
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6683

AN ACT CONCERNING DEMOLITION OF SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCES AND ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON NOTIFICATION OF FIRE DEPARTMENTS OF POWER OUTAGES.

SUMMARY

With limited exceptions, existing law requires people engaged in the demolition business to get a license from the Department of Administrative Services. Current law establishes conditions under which the demolition of certain single-family homes by owners is exempt from demolition licensure requirements. This bill eliminates this exemption, thus prohibiting owners from demolishing all or part of these single-family homes without a demolition license. By law, unchanged by the bill, anyone demolishing a building or structure must get a permit from the municipality where it is located.

The bill also establishes an 11-member task force to study when fire departments should be notified about power outages. It requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the Public Safety and Security Committee by January 1, 2024.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, except the task force provision is effective upon passage.

DEMOLITION LICENSURE EXEMPTION FOR SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

Under current law, the demolition of single-family homes and outbuildings by owners is exempt from demolition licensure requirements under the following conditions:

1. the home or outbuilding is not more than 30 feet tall;
2. the owner is present during the demolition and held personally liable for any personal injury or property damage caused by the

demolition; and

3. the home or outbuilding has clearance from other structures, roads, or highways that at least equals the height of the home or outbuilding being demolished (the local building official may require additional clearance for safety).

The bill eliminates the exemption for single-family homes but retains it for outbuildings. Under the demolition regulations, a license is required to demolish all or part of a structure that is not exempt under this statute (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 29-401 et seq.). By law, unchanged by the bill, a demolition license is not required for anyone renovating, altering, or reconstructing single-family homes.

TASK FORCE ON FIRE DEPARTMENT NOTIFICATION OF POWER OUTAGES

Under the bill, the task force must examine when electric distribution companies should inform fire departments about power outages in the communities they serve to promote public safety and help the departments protect their communities from fires.

The task force must consist of the state fire administrator and Public Utilities Regulatory Authority chairperson, or their designees, and the nine appointed members shown in the table below. Appointed members may be legislators. All initial task force appointments must be made within 30 days after the bill's passage, and any vacancy must be filled by the appointing authority.

Table: Task Force Appointed Members

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Number of Appointments</i>	<i>Qualifications (if any)</i>
House speaker	Two	One electric distribution company representative
Senate president pro tempore	Two	One fire department chief
House majority leader	One	A municipal chief executive officer
Senate majority leader	One	An electric distribution company representative
House minority leader	One	A fire department chief

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Number of Appointments</i>	<i>Qualifications (if any)</i>
Senate minority leader	One	A municipal chief executive officer
Governor	One	None specified

The House speaker and Senate president must select the task force's chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule the task force's first meeting within 60 days after the bill passes. The Public Safety and Security Committee's administrative staff must serve as the task force's administrative staff. The task force terminates when it submits its report or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/16/2023)