

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4969

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, July 15, 2008.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Bill further regulating the installation of automatic sprinklers (House, No. 2284, changed), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor the accompanying bill (House, No. 4969).

For the committee,

ROBERT A. DELEO.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Eight.

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 26G of Chapter 148 of the General Laws,  
2 as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by  
3 striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the  
4 following paragraph:—

5 Every building or structure, including any additions or major  
6 alterations thereto, which total, in the aggregate, more than 7,500  
7 gross square feet in floor area shall be protected throughout with  
8 an adequate system of automatic sprinklers in accordance with the  
9 provisions of the state building code. No such sprinkler system  
10 shall be required unless sufficient water and water pressure exists.  
11 For purposes of this section, the gross square feet of a building or  
12 structure shall include the sum total of the combined floor areas  
13 for all floor levels, basements, sub-basements and additions, in the  
14 aggregate, measured from the outside walls, irrespective of the  
15 existence of interior fire resistive walls, floors and ceilings. This  
16 section shall not apply to buildings used for agricultural purposes  
17 as defined in Section 1A of Chapter 128.

1 SECTION 2. Said Section 26G of said Chapter 148 of the  
2 General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by  
3 inserting, in line 16, after the word “buildings” each time it  
4 appears the following word:— , structures

1 SECTION 3. Said Section 26G of said Chapter 148 of the  
2 General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by  
3 striking out the third sentence.

1 SECTION 4. Said Section 26G of Chapter 148 of the General  
2 Laws, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out,

3 in line 34, the word “section.” and inserting in place thereof the  
4 following words:— section; provided, however, that said head of  
5 the fire department may, pursuant to regulations promulgated by  
6 the board, grant a reasonable waiver from the provisions of this  
7 section, or may allow the installation of a reasonable alternative or  
8 modified system of automatic sprinklers upon reviewing the char-  
9 acteristics of buildings that have architectural or historical signifi-  
10 cance.

1 SECTION 5. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the  
2 contrary, this act shall apply to construction of buildings, struc-  
3 tures or additions or major modifications thereto which total in the  
4 aggregate more than 7,500 gross square feet permitted after Jan-  
5 uary 1, 2009.

