

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

156A.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) "Alarm signal" or "signals" means the activation of an alarm system that requests a response by a law enforcement agency OR A FIRE DEPARTMENT.

(c) "Alarm system" means a burglary alarm [system or a robbery] SYSTEM, ROBBERY alarm system, OR AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM SYSTEM.

(g) (1) "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.

(2) "False alarm" includes:

(i) Negligently or accidentally activated signals;

(ii) Signals that are the result of faulty, malfunctioning, or improperly installed or maintained equipment; and

(iii) Signals that are purposely activated to summon [the] A law enforcement [agencies] AGENCY OR FIRE DEPARTMENT in A nonemergency [situations] SITUATION.

(3) "False alarm" does not include:

(i) Signals activated by unusually severe weather conditions or other causes beyond the control of the alarm user or alarm system contractor; or

(ii) Signals activated during the initial 60-day period following new installation.

(4) (i) An alarm system that is activated a second time within a 12-hour period when the premises are unoccupied shall be deemed 1 false alarm if:

1. Access to the building is provided to the alarm system contractor; and

2. An alarm system contractor or an employee of an alarm system contractor responds.

(ii) Failure to comply with item (i) of this paragraph shall result in each subsequent alarm being counted as a false alarm.

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(b) A law enforcement agency OR FIRE DEPARTMENT may issue a civil citation to an alarm user if the number of false alarms to which any law enforcement agency OR FIRE DEPARTMENT actually responds exceeds:

(1) 3 responses within a 30-day period; or