

HOUSE No. 3846

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Robert F. Fennell

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to streamlined low-voltage alarm system installation and permitting.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Robert F. Fennell

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

10th Essex

HOUSE No. 3846

By Mr. Fennell of Lynn, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Robert F. Fennell relative to low-voltage electrical or alarm system contracting permitted by local enforcement agencies. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to streamlined low-voltage alarm system installation and permitting.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 40 of the General Laws is amended by adding the following
2 section:-

3 Section 70. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following
4 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

5 “Contractor”, a person who is qualified to engage in the business of electrical or alarm
6 system contracting pursuant to a certificate or registration issued by the office of consumer
7 affairs and business regulation.

8 “Low-voltage alarm system project”, a project related to the installation, maintenance,
9 inspection, replacement or service of a new or existing alarm system, as defined in the NFPA 70:
10 National Electrical Code, and ancillary components or equipment attached to a new or existing
11 alarm system including, but not limited to, home-automation equipment, smoke detectors, carbon
12 monoxide detectors, thermostats and video cameras.

13 (b) This section shall not apply to the installation or replacement of a fire alarm governed
14 by sections 26A, 26B or 26C of chapter 148.

15 (c) A local enforcement agency shall make uniform basic permit labels available for
16 purchase by a contractor to be used for the installation or replacement of a new or existing alarm
17 system at a cost of not more than \$55 per label per project per unit.

18 (d) A local enforcement agency may not require a contractor to: (i) submit, as a condition
19 of purchasing a label, information other than identification information of the licensee and proof
20 of registration or certification as a contractor; and (ii) secure permits other than a low-voltage
21 alarm system permit for installation of such a system provided that the system complies with the
22 definition of low-voltage alarm system project in subsection (a) .

23 (e) A label shall be valid for 1 year after the date of purchase and may only be used
24 within the jurisdiction of the local enforcement agency that issued the label. A contractor may
25 purchase labels in bulk for 1 or more unspecified current or future projects.

26 (f) A contractor shall post an unused uniform basic permit label in a conspicuous place on
27 the premises of the low-voltage alarm system project site before beginning work on the project.

28 (g) A contractor may not be required to notify the local enforcement agency before
29 commencing work on a low-voltage alarm system project; provided, however, that a contractor
30 shall submit a uniform notice of a low-voltage alarm system project as provided in subsection (h)
31 to the local enforcement agency within 14 days after completing the project. A local enforcement
32 agency may take disciplinary action against a contractor who fails to timely submit a uniform
33 notice of a low-voltage alarm system project.

34 (h) The uniform notice of a low-voltage alarm system project may be submitted
35 electronically or by facsimile if all submissions are signed by the owner, tenant, contractor or the
36 authorized representative. The uniform notice of a low-voltage alarm system project shall
37 contain the following:

38 UNIFORM NOTICE OF A LOW-VOLTAGE

39 ALARM SYSTEM PROJECT

40 Owner's or Customer's Name

41 Owner's or Customer's Address

42 City

43 State / Zip

44 Phone Number

45 E-mail Address

46 Contractor's Name

47 Contractor's Address

48 City

49 State / Zip

50 Phone Number

51 Contractor's License Number

52 Date Project Completed

53 Scope of Work

54 Notice is hereby given that a low-voltage alarm system project has been completed at the
55 address specified above. I certify that all of the foregoing information is true and accurate.

56 (Signature of Owner, Tenant, Contractor, or Authorized Representative)

57 (i) A low-voltage alarm system project may be inspected by the local enforcement agency
58 to ensure compliance with applicable codes and standards. If a low-voltage alarm system project
59 fails an inspection, the contractor shall take corrective action as necessary to pass inspection.

60 (j) A municipality, county, district or other entity of local government shall not adopt or
61 maintain in effect an ordinance or rule regarding a low-voltage alarm system project that is
62 inconsistent with this section.

63 (k) A uniform basic permit label shall not be required for the subsequent maintenance,
64 inspection or service of an alarm system that was permitted pursuant to this section.

65 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, section 70 of
66 chapter 40 of the General Laws shall apply to low-voltage alarm system projects for which a
67 permit is required by a local enforcement agency without regard to the date of construction.

68 SECTION 3. (a) A local enforcement agency charging more than \$55 but less than \$175
69 for a uniform basic permit label as of January 1, 2015 may continue to charge the same amount
70 for a uniform basic permit label issued pursuant to subsection (c) of section 70 of chapter 40 of
71 the General Laws until January 1, 2016.

72 (b) A local enforcement agency charging more than \$175 for a uniform basic permit label
73 as of January 1, 2015 may charge a maximum of \$175 for a uniform basic permit label issued
74 pursuant to said subsection (c) of said section 70 of said chapter 40 until January 1, 2016.