

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

- (1) The size or seriousness of the fire; or
- (2) Whether the fire was extinguished by the sprinkler system."

The Emergency Number System plays a paramount role in providing emergency aid to citizens who are in eminent danger and need immediate assistance. It is important that the Emergency Number system be used judiciously in order that these emergency calls can be received and responded to without delay. In one county, however, a study revealed that one-third of the 911 calls received were prank calls, hang-ups, children playing, or other nonemergency uses. This may be typical of jurisdictions throughout the State. I am concerned that House Bill 755 could burden the 911 system with additional nonemergency calls, such as when a person has a simple stove top fire or a cigarette burn.

House Bill 755 would require the builder of single-family dwelling unit to "offer" a prospective buyer the "option" of having a sprinkler system installed; it does not mandate the installation of a sprinkler system. Under current law, nothing prevents a home buyer from contracting with a builder to install a sprinkler system in the individual's house while it is under construction. It would, therefore, appear that much of the intent of House Bill 755 could be achieved without legislation. I would urge the building industry to work with the proponents of this bill to help educate prospective buyers and the public on the value of residential sprinkler systems in protecting life and property.

For the above reasons, I have decided to veto House Bill 755.

Sincerely,  
William Donald Schaefer  
Governor

House Bill No. 755

AN ACT concerning

Sprinkler Systems - New Single-Family Dwellings

FOR the purpose of requiring certain builders to offer, prior to the signing of a construction contract, the option of having certain sprinkler systems installed in certain new homes; defining certain terms; exempting a single-family residential dwelling that does not or will not obtain its water from a public water system; authorizing certain exceptions to local fire and building codes under certain