to read:

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

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

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

30 (b) "Low-voltage alarm system project" means a project  
31 related to the installation, maintenance, inspection,  
32 replacement, or service of a new or existing alarm system, as  
33 defined in s. 489.505, that is hardwired and operating at low  
34 voltage, as defined in the National Electrical Code Standard 70,  
35 Current Edition, or a new or existing low-voltage electric  
36 fence, and ancillary components or equipment attached to such a  
37 system or fence, including, but not limited to, home-automation  
38 equipment, thermostats, closed-circuit television systems,  
39 access controls, battery recharging devices, and video cameras.

40 (c) "Low-voltage electric fence" means an alarm system, as  
41 defined in s. 489.505, that consists of a fence structure and an  
42 energizer powered by a commercial storage battery not exceeding  
43 12 volts which produces an electric charge upon contact with the  
44 fence structure.

45 (d) "Wireless alarm system" means a burglar alarm system  
46 or smoke detector that is not hardwired.

47 (3) A low-voltage electric fence must meet all of the  
48 following requirements to be permitted as a low-voltage alarm  
49 system project and no further permit shall be required for the  
50 low-voltage alarm system project other than as provided in this

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51 section:

52 (a) The electric charge produced by the fence upon contact  
53 must not exceed energizer characteristics set forth in paragraph  
54 22.108 and depicted in Figure 102 of International  
55 Electrotechnical Commission Standard No. 60335-2-76, Current  
56 Edition.

57 (b) A nonelectric fence or wall must completely enclose  
58 the low-voltage electric fence. The low-voltage electric fence  
59 may be up to 2 feet higher than the perimeter nonelectric fence  
60 or wall.

61 (c) The low-voltage electric fence must be identified  
62 using warning signs attached to the fence at intervals of not  
63 more than 60 feet.

64 (d) The low-voltage electric fence shall not be installed  
65 in an area zoned exclusively for single-family or multi-family  
66 residential use.

67 (e) The low-voltage electric fence shall not enclose the  
68 portions of a property which are used for residential purposes.

69 (7) ~~(6)~~ A contractor is not required to notify the local  
70 enforcement agency before commencing work on a low-voltage alarm  
71 system project. However, a contractor must submit a Uniform  
72 Notice of a Low-Voltage Alarm System Project as provided under  
73 subsection (8) ~~(7)~~ to the local enforcement agency within 14  
74 days after completing the project. A local enforcement agency  
75 may take disciplinary action against a contractor who fails to

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76 | timely submit a Uniform Notice of a Low-Voltage Alarm System  
77 | Project.

78 |       Section 2. Effective October 1, 2017, section 489.529,  
79 | Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

80 |       489.529 Alarm verification calls required.—All residential  
81 | or commercial intrusion/burglary alarms that have central  
82 | monitoring must have a central monitoring verification call made  
83 | to a telephone number associated with the premises generating  
84 | the alarm signal, before ~~prior to~~ alarm monitor personnel  
85 | contacting a law enforcement agency for alarm dispatch. The  
86 | central monitoring station must employ call-verification methods  
87 | for the premises generating the alarm signal if the first call  
88 | is not answered. However, ~~if the intrusion/burglary alarms have~~  
89 | ~~properly operating visual or auditory sensors that enable the~~  
90 | ~~monitoring personnel to verify the alarm signal,~~ verification  
91 | calling is not required if:

92 |       (1) The intrusion/burglary alarm has a properly operating  
93 | visual or auditory sensor that enables the monitoring personnel  
94 | to verify the alarm signal; or

95 |       (2) The intrusion/burglary alarm is installed on a  
96 | premises that is used for the storage of firearms or ammunition  
97 | by a person who holds a valid federal firearms license as a  
98 | manufacturer, importer, or dealer of firearms or ammunition,  
99 | provided the customer notifies the alarm monitoring company that  
100 | he or she holds such license and would like to bypass the two-

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101   call verification protocol. Upon initiation of a new alarm  
102   monitoring service contract, the alarm monitoring company shall  
103   make reasonable efforts to inform a customer who holds a valid  
104   federal firearms license as a manufacturer, importer, or dealer  
105   of firearms or ammunition of his or her right to opt out of the  
106   two-call verification protocol.

107       Section 3. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
108   act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.