
DIGEST

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HB 455 Original

2018 Regular Session

Garofalo

Abstract: Provides for requirements and authorizations of the state fire marshal and owners with respect to short-term rental dwellings.

Proposed law defines a "short-term rental dwelling" as a 1- or 2-family dwelling advertised or marketed by a third party for rental for a period of time not to exceed 29 consecutive days per rental transaction. Provides the definition is not contrary to or in contravention of present law.

Proposed law requires the owner of a new or existing short-term rental dwelling to electronically register the short-term rental dwelling with the office of state fire marshal. Provides an owner may submit an initial registration with a registration renewal in 5-year intervals or make an initial registration with an annual renewal thereafter.

Proposed law provides 5-year registration costs are \$20.00 for the initial registration fee and \$20.00 for the renewal fee. Annual registration costs are \$5.00 for the initial registration fee and \$5.00 for the annual renewal fee thereafter.

Proposed law provides the owner's electronic registration includes but is not limited to the submission of information with respect to the following:

- (1) The number of sleeping rooms located within the short-term rental dwelling.
- (2) An attestation that the following life safety features are present within the short-term rental dwelling: (a) smoke alarms, (b) carbon monoxide detectors, (c) unobstructed exits, (d) fire extinguishers, and (e) a map posted on the back of the main entry door indicating where the exits are located in case of a fire or emergency.

Proposed law authorizes the fire marshal to take into consideration practical difficulties and unreasonable economic hardships before applying the requirements of proposed law. When practical difficulties or unreasonable economic hardships are presented, the fire marshal may, upon appeal of the owner, allow alternative arrangements provided a minimum acceptable level of life safety is achieved to the satisfaction of the fire marshal.

Proposed law authorizes the fire marshal to impose a civil penalty in accordance with present law to any owner who fails to register his short-term rental dwelling in accordance with proposed law or corresponding administrative rule. Provides all such penalties imposed by the fire marshal may be appealed in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

Proposed law requires all monies collected from fines imposed to owners to be made payable to the office of state fire marshal, code enforcement and building safety.

Proposed law authorizes the fire marshal to conduct an investigation and inspection of a short-term rental dwelling upon complaint of any person or upon his own initiative when he deems necessary. Provides the scope of the fire marshal's inspection is limited to specified provisions within proposed law.

Proposed law provides if an inspecting officer finds the short-term rental dwelling is not in compliance with proposed law, or is especially liable to fire or dangerous to life, or is so situated as to endanger other property or the occupants thereof, he shall order the dangerous materials removed or the condition of the premises remedied. Prohibits the owner from permitting use of the short-term rental dwelling until the fire marshal certifies elimination of the hazardous conditions.

The provisions of proposed law are not to be construed to affect or preempt any zoning ordinance of any local governmental subdivision.

Proposed law requires the fire marshal to administer and enforce the provisions of proposed law. Authorizes the fire marshal to adopt, as provided by the APA, any rule or regulation he deems necessary for administration and enforcement of proposed law.

Proposed law requires collected fees and penalties to be deposited into the La. Life Safety and Property Protection Trust Fund.

Effective Jan. 1, 2019.

(Amends R.S. 40:1573(3) and (4); Adds R.S. 40:1573(5) and 1580.2)