

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2020 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4040**

BY DELEGATE FOSTER

[Introduced January 08, 2020; Referred to the Committee  
on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §29-3D-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
 2 to reducing the number of hours of experience needed to qualify as a journeyman sprinkler  
 3 fitter from 10,000 to 3,000.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 3D. SUPERVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION WORK.**

**§29-3D-2. Definitions.**

1 As used in this article and the legislative rules promulgated pursuant to this article:

2 (a) "Combination fire/smoke damper" means a device that meets both fire damper and  
 3 smoke damper requirements.

4 (b) "Damper" means a fire damper, smoke damper or combination fire/smoke damper.

5 (c) "Damper work" means to install, test, maintain or repair a damper.

6 (d) "Engineered suppression systems installer" means a person certified by a  
 7 manufacturer to install, alter, extend, maintain, layout or repair an agent suppression system.

8 (e) "Engineered suppression systems technician" means a person certified by a  
 9 manufacturer to maintain or repair an agent suppression system.

10 (f) "Fire damper" means a device installed in an air distribution system, designed to close  
 11 automatically upon detection of heat, to interrupt migratory airflow and to restrict the passage of  
 12 flame. Fire dampers are classified for use in either static systems or for dynamic systems, where  
 13 the dampers are rated for closure under airflow.

14 (g) "Fire protection damper technician" means a person certified to install, test, maintain  
 15 or repair a damper.

16 (h) "Fire protection damper technician in training" means a person with interest in and an  
 17 aptitude for performing installation, maintenance or repair work to a damper as defined in this  
 18 article, but who alone is not capable or authorized to perform damper work unless directly  
 19 supervised by a Fire Protection Damper Technician.

20 (i) "Fire protection layout technician" is an individual who has achieved National Institute

21 for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) Level III or higher certification, and who has  
22 the knowledge, experience and skills necessary to layout fire protection systems based on  
23 engineering design documents.

24 (j) "Fire protection system" means any fire protection suppression device or system  
25 designed, installed and maintained in accordance with the applicable National Fire Protection  
26 Association (NFPA) codes and standards, but does not include public or private mobile fire  
27 vehicles.

28 (k) "Fire protection work" means the installation, alteration, extension, maintenance, or  
29 testing of all piping, materials and equipment inside a building, including the use of shop drawings  
30 prepared by a fire protection layout technician, in connection with the discharge of water, other  
31 special fluids, chemicals or gases and backflow preventers for fire protection for the express  
32 purpose of extinguishing or controlling fire.

33 (l) "Journeyman sprinkler fitter" means a person qualified by at least ~~ten thousand~~ 3,000  
34 hours of work experience installing, adjusting, repairing and dismantling fire protection systems  
35 and who is competent to instruct and supervise the fire protection work of a sprinkler fitter in  
36 training.

37 (m) "License" means a valid and current license issued by the State Fire Marshal in  
38 accordance with the provisions of this article.

39 (n) "Portable fire extinguisher technician" means a person certified in accordance with  
40 NFPA 10 to install, maintain, repair and certify portable fire extinguishers as defined by NFPA 10.

41 (o) "Preengineered suppression systems installer" means a person certified by a  
42 manufacturer to install, alter, extend, maintain, layout or repair an agent suppression system.

43 (p) "Preengineered suppression systems technician" means a person certified to maintain  
44 or repair an agent suppression system.

45 (q) "Single family dwelling" means a building which is occupied as, or designed or intended  
46 for occupancy as, a single residence for one or more persons.

47 (r) "Smoke damper" means a device within an operating (dynamic) air distribution system  
48 to control the movement of smoke.

49 (s) "Sprinkler fitter in training" means a person with interest in and an aptitude for  
50 performing fire protection work but who alone is not capable of performing such work, and who  
51 has fewer than ~~ten thousand~~ 3,000 hours of experience installing, adjusting, repairing and  
52 dismantling fire protection systems.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to reduce the number of hours of experience needed to qualify as a journeyman sprinkler fitter from 10,000 to 3,000.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.