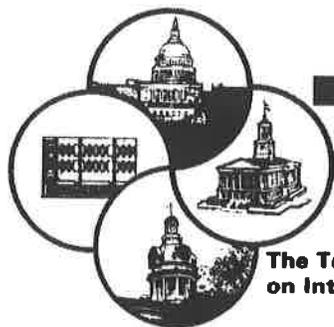




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TACIR

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: *Janice*
Janisse Roehrich-Patrick
Executive Director

DATE: 3 September 2014

SUBJECT: Fire Sprinkler Requirements for Places of Worship, Protecting People and Property

The attached draft report is submitted for review and comment. It was prepared in response to House Bill 1649 by Representative Timothy Hill (Senate Bill 1749 by Nicely), which the House Local Government Subcommittee sent to the Commission for study. The bill would have exempted single-story places of worship located in unincorporated areas of the state from laws and regulations requiring places of assembly to have fire protection sprinkler systems as long as they

- have a capacity of no more than 400 persons;
- do not have a water supply located on the property;
- have a minimum of two exits, plus one additional exit for every 2,500 square feet or portion thereof over 4,500 square feet;
- have a fire alarm system;
- have fixed seating for at least 250 persons; and
- were built on or after July 1, 2012.

The report includes a draft recommendation against House Bill 1649. Citing the threat that it posed to the health, safety, and welfare of community members and firefighters, no engineers, architects, builders, fire officials, or codes administrators interviewed by commission staff support the bill. Sprinkler systems help suppress fires and reduce the risk of both injury and loss of life as well as the cost of property damage.

A final report will be submitted for approval at the November 2014 commission meeting.