

Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

Bill Summary

Bill Number: H2689

Name: An Act relative to the requirement of fuel gas alarm/detectors

Sponsor(s): Representative Jeff Roy

Hearing Date: July 24th at 1:00 PM in room A2

Prior History: Study

Summary:

This bill seeks for Section 1 to amended in Chapter 148 of the General Laws to establish new regulations regarding fuel gas alarms/detectors:

- Definition:** A "fuel gas alarm/detector" is a certified device meeting specific standards (UL 1484 for residential, UL 2075 for commercial) for detecting explosive quantities of methane and propane gases, with visible ETL or UL labeling for inspection.
- Installation Requirements:** All dwellings, buildings, or structures (including those owned by the Commonwealth) that have equipment like furnaces or water heaters burning explosive gases must be equipped with a working fuel gas alarm/detector. Landlords must install alarms at the start of any rental period and maintain them, including replacing batteries annually if necessary.
- Regulations:** The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations will set rules for the type, installation, maintenance, and inspection of these alarms, including certification for installers.
- Inspection upon Sale/Transfer:** Upon the sale or transfer of a property, it must be inspected by the local fire department to ensure compliance with the fuel gas alarm/detector requirements.
- Stricter Requirements:** The state building code may impose more stringent requirements, especially for multifamily dwellings and new or substantially renovated buildings, such as interconnected alarms.
- Health Department Rules:** The Department of Public Health will incorporate fuel gas alarm requirements into the state sanitary code.
- Installation Standards:** Fuel gas alarms must be installed according to NFPA 715 standards, and installers must complete certification training.

- Certification: Installers must submit a standardized certification form to the local government and fire department.

- Compliance Timeline: Fuel gas alarms must be installed within 18 to 24 months of the promulgation of regulations, with a phased compliance timeline based on risk, as developed by the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations.