

SB 771 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Construction Contractors Board (CCB) to establish endorsement program for construction contractors and employees engaging in work on water-based fire suppression system. Requires contractor or employee hold appropriate type of endorsement prior to performing work on water-based fire suppression system. Requires applicant for endorsement to submit application, pass examination, and provide evidence of education, training or experience as required by CCB. Requires CCB, when adopting endorsement standards, to give consideration to relevant standards of national organizations for fire protection or engineering technologies. Exempts endorsement holder from statutes governing practice and licensing of plumbers, architects, and professional engineers. Prohibits individual endorsement holder from bring full-time employee for more than one construction contractor at the same time. Requires construction contractor to give notice to CCB when endorsed employee ceases to be full-time employee of the contractor. Requires CCB to issue endorsements no later than January 1, 2021. Prohibits board from enforcing endorsement requirement January 1, 2022. Allows CCB to issue non-renewable temporary endorsement to construction contractor performing fire sprinkler system work on effective date of measure if board finds contractor has competency to properly perform work. Requires temporary endorsement to specify scope of work and expire three years after issuance.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Current statewide building codes require the installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system in specified structures, including most commercial structures, multi-family residential structures, and one- or two-family dwellings containing a sleeping loft. Fire sprinkler systems must meet standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The NFPA, the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies, and other organizations offer certifications for the design, inspection, testing, and maintenance of water-based fire protection systems.

Senate Bill 771 requires the Construction Contractors Board (CCB) to establish an endorsement program for contractors and employees engaging in work on water-based fire suppression systems. The endorsements must be tailored to the type of structure, and a the contractor or at least one full-time employee of the contractor must hold the appropriate endorsement before engaging in work on a water-based fire suppression system. The measure allows existing contractors who demonstrate competency to CCB to continue work for three years under a temporary endorsement.