



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 50**

February Session, 2006

Senate Bill No. 223

*Senate, March 21, 2006*

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through SEN. COLEMAN of the 2nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 29-265b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 (a) Any state agency or commercial enterprise that begins  
4 installation of an automatic lawn sprinkler system on or after October  
5 1, 2003, shall equip such sprinkler system with a rain sensor device or  
6 switch that will automatically override the irrigation cycle of such  
7 sprinkler system when adequate rainfall has occurred.

8 (b) [A municipality may, by ordinance adopted by its legislative  
9 body, require that any automatic lawn sprinkler system, the  
10 installation of which begins on or after October 1, 2003, shall be  
11 equipped with a rain sensor device or switch that will automatically  
12 override the irrigation cycle of such sprinkler system when adequate  
13 rainfall has occurred.] Any residential installation of an automatic

14 lawn sprinkler system on or after October 1, 2006, shall be equipped  
15 with a rain sensor device or switch that will automatically override the  
16 irrigation cycle of such sprinkler system when adequate rainfall has  
17 occurred.

|   |                 |         |
|---|-----------------|---------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |                 |         |
| Section 1   | October 1, 2006 | 29-265b |

**PD**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:**

| <b>Municipalities</b>  | <b>Effect</b>              | <b>FY 07 \$</b>      | <b>FY 08 \$</b>      |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Various Municipalities | STATE<br>MANDATE<br>- Cost | Potential<br>Minimal | Potential<br>Minimal |

**Explanation**

The bill requires that all residential automatic lawn sprinkler systems installed after October 1, 2006 be equipped with a rain sensor device or switch.

The bill could result in a fiscal impact to municipalities in that local fire marshals or building inspectors would be required to inspect residential sprinkler systems to ensure that they are in compliance with the law.

Under current law, an ordinance requiring residential lawn sprinkler systems to be equipped with a rain sensor device is made by the municipalities' legislative body. Therefore, some municipalities are currently conducting the inspections, and would only need to complete an electrical and plumbing inspection to ensure functionality of the sprinkler system. The bill will not result in a fiscal impact for municipalities currently conducting inspections.

For municipalities who do not currently conduct inspections of residential sprinkler systems, it is unknown if they would be able to do so within existing budgetary resources, and a potential cost could result.

***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis**  
**SB 223*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands the mandate for the installation of cut-off switches on automatic lawn sprinklers. By law, any business or state agency that installs an automatic lawn sprinkler system must equip it with a rain sensor or switch that automatically overrides the system's irrigation cycle when there has been sufficient rainfall. Under current law, a municipality's legislative body can pass an ordinance requiring that any residential lawn sprinkler system also be so equipped. The bill instead requires that all automatic residential lawn sprinkler systems installed on or after October 1, 2006 be so equipped.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2006

**BACKGROUND*****Related Bill***

sHB 5686, "An Act Concerning Water Resource Planning," favorably reported by the Energy and Technology Committee, requires that all automatic irrigation systems installed on or after October 1, 2006 be equipped with a sensor or switch that automatically overrides the irrigation cycle when there has been sufficient rainfall.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17    Nay 0    (03/08/2006)