

## LOW-VOLTAGE ELECTRIC FENCES

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 5602 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Rodney Wakeman**  
**Committee: Communications and Technology**  
**Complete to 5-28-20**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 5602 would amend the Single State Construction Code Act to update provisions concerning the installation of low-voltage electric security fences.<sup>1</sup>

Currently, notwithstanding any other provision of the act or code, a permit is not required under the act or code for the installation, maintenance, replacement, or servicing of any electrical wiring, equipment, or devices related to or associated with a business monitoring system, with a home monitoring system, or with a **low-voltage electric fence** if performed by a system provider registered under the Security Alarm Systems Act or a security alarm system contractor licensed under the Private Security Business and Security Alarm Act.

**Low-voltage electric fence** means an alarm system that consists of a fence structure and an energizer that produces an electric charge on contact with the fence structure and that meets all of the following:

- The low-voltage electric fence is installed in a location that is zoned for nonresidential use.
- The energizer is powered by a commercial storage battery that does not exceed 12 volts.
- The electric charge produced by the low-voltage electric fence upon contact does not exceed energizer characteristics set forth in paragraph 22.108 and depicted in figure 102 of International Electrotechnical Commission Standard, IEC 60335-2-76, current edition.
- The low-voltage electric fence is identified using warning signs attached to the fence at intervals of not more than 60 feet. Each sign must include the international symbol for *shock* and be in both English and Spanish.
- The low-voltage electric fence is designed so that access to or within a fenced area is restricted because of secured openings or where immediate access is necessary for life-saving or firefighting purposes. A fire code official may require a key box to be installed in an accessible location. The key box shall be of an approved type listed in accordance with UL 1037, and shall contain keys to gain access as required by the fire code official.
- The low-voltage electric fence is completely enclosed by a nonelectric fence or wall.

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<sup>1</sup> These provisions were last updated by 2018 PA 332 (SB 758), which exempted low-voltage electric fences from permit requirements. <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2018-SB-0758>

#### Low-voltage electric fences

The bill would amend the definition of low-voltage electric fence, for purposes of the provision described above, to require that the fence structure be laterally enclosed by a nonelectric fence or wall that is at least five feet tall. The fence structure itself would have to be either two feet taller than that enclosing fence or wall or 10 feet tall, whichever is taller.

The bill would delete the current requirement regarding access for life-saving or firefighter purposes and instead require that a key switch for the fence be installed at the property's main entry point, to provide secure access to the fence's electrical power disconnect switch, only if applicable and if required and approved by a fire code official.

The bill would also revise the citation of the International Electrotechnical Commission's standard so that it is both broader (not tied to a specific paragraph) and more specific (referencing a particular edition by year).

#### Work not requiring a permit

The bill would add "siting" and "placement" to work that would not require a permit and would rephrase the provision to make electric wiring, equipment, or devices an allowable, rather than necessary, component of that work. (The bill would characterize the work as being done on a business monitoring system, a home monitoring system, or a low-voltage electric fence, including any related or associated electric wiring, equipment, or devices.)

Finally, the bill would specify that the provision supersedes any state law to the contrary (rather than only the act or the code) and specify that a permit is generally not required for such work (rather than only a permit under the act or code).

MCL 125.1528a

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

House Bill 5602 would not have a fiscal impact on any unit of state or local government.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.