

Testimony for HB 1216

Business Regulation – Security Systems – Battery-Charged Fences

Good afternoon Chairman Davis, Vice Chair Demais and distinguished Delegates of the Economic Matters Committee. My name is Nikkie Navarro and I am Delegate Branch's intern. I am here to testify in support of HB1216, Business Regulation – Security Systems – Battery Charged Fences.

As noted in HB1216, a battery charged fence security system is an alarm system that includes a fence, a battery-operated energizer that delivers voltage impulses to the fence, a charging device, and other components and attached equipment. This bill is intended to prevent local government from prohibiting the use of battery charged fences as a means of security for commercial businesses. It also prevents the imposition of additional installation systems or operational requirements that may result in additional spending for those that choose to use a battery charged fence security system.

These fences typically deliver no more than 12 volts which is enough to impose minor shock onto anyone attempting to trespass the protected property and alert the owner of the alarm system that their property is being violated. By requiring additional operational requirements or prohibiting the use of this form of security system, local government may be stripping away a person's ability to protect their business. Battery charged fences are an affordable means of security and the battery-operated energizers location would be regulated

to be placed behind a nonelectric perimeter fence on property that is not zoned as residential use only. It would not pose a threat to local neighborhoods that are composed of residents only.

I urge the committee to vote favorably for this bill in order to allow the people the right to choose how they secure their property. HB1216 still protects the local governments right to require an alarm business registration as well as complying to local alarm ordinance. The use of electrical fences will remain regulated yet at the same time, the people's right to choose this form of security will be protected.