

Section 156C

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1996 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article 25 - County Commissioners**

237.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "ALARM SYSTEM CONTRACTOR" MEANS:

(I) A PERSON ENGAGED IN INSTALLING, MAINTAINING, MONITORING, ALTERING, OR SERVICING ALARM SYSTEMS; OR

(II) AN AGENCY THAT FURNISHES THE SERVICES OF A PERSON ENGAGED IN INSTALLING, MAINTAINING, MONITORING, ALTERING, OR SERVICING ALARM SYSTEMS.

(3) (I) "ALARM USER" MEANS A PERSON IN CONTROL OF AN ALARM SYSTEM WITHIN, ON, OR AROUND ANY BUILDING, STRUCTURE, FACILITY, OR SITE.

(II) "ALARM USER" INCLUDES THE OWNER OR LESSEE OF AN ALARM SYSTEM.

(4) (I) "FALSE ALARM" MEANS ANY REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR FIRE DEPARTMENT, REGARDLESS OF CAUSE, THAT IS NOT IN RESPONSE TO AN ACTUAL EMERGENCY SITUATION OR THREATENED SUGGESTED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.

(II) "FALSE ALARM" INCLUDES:

1. NEGLIGENTLY OR ACCIDENTALLY ACTIVATED SIGNALS;

2. SIGNALS THAT ARE THE RESULT OF FAULTY, MALFUNCTIONING, OR IMPROPERLY INSTALLED OR MAINTAINED EQUIPMENT; AND

3. SIGNALS THAT ARE PURPOSELY ACTIVATED TO SUMMON A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR FIRE DEPARTMENT IN A NONEMERGENCY SITUATION.

(III) "FALSE ALARM" DOES NOT INCLUDE:

1. SIGNALS ACTIVATED BY UNUSUALLY SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS OR OTHER CAUSES BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE ALARM USER OR ALARM SYSTEM CONTRACTOR; OR

2. SIGNALS ACTIVATED DURING THE INITIAL 60-DAY PERIOD FOLLOWING NEW INSTALLATION.