



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 239

LCO No. 2035



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:
(PS)

AN ACT REQUIRING VERIFICATION TO REDUCE FALSE ALARMS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 29-6c of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Alarm system" means an assembly of equipment and devices
5 arranged to signal the presence of a hazard such as unauthorized
6 intrusion into a premises, an attempted robbery or a fire or smoke
7 condition at a premises requiring urgent attention, [and to which the
8 Division of State Police is expected to respond,] including, but not
9 limited to: Automatic holdup alarm systems, burglary alarm systems,
10 holdup alarm systems, manual holdup alarm systems, audible alarm
11 systems and fire alarm systems. "Alarm system" does not mean a
12 system that monitors temperature or is designed solely for notification
13 of medical emergencies.

14 (2) "Alarm monitoring company" means any person, firm, company,

15 partnership or corporation engaged in the business of monitoring
16 alarm systems.

17 (3) "Alarm verification" means an attempt by an alarm monitoring
18 company to verify whether the activation of an alarm system was
19 caused by a false alarm by contacting an individual at the premises
20 where the alarm system is installed by telephone or other electronic
21 means when the alarm system is activated and, if such attempt to
22 contact the individual fails, by contacting the subscriber by telephone
23 or other electronic means.

24 [(2)] (3) "False alarm" means the activation of any alarm system
25 including circumstances occurring off the protected property and
26 within the control of either the subscriber, [his] the alarm business, [or
27 his] the answering service or the alarm monitoring company to which
28 the Division of State Police or municipal police responds but does not
29 include any such activation caused by fire, a criminal act, emergency,
30 or an act of nature such as an earthquake, tornado, hurricane or storm.

31 (4) "Monitoring" means the process by which an alarm monitoring
32 company receives electrical or electronic signals from an alarm system.

33 [(3)] (5) "Subscriber" means an individual who buys, leases or
34 otherwise acquires an alarm system and thereafter installs it or has it
35 installed, including an individual who has control of the premises in
36 which an operable alarm system exists.

37 (b) (1) The subscriber of an alarm system shall be fined for each
38 [emergency police] response by the Division of State Police to a false
39 alarm, except that such fine shall be [automatically] waived for the first
40 three false alarm responses in a calendar year. [State] The subscriber of
41 an alarm system installed on state, federal and municipal buildings or
42 properties shall be exempt from such fine. The subscriber of an alarm
43 system shall be fined for each [emergency police] response by the
44 Division of State Police to a false alarm in a calendar year not more
45 than: [(1)] (A) Twenty-five dollars for a fourth [offense, (2)] response,

46 (B) fifty dollars for a fifth [offense, (3)] response, (C) seventy-five
47 dollars for a sixth [offense] response, and [(4)] (D) one hundred dollars
48 for the seventh and each subsequent [offense] response within a
49 calendar year. Such fine shall be used for the administrative costs of
50 administering this section, and for training and educational materials
51 of the state police. If the subscriber is not the owner of the property in
52 which the alarm system is located, the state police [trooper] shall give
53 the property owner notice of the occurrence of the second alarm
54 generated by the alarm system of the property.

55 [(c)] (2) Any subscriber who has received notification from the state
56 police informing such subscriber that a fine is being imposed for a false
57 alarm may appeal the fine not later than seven days after the receipt of
58 notification by filing an appeal with the Division of State Police. The
59 Division of State Police shall review the appeal and make a
60 determination as to whether or not the circumstances surrounding the
61 false alarms justify a waiver of the fine. The Division of State Police
62 shall notify the subscriber, in writing, of its final decision.

63 [(d)] (3) All fines imposed pursuant to this [section] subsection shall
64 be payable to the Division of State Police and shall be due not later
65 than thirty days after the date of notification [,] or, in the case of an
66 appeal, not later than thirty days after the date of the decision on the
67 appeal. A subscriber who fails to pay the fine within the designated
68 time period shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars.

69 (4) The subscriber of an alarm system may be fined by a
70 municipality for any response by the police of such municipality to a
71 false alarm under any ordinance adopted pursuant to subparagraph
72 (H) (xiv) of subdivision (7) of subsection (c) of section 7-148.

73 (c) The subscriber of an alarm system shall provide the following to
74 the alarm monitoring company: (1) Contact information for an
75 individual at the premises where the alarm system is installed, and (2)
76 contact information for the subscriber.

77 (d) (1) After any activation of an alarm system but prior to
78 requesting the Division of State Police or municipal police department
79 to respond, an alarm monitoring company shall employ alarm
80 verification.

81 (2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not
82 apply if the alarm monitoring company has a monitoring system that
83 enables such company to verify by visual or auditory means that the
84 activation of the alarm system was not caused by a false alarm.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	29-6c

Statement of Purpose:

To require that alarm monitoring companies attempt to verify the validity of an alarm before requesting state or municipal police to respond to the alarm.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]