



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS
PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL



H. "BUTCH" BROWNING, JR.
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

July 5, 2018

LA Life Safety & Security Association
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LA Fire Sprinkler Association
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LA Automatic Fire Alarm Association
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Baton Rouge, LA 70806
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RE: Louisiana 2018 Regular Legislative Session Act No. 598

Dear Sirs and Madams:

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) wanted to take this opportunity to inform you of Act No. 598 of the 2018 Regular Legislative Session which has made some changes to Life Safety and Property Licensing Law (R.S. 40:1664.1 et. seq.) The major change was the addition of conveyance devices (elevators) to the life safety and property protection contracting family. However, there were two other smaller, yet very important changes accomplished with this legislation as well.

The first was that language was added to R.S. 40:1664.5(12). As you may be aware, this statute provides for an exemption from licensure for firms and persons licensed to perform electrical work by the State Board of Contractors. It previously provided:

(12) A firm or person licensed to perform electrical work by the State Licensing Board for Contractors pursuant to R.S. 37:2156.1 and 2156.2 which installs wire, conduit, or other wire raceways, its associated boxes or fittings, or installs fire alarm initiating and notification devices or intrusion alarm systems or closed circuit television systems or special locking systems in either commercial or residential property. This exception from licensure shall also apply to the employees of a firm or person exempted by this Subpart, but only as to work performed by them on behalf of the exempted employer.

The new language carved out an exception to that exemption. It provides the following: **"The provisions of this Paragraph shall not apply to a person or entity selling, installing, servicing, or maintaining wireless security and fire systems."** Therefore, any person or firm engaged in any of the described activities in which any component of the system is wireless, will now be subject to licensure by the OSFM.

Secondly, this Act also made some changes in regards to local regulation. Louisiana R.S. 40:1664.16(C) states the following:

8181 Independence Blvd. ♦ Baton Rouge, LA 70806 ♦ 1.800.256.5452 ♦ 225.925.4911 ♦ www.lasfm.org

This Subpart shall not prevent local governing authorities of any municipality or parish from enacting ordinances governing false alarm activations and responses. However, security firms and its employees and security monitoring firms and its employees shall not be subjected to or liable for civil penalties and fines assessed or imposed by a municipality or parish for false alarms.

Both of these additions to the law are very important and we ask that you inform your members of these changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Browning', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

H. "Butch" Browning
State Fire Marshal