



TO: Honorable Members of the General Law Committee

FROM: Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association (CASIA)

RE: Senate Bill 182, "An Act Concerning New Home Improvement Contractors" & Request for JFS

DATE: February 27, 2020

CASIA, the Connecticut Alarm and Systems Integrators Association, represents Connecticut's security industry professionals who work to protect lives and property through responsible use of electronic security, fire, and integrated alarm systems.

Regarding Senate Bill 182, "An Act Concerning New Home Improvement Contractors", CASIA is generally supportive of the intent behind Section 4 of the bill, which seeks to add to the definition of Home Improvement work certain alarm systems that do not require electrical work (i.e. wireless). CASIA believes that proper licensing and credentialing of individuals who are installing and servicing alarm and security systems is important for consumer protection and safety. As technology has evolved, so too have the products and services offered by security industry, which now includes not just traditional "hard-wired" alarms, but also "wireless", among other innovations. Technological advancements in the alarm and security industry need to be encouraged, not hampered by what are sometimes unnecessary, conflicting or duplicative regulatory requirements. As such, **legislation is needed to advance smart home technology in Connecticut. Therefore, CASIA respectfully requests the Committee amend SB-182 to include substitute language that would help alleviate an unnecessary requirement placed upon alarm technicians who may install electronic door locks that connect wirelessly and are controlled by an alarm system.**

Requested JFS language:

Add on to end of C.G.S. Section 20-691 (b)(5) NEW subsection; and (J) persons who service, install, or repair electronic locks, access control devices, or other similar locking devices that connect to an electronic security system, provided such persons maintain any electrical contractor or journey person license to perform such work as required pursuant to Chapter 393.

This language would simply clarify that a separate locksmith registration is not required by a low-voltage electrical license holder who is installing/servicing a smart lock that connects to an alarm system.

Connecticut alarm technicians must hold low-voltage electrical licenses to install most systems; however, electronic door locks that connect wirelessly and that are controlled by an alarm system must first be installed by registered locksmiths, under current interpretation of Connecticut law. Existing locks are removed and new, preset locks are screwed into place by a locksmith before the alarm technician resumes

Connecticut Alarm & Systems Integrators Association

P.O. Box 7230 • Wilton, CT 06897 • Tel: 203 762-2444 • Fax: 203 762-9211 • E-mail: premes@casiact.org



work connecting and programming the electronic lock. Practically, this means that Connecticut residents must pay for two separate technicians to install an alarm system with a lock component, which drives up installation costs and increases scheduling complexity. Only a handful of states (Nebraska, Nevada, Virginia, and a few counties within New York) and locales have this duplicative requirement.

A number of commonsense exemptions already exist within Connecticut's locksmith registration law for those whose work with locks is ancillary to their primary duties, including "members of the building trades who install or remove complete locks or locking devices in the course of residential or commercial new construction or remodeling," similar to the work done by alarm companies. Exemptions also exist for homeowners, registered home improvement contractors, maintenance employees, and security personnel at schools or institutions of higher education. As technology has evolved, so too should the regulations governing our industry. Licensing requirements and other regulations should be commensurate with the responsibilities performed. In this case, we believe requiring alarm companies to also hold locksmith licenses is duplicative and unnecessary and as such ask for your support of the requested JFS language.

Alarm installers are not locksmiths. These technicians do not carry or have access to lock-picking tools, nor do they hold themselves out to be locksmiths. Their work is limited solely to electronic locks connected to alarm systems and work on these electronic locks should be included within the scope of their existing license. We encourage the legislature to consider legislation to update the laws governing the installation of electronic, connected locks by including an additional exemption in the locksmith registration law for low-voltage electrical workers installing or repairing alarm systems.

Thank you to the Committee for your time and attention. We look forward to working with you on this important legislation. For questions or more information, please contact Pat Remes, CASIA Executive Director.