

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Anthony W. Petrucci

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to streamlined low-voltage alarm system installation permitting.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Anthony W. Petrucci

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Suffolk and Middlesex

SENATE No.

By Mr. Petruccelli, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 0000) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Anthony W. Petruccelli for legislation relative to streamlined low-voltage alarm system installation permitting. Municipalities and Regional Government.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to streamlined low-voltage alarm system installation permitting.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 40 of the General Laws is amended by adding the following
2 section:-

3 Section 70. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following
4 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

5 “Contractor”, a person who is qualified to engage in the business of electrical or alarm
6 system contracting pursuant to a certificate or registration issued by the office of consumer
7 affairs and business regulation.

8 “Low-voltage alarm system project”, a project related to the installation, maintenance,
9 inspection, replacement or service of a new or existing alarm system, as defined in the NFPA 70:
10 National Electrical Code, and ancillary components or equipment attached to a new or existing
11 alarm system including, but not limited to, home-automation equipment, smoke detectors, carbon
12 monoxide detectors, thermostats and video cameras.

13 (b) This section shall not apply to the installation or replacement of a fire alarm
14 governed by sections 26A, 26B or 26C of chapter 148.

15 (c) A local enforcement agency shall make uniform basic permit labels available for
16 purchase by a contractor to be used for the installation or replacement of a new or existing alarm
17 system at a cost of not more than \$55 per label per project per unit.

18 (d) A local enforcement agency may not require a contractor to: (i) submit, as a condition
19 of purchasing a label, information other than identification information of the licensee and proof
20 of registration or certification as a contractor; and (ii) secure permits other than a low-voltage
21 alarm system permit for installation of such a system provided that the system complies with the
22 definition of low-voltage alarm system project in subsection (a) .

23 (e) A label shall be valid for 1 year after the date of purchase and may only be used
24 within the jurisdiction of the local enforcement agency that issued the label. A contractor may
25 purchase labels in bulk for 1 or more unspecified current or future projects.

26 (f) A contractor shall post an unused uniform basic permit label in a conspicuous place
27 on the premises of the low-voltage alarm system project site before beginning work on the
28 project.

29 (g) A contractor may not be required to notify the local enforcement agency before
30 commencing work on a low-voltage alarm system project; provided, however, that a contractor
31 shall submit a uniform notice of a low-voltage alarm system project as provided in subsection (h)
32 to the local enforcement agency within 14 days after completing the project. A local enforcement
33 agency may take disciplinary action against a contractor who fails to timely submit a uniform
34 notice of a low-voltage alarm system project.

35 (h) The uniform notice of a low-voltage alarm system project may be submitted
36 electronically or by facsimile if all submissions are signed by the owner, tenant, contractor or the
37 authorized representative. The uniform notice of a low-voltage alarm system project shall
38 contain the following:

39 UNIFORM NOTICE OF A LOW-VOLTAGE

40 ALARM SYSTEM PROJECT

41 Owner's or Customer's Name

42 Owner's or Customer's Address

43 City

44 State / Zip

45 Phone Number

46 E-mail Address

47 Contractor's Name

48 Contractor's Address

49 City

50 State / Zip

51 Phone Number

52 Contractor's License Number

53 Date Project Completed

54 Scope of Work

55 Notice is hereby given that a low-voltage alarm system project has been completed at the
56 address specified above. I certify that all of the foregoing information is true and accurate.

57 (Signature of Owner, Tenant, Contractor, or Authorized Representative)

58 (i) A low-voltage alarm system project may be inspected by the local enforcement
59 agency to ensure compliance with applicable codes and standards. If a low-voltage alarm system
60 project fails an inspection, the contractor shall take corrective action as necessary to pass
61 inspection.

62 (j) A municipality, county, district or other entity of local government shall not adopt or
63 maintain in effect an ordinance or rule regarding a low-voltage alarm system project that is
64 inconsistent with this section.

65 (k) A uniform basic permit label shall not be required for the subsequent maintenance,
66 inspection or service of an alarm system that was permitted pursuant to this section.

67 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, section 70 of
68 chapter 40 of the General Laws shall apply to low-voltage alarm system projects for which a
69 permit is required by a local enforcement agency without regard to the date of construction.

70 SECTION 3. (a) A local enforcement agency charging more than \$55 but less than \$175
71 for a uniform basic permit label as of January 1, 2015 may continue to charge the same amount
72 for a uniform basic permit label issued pursuant to subsection (c) of section 70 of chapter 40 of
73 the General Laws until January 1, 2016.

74 (b) A local enforcement agency charging more than \$175 for a uniform basic permit
75 label as of January 1, 2015 may charge a maximum of \$175 for a uniform basic permit label
76 issued pursuant to said subsection (c) of said section 70 of said chapter 40 until January 1, 2016.