

TEXAS FIRE MARSHALS' ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING HB 3405 RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION SPRINKLER SYSTEMS IN RESEDENTIAL HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS IN CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES

WHEREAS, the Texas Fire Marshals' Association recognizes the lifesaving ability of fire sprinklers installed in residential buildings and;

WHEREAS, fire codes for decades have required fire sprinklers in newly constructed residential high rise buildings and;

WHEREAS, many residential high rise buildings existed before building codes required fire sprinklers in residential high rise buildings and;

WHEREAS, 44% of all high-rise fires and 55% of all high-rise fire deaths occur in residential high rise buildings, most without a fire sprinkler system and;

WHEREAS, 36 of the 50 United States including Texas have passed fire sprinkler retrofit laws pertaining specifically to high rise buildings, residential occupancies or both and;

WHEREAS, research indicates that modern fire growth is exponential and time to evacuate to safety have decreased from an average of seventeen minutes to less than four and;

WHEREAS, fire sprinklers provide the proven added benefits of increased citizen and fire fighter safety, lower firefighting cost, less water damage, less smoke damage and less economic impact that cannot be denied and;

WHEREAS, this law is promulgated with a specific range of municipal population as to pertain to a specific municipality, leaving the Texans of that municipality without the fire safety benefits practiced throughout the rest of the state, and;

WHEREAS, to protect life and property in this state, it is necessary that all high rise residential buildings, regardless of year of construction or jurisdictional location, comply with recognized fire sprinkler installation requirements and;

WHEREAS, the moratorium for compliance addressed by previously adopted laws were found to be fair and reasonable lessening any imaginable financial hardships;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Fire Marshals' Association is vehemently opposed to HB 3405 for the life safety protection it removes from any percentage of Texas citizens who live in residential high rise buildings in this great State of Texas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is to be read into the permanent minutes of the Texas Fire Marshals' Association and that copies are to be sent to the State Fire Marshal's Office.


LAURIE L. CHRISTENSEN TFMA President
Title

May 1, 2017
Date