

State of Illinois  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

George H. Ryan  
GOVERNOR

August 15, 2002

To the Honorable Members of  
The Illinois Senate  
92nd General Assembly

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor by Article IV, Section 9(e) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, and re-affirmed by the People of the State of Illinois by popular referendum in 1974, and conforming to the standard articulated by the Illinois Supreme Court in People ex Rel. Klinger v. Howlett, 50 Ill.2d 242 (1972), Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Co. v. Zagel, 78 Ill.2d 387 (1979), People ex Rel. City of Canton v. Crouch, 79 Ill.2d 356 (1980), and County of Kane v. Carlson, 116 Ill.2d 186 (1987), that gubernatorial action be consistent with the fundamental purposes and the intent of the bill, I hereby return Senate Bill 1622, entitled "AN ACT creating the Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing Act," with my specific recommendation for change.

A licensure law for fire sprinkler installation contractors working in Illinois is long overdue. Fire sprinklers save lives, buildings, and money in the event of a fire. However, this can only be true when fire sprinklers are properly installed. Consumers deserve trained, experienced personnel installing these types of systems that help to save so much in times of disaster. Thus, this legislation will ensure once more that Illinois and its communities are safe by providing for statewide licensure of fire sprinkler installation contractors.

However, the sponsors of this legislation brought a concern to my attention that should be addressed. The City of Chicago presently governs fire sprinkler installation by local ordinance. Instead of backflow prevention devices within the sprinkler, the City requires double detector check assemblies. This recommended change will allow Chicago to maintain its present means of regulation and will allow the legislation to continue to ensure that the rest of the state is also protected.

For this reason, I return Senate Bill 1622 with the following recommendation for change:

On page 6, by replacing lines 27 through 32 with the following:

"(d) All fire sprinkler systems shall have a backflow prevention device or, in a municipality with a population over 500,000, a double detector check assembly installed by a licensed plumber before the fire sprinkler system connection to the water service. Connection to the backflow prevention device or, in a municipality with a population over 500,000 a double detector assembly shall be done in a manner consistent with the Department of Public Health's Plumbing Code."

With this specific recommendation for change, Senate Bill 1622 will have my approval. I respectfully request your concurrence.

Sincerely,  
George H. Ryan  
GOVERNOR