



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 358**

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6683

*House of Representatives, April 3, 2023*

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through REP. BOYD of the 50th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. Section 29-402 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) As used in this part, the term "license" includes the whole or part  
4 of any permit which the Department of Administrative Services issues  
5 under authority of the general statutes, and which (1) requires persons  
6 to place their names on a list maintained by the department before they  
7 can engage in the business of demolition of buildings, (2) requires a  
8 person to demonstrate competence by examination or other means, and  
9 (3) may be revoked or suspended by the department for cause.

10 (b) No person shall engage in the business of demolition of buildings  
11 without a license obtained from the Department of Administrative  
12 Services. An applicant for an initial license shall file an application with

13 the Department of Administrative Services, furnish evidence of  
14 expertise and pay a fee of four hundred forty dollars for a class B license  
15 and nine hundred forty dollars for a class A license. Each license shall  
16 be valid for twelve months from date of issuance and shall be renewable  
17 on application of the licensee upon payment of an annual fee of two  
18 hundred fifty dollars for a class B license and seven hundred fifty dollars  
19 for a class A license. The department may refuse to issue any such  
20 license for cause, and may revoke or refuse to renew any such license  
21 for failure to carry out and conform to the provisions of this part or to  
22 any regulations adopted hereunder, or for any violation of title 22a. No  
23 person shall be refused a license or a renewal thereof, and no license  
24 shall be revoked, without an opportunity for a hearing conducted by the  
25 Department of Administrative Services in accordance with the  
26 provisions of chapter 54.

27 (c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to (1) a person who  
28 is engaged in the disassembly, transportation and reconstruction of  
29 historic buildings for historical purposes, in the demolition of farm  
30 buildings, in the renovation, alteration or reconstruction of a single-  
31 family residence or in the disassembly of nonstructural building  
32 materials of a building for the purpose of reusing or recycling such  
33 building materials, (2) the removal of underground petroleum storage  
34 tanks, (3) the burning of a building or structure as part of an organized  
35 fire department training exercise, (4) the deconstruction or disassembly  
36 of swimming pools, or (5) the demolition of [a single-family residence  
37 or] an outbuilding by an owner of such structure if it does not exceed a  
38 height of thirty feet, provided (A) the owner shall be present on site  
39 while such demolition work is in progress and shall be held personally  
40 liable for any injury to individuals or damage to public or private  
41 property caused by such demolition, and (B) such demolition shall be  
42 permitted only with respect to [buildings] outbuildings which have  
43 clearance from other structures, roads or highways equal to or greater  
44 than the height of the structure subject to demolition. The local building  
45 official may require additional clearance when deemed necessary for  
46 safety.

47       Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to  
48 study notification of fire departments of power outages. The task force  
49 shall examine the circumstances when electric distribution companies  
50 should inform a fire department of a loss of electric service in the  
51 community served by the fire department, in order to promote public  
52 safety and assist the fire department in protecting the community from  
53 fires.

54       (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

55       (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
56 one of whom is a representative of an electric distribution company;

57       (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of  
58 whom is a chief of a fire department;

59       (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
60 Representatives, who is a municipal chief executive officer;

61       (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a  
62 representative of an electric distribution company;

63       (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
64 Representatives, who is a chief of a fire department;

65       (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a  
66 municipal chief executive officer;

67       (7) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, or  
68 the chairperson's designee;

69       (8) The State Fire Administrator, or the administrator's designee; and

70       (9) One person appointed by the Governor.

71       (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
72 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
73 of the General Assembly.

74 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later  
75 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
76 be filled by the appointing authority.

77 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro  
78 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from  
79 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule  
80 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty  
81 days after the effective date of this section.

82 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
83 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety  
84 and security shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

85 (g) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report  
86 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of  
87 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public  
88 safety and security, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
89 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
90 submits such report or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	29-402
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**  
In Section 1(c)(5)(B) "buildings" was bracketed and after the closing bracket "outbuildings" was inserted for consistency.

**PS**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

**Section 1** of the bill, which eliminates an exemption, thus prohibiting owners from demolishing all or part of these single-family homes without a demolition license does not result in any fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

**Section 2** establishes a task force to study notification of fire departments of power outages resulting in no fiscal impact to the state because the task force has the expertise to meet the requirements of the bill.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

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**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

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Number of Appointments</i>	<i>Qualifications (if any)</i>
Senate majority leader	One	An electric distribution company representative
House minority leader	One	A fire department chief
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)