

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 239**

LCO No. 2951

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 Section 29-6c of the general statutes is repealed and the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] burglar alarm
10 systems, holdup alarm systems, manual holdup alarm systems,
11 audible alarm systems and fire alarm systems. "Alarm system" does
12 not mean a system that monitors temperature or is designed solely for
13 notification 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 a burglar alarm system
19 was caused by a false alarm by contacting an authorized individual at
20 the premises where the burglar alarm system is installed by telephone
21 or other electronic means when the burglar alarm system is activated
22 and, if such attempt to contact the authorized individual fails, by
23 contacting a second authorized individual at a different telephone
24 number or by other electronic means.

25 (4) "Burglar alarm system" means a type of alarm system that
26 signals the presence of an unauthorized intrusion into premises or an
27 attempted robbery.

28 [(2)] (5) "False alarm" means the activation of any alarm system
29 including circumstances occurring off the protected property and
30 within the control of [either] the subscriber, [his] the alarm business,
31 [or his] the answering service or the alarm monitoring company to
32 which the Division of State Police or municipal police responds but
33 does not include any such activation caused by fire, a criminal act,
34 emergency, or an act of nature such as an earthquake, tornado,
35 hurricane or storm.

36 (6) "Monitoring" means the process by which an alarm monitoring
37 company receives electrical or electronic signals from an alarm system.

38 [(3)] (7) "Subscriber" means an individual who buys, leases or
39 otherwise acquires an alarm system and thereafter installs it or has it
40 installed, including an individual who has control of the premises in
41 which an operable alarm system exists.

42 (b) (1) The subscriber of an alarm system shall be fined for each
43 [emergency police] response by the Division of State Police to a false
44 alarm, except that such fine shall be [automatically] waived for the first
45 three false alarm responses in a calendar year. [State] The subscriber of
46 an alarm system installed on state, federal and municipal buildings or
47 properties shall be exempt from such fine. The subscriber of an alarm
48 system shall be fined for each [emergency police] response by the
49 Division of State Police to a false alarm in a calendar year not more

50 than: [(1)] (A) Twenty-five dollars for a fourth [offense, (2)] response,
51 (B) fifty dollars for a fifth [offense, (3)] response, (C) seventy-five
52 dollars for a sixth [offense] response, and [(4)] (D) one hundred dollars
53 for the seventh and each subsequent [offense] response within a
54 calendar year. Such fine shall be used for the administrative costs of
55 administering this section, and for training and educational materials
56 of the state police. If the subscriber is not the owner of the property in
57 which the alarm system is located, the state police [trooper] shall give
58 the property owner notice of the occurrence of the second alarm
59 generated by the alarm system of the property.

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

68 [(d)] (3) All fines imposed pursuant to this [section] subsection shall
69 be payable to the Division of State Police and shall be due not later
70 than thirty days after the date of notification [,] or₂ in the case of an
71 appeal, not later than thirty days after the date of the decision on the
72 appeal. A subscriber who fails to pay the fine within the designated
73 time period shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars.

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

78 (c) The subscriber of a burglar alarm system shall provide the
79 following to the alarm monitoring company: (1) Contact information
80 for an authorized individual at the premises where the burglar alarm
81 system is installed, and (2) contact information for a second authorized
82 individual. Contact information for such authorized individuals shall

83 include, but need not be limited to, phone numbers and electronic mail
84 addresses.

85 (d) (1) After any activation of a burglar alarm system but prior to
86 requesting the Division of State Police or municipal police department
87 to respond, an alarm monitoring company shall employ alarm
88 verification.

89 (2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not
90 apply if the alarm monitoring company has a monitoring system that
91 enables such company to verify by visual or auditory means that the
92 activation of the burglar alarm system was not 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