

HCS HB 952 & 674 -- LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES AND SPRINKLER  
SYSTEM INSTALLERS (Wilson, 130)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Crime Prevention and Public Safety

This substitute requires all new long-term care facilities and facilities completing a major renovation that are licensed by the Department of Health and Senior Services to install and maintain approved sprinkler systems in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) by August 28, 2007. All existing long-term care facilities must install and maintain an approved sprinkler system by December 31, 2015. Facilities that take a substantial step to install an approved sprinkler system prior to December 31, 2015, may apply to the department for a matching funds loan to install the system. The Fire Safety Standards Loan Fund is created as the funding mechanism for these loans. All long-term care facilities must be equipped by December 31, 2008, with a complete fire alarm system; and each floor accessed by residents must be divided into at least two sections by one-hour rated smoke partition.

The department may require employees and contract personnel of any long-term care facility to be awake, dressed, and prepared to assist residents in case of an emergency and the facility to have an emergency preparedness plan.

The Fire Mitigation System Installer Statewide Qualification Commission, which expires July 1, 2008, is established to study and review the development of a statewide standard for persons installing or inspecting sprinkler systems. Members of the commission will include the directors of the departments of Health and Senior Services, Economic Development, and Public Safety and five individuals appointed by the Governor including two fire mitigation system installers/inspectors who have been practicing for the past five years, a member of the local jurisdiction for fire mitigation system installers for the past five years, a representative from the relevant skill trade organizations, and one public citizen. The commission must submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly with its recommendations in support or opposition to the statewide standards by July 1, 2008.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$0 or Greater than \$1,583,239 in FY 2008, \$0 or Greater than \$1,582,741 in FY 2009, and \$0 or Greater than \$1,597,224 in FY 2010. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.