

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## 2SSB 5425

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Concerning fire protection sprinkler system contractors.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Salomon, Keiser, Boehnke, Wilson, J. and Conway).

**Senate Committee on Labor & Commerce**  
**Senate Committee on Ways & Means**  
**House Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards**  
**House Committee on Appropriations**

**Background:** Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems and Contractors. A fire protection sprinkler system contractor is a person or organization that offers to undertake the execution of contracts for the installation, inspection, maintenance, or servicing of a fire protection sprinkler system or any part of such a system.

A fire protection sprinkler system is an assembly of underground and overhead piping or conduit, or both, beginning at the connection to the primary water supply, whether public or private, that conveys water with or without other agents to dispersal openings or devices to extinguish, control, or contain fire, and to provide protection from exposure to fire or other products of combustion.

Licensing Fees. The State Director of Fire Protection (director) administers examinations, issues certificates of competency, and licenses fire protection sprinkler system contractors in accordance with statute. The licensing fees for contractors who install, inspect, maintain, or service certain fire protection sprinkler systems may not exceed:

- \$100 for contractors who work on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13D systems, for one or two-family residential dwellings or mobile homes; and
- \$300 for contractors who work on NFPA 13R system, for residential dwellings up to four stories in height.

Fines. The director has authority to adopt rules defining infractions under the fire sprinkler

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system contractors statute and associated fines for such infractions. A contractor who commits an infraction is subject to a fine no less than \$200, and no more than \$5,000. A contractor who fails to obtain a certificate of competency is subject to a fine no less than \$1,000, and no more than \$5,000.

Fire Protection Sprinkler Fitting. The director also administers the fire protection sprinkler fitting statute, including adopting and administering examinations for applicants for certificates of competency, and possessing discretion to investigate alleged violations of the fire protection sprinkler fitting statute.

**Summary:** Licensing Fees. The licensing fees for fire protection sprinkler system contractors who install, inspect, maintain, or service certain fire protection sprinkler systems may not exceed:

- \$125 for contractors who work on NFPA 13D systems; and
- \$375 for contractors who work on NFPA 13R systems.

Enforcement and Fines. The minimum and maximum fines for a contractor who commits an infraction are:

- for a first infraction, a fine cannot be less than \$300, and not more than \$7,500;
- for a second infraction, a fine cannot be less than \$400, and not more than \$10,000; and
- for a third and any subsequent infractions, a fine cannot be less than \$1,000, and not more than \$15,000.

A fire protection sprinkler system contractor who fails to obtain a certificate of competency shall be assessed a fine as follows:

- for a first infraction, the fine cannot be less than \$1,500, and not more than \$7,500;
- for a second infraction, a fine cannot be less than \$2,500, and not more than \$10,000; and
- for a third and any subsequent infractions, a fine cannot be less than \$5,000, and not more than \$25,000.

An authorized representative of the director must investigate violations of the fire sprinkler fitter licensing statute. Permissive language under the current statute is removed.

Fire Protection Compliance Account. The Fire Protection Compliance Account is established in the custody of the state treasury. Fines collected for contractor infractions and failure to obtain certificates of competency are to be deposited into this account. Expenditures from the account may only be used for enforcing the fire protection statutes, and the account is subject to allotment procedures, but no appropriation is required for expenditures.

Fire Sprinkler Fitter Trainees. A person with a trainee certificate may perform sprinkler fitting work under supervision. Supervision must consist of the trainee being on the same

jobsite and under the control of either a residential or journey-level fire protection sprinkler fitter certified to perform the type of work the trainee is performing. The required ratio of trainees performing journey-level fire sprinkler fitter work to certified sprinkler fitters is 1:1. The required ratio of trainees performing residential fire sprinkler fitter work to certified sprinkler fitters is 2:1.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	48	0	
House	96	1	(House amended)
Senate	48	0	(Senate concurred)

**Effective:** January 1, 2024