

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 3471

By Delegate Green

Introduced March 17, 2025; 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 removing the requirement for an individual to be certified by a specific manufacturer to
 3 perform work on suppression systems.

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

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

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

6 "Engineered suppression systems installer" means a person certified ~~by a manufacturer to~~
 7 install, alter, extend, maintain, lay out, or repair an agent suppression system.

8 "Engineered Suppression Systems Technician" means a person certified by a
 9 manufacturer to maintain or repair an agent suppression system.

10 "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 "Fire protection layout technician" is an individual who has achieved National Institute for
 15 Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) Level III, or has achieved from the National Fire
 16 Protection Association a certification in Certified Water Based Systems Professional (CW BSP), or
 17 has passed an exam approved by the state Fire Marshal from the National Inspection Testing
 18 Certification (NITC) organization, or higher certification as recognized by the state Fire Marshal,
 19 and who has the knowledge, experience, and skills necessary to lay out fire protection systems
 20 based on engineering design documents.

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

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

30 "Journeyman sprinkler fitter" means a person qualified by at least 2,000 hours of work
31 experience installing, adjusting, repairing, and dismantling fire protection systems and who is
32 competent to instruct and supervise fire protection work: *Provided*, That current license renewal
33 exemptions to examinations apply.

34 "License" means a valid and current license issued by the State Fire Marshal in
35 accordance with the provisions of this article.

36 "Portable fire extinguisher technician" means a person certified in accordance with NFPA
37 10 to install, maintain, repair, and certify portable fire extinguishers as defined by NFPA 10.

38 "Preengineered suppression systems installer" means a person certified by—a
39 manufacturer to install, alter, extend, maintain, lay out, or repair an agent suppression system.

40 "Preengineered suppression systems technician" means a person certified to maintain or
41 repair an agent suppression system.

42 "Single family dwelling" means a building which is occupied as, or designed or intended for
43 occupancy as, a single residence for one or more persons.

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

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to remove the requirement for an individual to be certified by a specific manufacturer to perform work on suppression systems.

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