

By the Committee on Regulated Industries; and Senator Perry

580-02862-23

2023408c1

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to fire sprinkler system project  
3       permitting; creating s. 553.7953, F.S.; defining  
4       terms; requiring replacement fire sprinkler system  
5       components to meet certain criteria; authorizing local  
6       enforcement agencies to require contractors to submit  
7       certain documentation and payment for obtaining a  
8       permit for a fire sprinkler system project;  
9       prohibiting local enforcement agencies from requiring  
10      contractors to submit certain documentation and  
11      payment for obtaining a permit for a fire sprinkler  
12      system project; requiring local enforcement agencies  
13      to issue certain permits in person or electronically;  
14      requiring local enforcement agencies to perform at  
15      least one inspection for a fire sprinkler system  
16      project; requiring contractors to keep certain  
17      documentation available at a worksite for a fire  
18      sprinkler system project and make such documentation  
19      available for inspection; requiring contractors to  
20      retain instructions for components; providing an  
21      effective date.

22  
23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

24  
25       Section 1. Section 553.7953, Florida Statutes, is created  
26 to read:

27       553.7953 Simplified permitting process for fire sprinkler  
28 system projects.-

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

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30 (a) "Component" means valves, fire sprinklers, escutcheons,  
31 hangers, compressors, or any other item deemed acceptable by the  
32 local enforcement agency. For the purposes of this paragraph,  
33 the term "valves" does not include pressure-regulating,  
34 pressure-reducing, or pressure-control valves.

35 (b) "Contractor" means a person qualified to engage in the  
36 business of fire sprinkler systems contracting pursuant to a  
37 certificate or registration issued by the department under s.  
38 633.318.

39 (c) "Fire sprinkler system project" means a fire protection  
40 system alteration of a total of 20 or fewer fire sprinklers that  
41 have the same K-factor which does not result in a change of  
42 hazard classification or an increased system coverage area, or  
43 the installation or replacement of an equivalent fire sprinkler  
44 system component, in an existing commercial, residential,  
45 apartment, cooperative, or condominium building.

46 (2) A contractor replacing a fire sprinkler system  
47 component must use a component with the same or better  
48 characteristics as the component being replaced, including  
49 electrical, hydraulic, pressure losses, required listings, and  
50 spacings.

51 (3) (a) A local enforcement agency may require a contractor,  
52 as a condition of obtaining a permit for a fire sprinkler system  
53 project, to submit a completed application and make a payment.

54 (b) A local enforcement agency may not require a contractor  
55 to submit plans or specifications as a condition of obtaining a  
56 permit for a fire sprinkler system project as defined in this  
57 section.

58 (4) A local enforcement agency shall issue a permit for a

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59 fire sprinkler system project in person or electronically.

60 (5) A local enforcement agency shall require a fire  
61 sprinkler system project to have at least one inspection to  
62 ensure compliance with applicable codes and standards. If a fire  
63 sprinkler system project fails an inspection, the contractor  
64 must take corrective action as necessary to pass inspection.

65 (6) If the fire sprinkler system project is to alter a fire  
66 sprinkler system, the contractor must keep a copy of the plans  
67 or as-built plans at the fire sprinkler system project worksite  
68 and make such plans available to the inspector at each  
69 inspection.

70 (7) If the project is to replace a component of the fire  
71 system, the contractor must keep a copy of the manufacturer's  
72 installation instructions and any related testing instructions  
73 needed to certify or accept the component at a fire sprinkler  
74 system project and must make such documents available to the  
75 inspector at each inspection.

76 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.