

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 193 (Delegate Kelly)
Health and Government Operations

Public Buildings - Security Systems

This bill requires the State Fire Marshal to note whether a specified institution or facility being inspected for fire exits and safety standards has an operational security system that is being used properly. The bill also requires that a security system in all publicly owned institutions and all schools, theaters, churches, and other places of public assembly be kept in good working order and be used properly.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The requirements of this bill could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None. The requirements of this bill could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal or none.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Fire Marshal is required to inspect for fire exits and reasonable safety standards: (1) all institutions owned by the State or a county or municipal corporation; and (2) all schools, theaters, churches, and other places of public assembly. The State Fire Marshal must report the findings of an inspection and any recommendations to the individual in charge of the institution or other place that was inspected. These provisions do not apply to a building or premises actually occupied as a private dwelling.

The State Fire Marshal may enter a building or premises within the jurisdiction of the State Fire Marshal at reasonable hours to conduct an inspection considered necessary under these provisions. An individual, including an employee of the State Fire Marshal, may not give prior notice of an inspection authorized under these provisions without the written approval of the State Fire Marshal or designee.

Under the Commercial Law Article, security system means any burglary alarm system or robbery alarm system, and includes the service of monitoring the property to which a security system is attached in case of an alarm sounding.

Under the Criminal Law Article, an electronic security system includes:

- an electronic home security system;
- a motor vehicle security alarm system;
- an automatic garage door opener;
- a home detention monitoring device; and
- an electronic or magnetic theft detection device used in a retail establishment.

Security systems technicians and agencies are regulated by the Department of State Police.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): City of Bowie, Town of Thurmont, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Caroline County, Calvert County, Judiciary (District Court of Maryland), St. Mary's College, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of General Services, Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

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