



Texas Burglar and Fire Alarm Association

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A Member of the National Electronic Security Alliance

Position on SB1004 & HB1141

SB1004 & HB1141 would, if enacted, exempt certain electrical work from licensing requirements.

The Texas Burglar and Fire Alarm Association opposes the adoption of HB 1141 for many reasons.

Background:

Existing law appropriately exempts “Class 1, Class 2, or Class 3 remote control, signaling, or power-limited circuits, fire alarm circuits, optical fiber cables, or communications circuits, including raceways, as defined by the National Electrical Code” This removes power limited devices from electrical regulation. The rationale is to allow regulators focus on higher voltages and currents that pose a greater risk to public safety.

- **SB1004 & HB1141 Will Improperly Extend Regulation**

- SB1004 & HB1141 will include power limited devices that are excluded under current law including: access control systems, electric locks, fire alarm systems and audio systems.
- Power limited (low voltage) systems are by definition in the National Electrical Code already limited in the amount of current and voltage to safe levels that do not require the same level of regulation that non-power limited (high voltage) systems do.

- **SB1004 & HB1141 is Redundant**

- Access control systems and electric locks are already regulated by the Department of Public Safety.
- Fire alarm systems are already regulated by Texas State Fire Marshal’s Office.

- **SB1004 & HB1141 Will Increase Consumer Costs**

- Consumers will be asked to pay the cost the contractor incurs for redundant licensing and unnecessary inspections.
- Projects will be delayed waiting on unnecessary inspections.

- **SB1004 & HB1141 Will Increase the Burden on Local Government**

- If the exemptions are removed localities will be responsible for inspecting additional systems.
- This will require them to add staff or to increase the wait time for all inspections, including the higher priority non-power limited (high voltage) systems.

SB1004 & HB1141 will remove the focus on priority systems while increasing consumer costs for power limited systems.