

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 241, Engrossed 1

2017 Legislature

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

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

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

553.793 Streamlined low-voltage alarm system installation permitting.—

(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.