



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 221

February Session, 2024

Substitute Senate Bill No. 343

Senate, April 3, 2024

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through SEN. GASTON of the 23rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND BATTERY-CHARGED SECURITY FENCES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 29-251 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 There shall be within the Department of Administrative Services a
4 Codes and Standards Committee whose duty it shall be to work with
5 the State Building Inspector in the enforcement of this part and the State
6 Fire Marshal in the enforcement of part II of this chapter as set forth
7 [herein] in this section. The committee shall be composed of [twenty-
8 one] twenty-three members, residents of the state, appointed by the
9 Commissioner of Administrative Services as follows: (1) Two shall be
10 architects licensed in the state of Connecticut; (2) three shall be
11 professional engineers licensed in the state of Connecticut, two of whom
12 shall practice either structural, mechanical or electrical engineering but
13 in no event shall both of such members represent the same specialty,

14 and one of whom shall be a practicing fire protection engineer or
15 mechanical engineer with extensive experience in fire protection; (3)
16 [two] four shall be builders, remodelers or superintendents of
17 construction, one of whom shall have expertise in single-family
18 detached residential construction, [and] one of whom shall have
19 expertise in [nonresidential] multifamily residential construction, one of
20 whom shall have expertise in residential remodeling and one of whom
21 shall have expertise in commercial construction; (4) one shall be a public
22 health official; (5) two shall be building officials; (6) two shall be local
23 fire marshals; (7) one shall be a Connecticut member of a national
24 building trades labor organization; (8) one shall have expertise in
25 matters relating to energy efficiency; (9) four shall be public members,
26 one of whom shall have expertise in matters relating to accessibility and
27 use of facilities by persons with physical disabilities; (10) one shall be a
28 contractor licensed to perform electrical work or a member of a state-
29 wide electrical trades labor organization; (11) one shall be a contractor
30 licensed to perform plumbing and piping work or a member of a state-
31 wide plumbing trades labor organization; and (12) one shall be a
32 contractor licensed to perform heating, piping and cooling work or a
33 member of a state-wide heating and cooling trades labor organization.
34 Each member, other than the public members, shall have had not less
35 than ten years' practical experience in such member's profession or
36 business. The committee shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
37 provisions of chapter 54, governing the procedure of the committee.
38 Members who fail to attend three consecutive meetings or fifty per cent
39 of all meetings during a calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned.
40 The committee may, within the limits of appropriations provided
41 therefor, employ such assistants as may be necessary to conduct its
42 business.

43 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this section,
44 "battery-charged security fence" means an alarm system and ancillary
45 components, or equipment attached to such system, including, but not
46 limited to, a fence, an energizer, cameras and a battery-charging device
47 used exclusively to charge the battery that:

48 (1) Interfaces with a monitored alarm device in a manner that enables
49 the alarm system to transmit a signal intended to summon the owner of
50 the business protected by such fence or a law enforcement officer in
51 response to an intrusion or burglary;

52 (2) Is located on property that is not zoned by a municipality
53 exclusively for residential use;

54 (3) Has an energizer that is powered by a commercial storage battery
55 that is not more than twelve volts of direct current and meets the
56 standard set forth in International Electrotechnical Commission
57 Standard 60335-2-76;

58 (4) Is behind and interior to a nonelectric fence, wall or barrier that is
59 not less than five feet in height;

60 (5) Is the higher of ten feet in height, or at least two feet higher than
61 the nonelectric fence described in subdivision (4) of this subsection; and

62 (6) Is marked with conspicuous warning signs that are located on
63 such battery-charged security fence at no more than thirty-foot
64 intervals, and such signs state: "WARNING – ELECTRIC FENCE".

65 (b) Notwithstanding any general statute, special act, local law,
66 ordinance or charter, a municipality shall not adopt or enforce an
67 ordinance, order or regulation that:

68 (1) Requires a permit or fee to install or use a battery-charged security
69 fence that is in addition to an alarm system permit, and no permit or fee
70 other than for an alarm system shall be required for such a fence;

71 (2) Imposes installation or operational requirements for a battery-
72 charged security fence that are inconsistent with those described in
73 subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of subsection (a) of this section; or

74 (3) Prohibits the installation or use of a battery-charged security
75 fence.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	29-251
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

PS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Revenue Loss	Minimal	Minimal

Explanation

The bill prohibits municipalities from requiring a permit or collecting fees for certain battery charged security fences. This results in a potential revenue loss to municipalities beginning in FY 25 to the extent that they were previously collecting fees for these fences. ¹

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of fees.

¹ Each municipality sets its own fee amounts for building permits. Building permit fees often range from \$10 to \$15 per \$1,000 of construction.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 343*****AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP OF THE CODES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND BATTERY-CHARGED SECURITY FENCES.*****SUMMARY**

This bill prohibits a municipality from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, order, or regulation that:

1. requires a permit or fee to install or use a battery-charged security fence, other than an alarm system permit;
2. imposes installation or operational requirements for these fences that are inconsistent from the bill's requirements; or
3. prohibits the installation or use of these fences.

Additionally, the bill increases the Codes and Standards Committee membership from 21 to 23 members, adding two new members with expertise in multi-family residential construction and residential remodeling.

Under current law, two committee members must be builders or construction superintendents, with one having expertise in residential construction and the other in nonresidential construction. The bill increases this to four members who must be builders, remodelers, or construction superintendents. It requires one each to have expertise in residential remodeling, commercial construction, single-family detached residential construction, and multifamily residential construction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BATTERY-CHARGED SECURITY FENCE

Under the bill, a “battery-charged security fence” is an alarm system and ancillary components, or equipment attached to the system, including a fence, an energizer, cameras, and a battery-charging device used exclusively to charge the battery, that:

1. interfaces with a monitored alarm device in a way that enables the alarm system to transmit a signal intended to alert the business owner whose business the fence protects or a law enforcement officer in response to an intrusion or burglary;
2. is located on property that a municipality has not zoned exclusively for residential use;
3. has an energizer that is powered by a commercial storage battery that is not more than 12 volts of direct current and meets International Electrotechnical Commission Standard 60335-2-76;
4. is behind and inside a nonelectric fence, wall, or barrier that is at least five feet tall;
5. is the higher of (a) 10 feet high or (b) at least two feet higher than the nonelectric fence; and
6. is marked with conspicuous warning signs that are located on the fence at no more than 30-foot intervals, and the signs state: “WARNING – ELECTRIC FENCE.”

BACKGROUND

Codes and Standards Committee

The committee works with the state building inspector and state fire marshal to implement the state building, fire safety, and fire prevention codes. Its members include architects, professional engineers, construction superintendents, and local building and fire officials.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/19/2024)