

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to public safety emergency  
3           communications systems; amending s. 633.202, F.S.;  
4           revising requirements for minimum radio signal  
5           strength for fire department communications; requiring  
6           the State Fire Marshal to adopt design criteria for  
7           minimum radio coverage for public safety emergency  
8           communications systems and standards for minimum  
9           interior radio coverage and signal strength within  
10          certain buildings; requiring that a local  
11          jurisdiction's public safety emergency communications  
12          system be certified as meeting or exceeding certain  
13          criteria before new and existing buildings are  
14          required to install, or to be assessed for, two-way  
15          radio communications enhancement systems; requiring  
16          local jurisdictions to produce radio coverage heatmaps  
17          under certain circumstances; prohibiting local  
18          jurisdictions from withholding certificates of  
19          occupancy under certain circumstances; revising  
20          provisions related to the implementation schedule;  
21          providing exceptions; defining the term "apartment  
22          occupancy"; providing rulemaking authority; providing  
23          applicability; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Subsection (18) of section 633.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

633.202 Florida Fire Prevention Code.—

(18) (a) The State Fire Marshal ~~authority having jurisdiction~~ shall adopt within sections of the Florida Fire Prevention Code provisions that establish ~~determine~~ the following criteria and standards:

1. Design criteria for minimum radio coverage for public safety emergency ~~signal strength for fire department~~ communications systems.

2. Standards for minimum interior radio coverage and signal strength within ~~in all new high-rise and existing high-rise~~ buildings.

(b) Before a local authority having jurisdiction may require installation of a two-way radio communications enhancement system in a new or existing building, or require assessment of the need for a two-way radio communications enhancement system in a new or existing building, a qualified third party must certify that the jurisdiction's public safety emergency communications system meets or exceeds the design criteria for minimum radio coverage provided in the current published edition of the National Fire Protection Association's Standard for the Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Emergency Services Communications Systems, NFPA 1221. Such certification

51 remains valid until the next triennial adoption of the Florida  
52 Fire Prevention Code which incorporates changes to NFPA 1221.

53 (c) Within a jurisdiction whose public safety emergency  
54 communications system has a valid radio coverage design  
55 certification under paragraph (b), the local authority having  
56 jurisdiction may:

57 1. Require assessment of a new or existing building's  
58 interior radio coverage and signal strength, for purposes of  
59 determining the need for a two-way radio communications  
60 enhancement system within the building, no more frequently than:

61 a. For a high-rise building, once every 3 years; or

62 b. For any other building, once every 5 years.

63 2. Require installation of a two-way radio communications  
64 enhancement system in a new or existing building if the interior  
65 of the building does not meet the minimum radio signal strength  
66 as required in the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

67 (d)1. In jurisdictions in which new buildings are required  
68 to install two-way radio communications enhancement systems, the  
69 local authority having jurisdiction must produce a radio  
70 coverage heatmap of the coverage area to assist design  
71 professionals in determining the projected need for installation  
72 of two-way radio communications enhancement systems in proposed  
73 new buildings. The heatmap must model at least three radio  
74 signal strength building penetration conditions for a portable  
75 radio worn on the hip: light building, medium building, and

76 heavy building.

77 2. When assessment of a new building's interior radio  
78 coverage and signal strength determines that installation of a  
79 two-way radio communications enhancement system is required, the  
80 local authority having jurisdiction may not withhold issuance of  
81 a certificate of occupancy for the building if the professional  
82 engineer or architect who is licensed in this state and designed  
83 the building projected, in his or her professional judgment and  
84 based on the available evidence of radio coverage, that a two-  
85 way radio communications enhancement system would not be  
86 necessary to meet the standards for minimum interior radio  
87 coverage and signal strength. The local authority having  
88 jurisdiction may not require installation of the two-way radio  
89 communications enhancement system until at least 90 days after  
90 completion of the building's interior radio coverage and signal  
91 strength assessment report.

92 (e)1. Standards for ~~Existing buildings~~ are not required to  
93 ~~comply with~~ minimum interior radio coverage and signal strength  
94 ~~for fire department communications~~ and requirements for two-way  
95 radio communications ~~system~~ enhancement systems do not apply to  
96 existing buildings other than apartment occupancies  
97 ~~communications as required by the Florida Fire Prevention Code~~  
98 until January 1, 2022. However, by December 31, 2019, an  
99 existing building other than an apartment occupancy which is out  
100 of building that is not in compliance with such standards and

101 ~~the requirements for minimum radio strength for fire department~~  
102 ~~communications~~ must apply for the ~~an~~ appropriate permit for the  
103 required installation with the local authority ~~government agency~~  
104 having jurisdiction and must demonstrate that the building will  
105 comply with the standards and requirements ~~become compliant~~ by  
106 January 1, 2022. If a permit applied for under this subparagraph  
107 is issued, it remains valid until at least January 1, 2022.

108 2. Standards for minimum interior radio coverage and  
109 signal strength and requirements for two-way radio  
110 communications enhancement systems do not apply to existing  
111 apartment occupancies ~~buildings are not required to comply~~ until  
112 January 1, 2025. However, by December 31, 2022, an existing  
113 apartment occupancy that is out of compliance with such  
114 standards and requirements must ~~buildings are required to apply~~  
115 ~~for the appropriate permit for the required communications~~  
116 installation with the local authority having jurisdiction and  
117 must demonstrate that the apartment occupancy will comply with  
118 the standards and requirements by January 1, 2025 ~~December 31,~~  
119 2022. If a permit applied for under this subparagraph is issued,  
120 it remains valid until at least January 1, 2025.

121 (f) If a jurisdiction modifies its public safety emergency  
122 communications system such that modifications to existing two-  
123 way radio communications enhancement system installations are  
124 required, the local authority having jurisdiction must give  
125 owners of the two-way radio communications enhancement systems

126 | at least 180-days' notice before requiring any modifications.

127 | (g) Notwithstanding paragraph (e), a local authority  
128 | having jurisdiction that requires an existing building,  
129 | regardless of whether the building is an apartment occupancy, to  
130 | retrofit its two-way radio communications enhancement system  
131 | must give the building owner at least 1 year to complete the  
132 | retrofit. The 1-year period begins when the local authority  
133 | having jurisdiction cites the building owner with a notice of  
134 | code violation in accordance with chapter 162.

135 | (h) In lieu of requiring two-way radio communications  
136 | enhancement systems in new and existing buildings, a local  
137 | authority having jurisdiction may approve the use of mobile  
138 | radio repeaters in emergency service vehicles.

139 | (i) As used in this section, the term "apartment  
140 | occupancy" has the same meaning as defined in the Florida Fire  
141 | Prevention Code.

142 | (j) The State Fire Marshal shall incorporate this  
143 | subsection within sections of the Florida Fire Prevention Code  
144 | and may adopt rules to implement, interpret, and enforce this  
145 | subsection.

146 | (k) The provisions of s. 633.208 and this section which  
147 | authorize local adoption of more stringent requirements than  
148 | those specified in the Florida Fire Prevention Code and minimum  
149 | firesafety codes do not apply to the requirements of this  
150 | subsection.

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151 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021. |