

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3516

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 26, 2023

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3516.

As reported, this bill, known as the “Smoke Control System Act,” establishes certain requirements concerning the maintenance and inspection of smoke control systems. The bill defines a smoke control system as a system that helps to contain, minimize, or reroute the flow of smoke through a building, and helps to create safer egress routes for building occupants and emergency response teams. Notably, the bill differentiates between active and passive smoke control systems, with active systems depending upon mechanical equipment to help control the spread of smoke.

Under the bill, a newly-installed smoke control system in buildings other than single-family, two-family, and attached single-family structures used exclusively for dwelling purposes would be subject to smoke control system testing, as follows: (1) active smoke control systems would be subject to smoke control system testing every six months; and (2) passive smoke control systems would be subject to smoke control system testing every 12 months.

The bill provides that the operational testing of a smoke control system includes all equipment, such as initiating devices, fans, dampers, controls, doors, and windows. The bill also requires smoke control systems to be tested under standby power conditions. Additionally, the bill requires smoke control systems to be maintained and tested in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and maintained to ensure that the system is capable of controlling smoke and fire for the duration required.

Under the bill, a contractor that provides smoke control system testing services is required to hold certain certifications. Specifically, a person performing smoke control system testing services is required to: (1) be employed by a certified contractor or an enforcing agency; (2) have either successfully completed an approved skill training program, or be enrolled in an approved skill training program while working under the supervision of a person who completed such a program; and (3) hold certain certifications as provided in the bill.

The bill establishes processes for certifying buildings tested under the bill and establishes penalty provisions for violations of the bill.