
By: Charles County Delegation

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 1997
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 19, 1997

CHAPTER ____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Charles County - Public Safety False Alarms - Fines**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Board of County Commissioners for Charles County
4 to prohibit certain persons from making repeated false alarms or engaging in
5 patterns of unnecessary or abusive use of certain emergency and public safety
6 services in Charles County; authorizing the licensing of alarm systems contractors
7 and the setting of license fees; authorizing the revocation or suspension of an alarm
8 systems contractor license under certain conditions; authorizing the imposition of
9 certain fines; authorizing an enforcement agency designated by the County
10 Commissioners to maintain certain records; authorizing the enforcement agency to
11 take certain actions upon finding a particular pattern of false alarms; requiring the
12 adoption of certain procedures under certain circumstances; requiring the
13 dedication of certain funds to the Response and Communications System of Charles
14 County under certain circumstances; and generally relating to public safety and
15 false alarms in Charles County.

16 BY adding to

17 The Public Local Laws of Charles County
18 Section 45-1 to be under the new chapter "Chapter 45 False Alarms"
19 Article 9 - Public Local Laws of Maryland
20 (1994 Edition and November 1995 Supplement, as amended)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

2

1 **Article 9 - Charles County**

2 CHAPTER 45

3 FALSE ALARMS

4 45-1.

5 A. THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY ESTABLISH BY ORDINANCE A
6 PROHIBITION AGAINST ANY PERSON MAKING REPEATED FALSE ALARMS OR
7 ENGAGING IN ANY OTHER PATTERN OF UNNECESSARY OR ABUSIVE USE OF
8 EMERGENCY AND PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES IN THE COUNTY.

9 B. AN ORDINANCE ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS UNDER THIS
10 SECTION SHALL:

11 (1) PROVIDE FOR THE LICENSING OF ALARM SYSTEMS CONTRACTORS;

12 (2) ESTABLISH A LICENSE FEE;

13 (3) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION C OF THIS SECTION, ALLOW THE COUNTY
14 TO REVOKE OR SUSPEND A LICENSE OF AN ALARM SYSTEMS CONTRACTOR FOR
15 REASONS SPECIFIED IN THE ORDINANCE;

16 ~~(4)~~ (4) ESTABLISH A SCHEDULE OF FINES THAT MAY BE IMPOSED FOR
17 EACH OFFENSE OR SERIES OF OFFENSES ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTY
18 COMMISSIONERS UNDER THIS SECTION;

19 ~~(5)~~ (5) DESIGNATE THE APPROPRIATE COUNTY AGENCY TO ENFORCE
20 AND ADMINISTER THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ORDINANCE AND THE ASSESSMENT
21 AND COLLECTION OF FINES;

22 (6) AUTHORIZE THE DESIGNATED COUNTY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO
23 MAINTAIN RECORDS OF ALARM SYSTEMS CONTRACTORS, MONITOR SERVICE
24 ENTITIES, AND MANUFACTURERS OF SECURITY SYSTEMS;

25 (7) AUTHORIZE THE DESIGNATED COUNTY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, IF
26 IT FINDS A PATTERN OF FALSE ALARMS ATTRIBUTED TO A PARTICULAR
27 MANUFACTURER'S MODEL OR TO INSTALLATION BY A PARTICULAR ALARM
28 SYSTEMS CONTRACTOR, TO INFORM:

29 (I) 1. THE MANUFACTURER OF THE MODEL; OR

30 2. THE ALARM SYSTEMS CONTRACTOR WHO INSTALLED
31 THE ALARM SYSTEM; AND

32 (II) ANY APPROPRIATE STATE OR NATIONAL LICENSING AGENCY
33 OR THE CERTIFICATION STANDARDS ENTITY HAVING JURISDICTION PERTAINING
34 TO THE MANUFACTURE OR INSTALLATION OF ALARM SYSTEMS;

35 ~~(8)~~ (8) PROVIDE PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE
36 REQUIREMENTS OF AN ORDINANCE ENACTED UNDER THIS SECTION;

3

1 ~~(4)~~ (9) PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FOR AN
2 OFFENDER TO RESPOND TO ALLEGATIONS RELATING TO THE VIOLATION OF THE
3 ORDINANCE; AND

4 ~~(5)~~ (10) REQUIRE THAT ANY FUNDS OBTAINED THROUGH THE
5 IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION OF FINES UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE
6 DEDICATED TO THE RESPONSE AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM OF CHARLES
7 COUNTY.

8 C. BEFORE THE COUNTY TAKES ANY ACTION UNDER SUBSECTION B(3) OF
9 THIS SECTION, IT SHALL GIVE THE LICENSEE AGAINST WHOM THE ACTION IS
10 CONTEMPLATED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 1997.