



FLORIDA FIRE MARSHALS AND INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

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FFMIA Position on HB 299 with Amendment(s)

We have received responses from our legislative committee in agreement that HB 299 in its original presentation is not something we can support. The amendment filed last evening is further justification of our position.

Please consider the following:

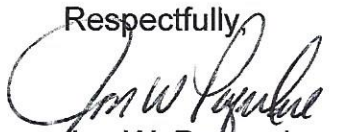
- 1) The removal of FFMIA from the local appointee and insertion of FFCA is appropriate since the appointment now references a local public official with no reference to code enforcement. Had the code enforcer provision remained we would have preferred to make that recommendation. However, we are hopeful an enforcer will be recommended by FFCA.
- 2) With that, it is imperative that a representative from the State Fire Marshal's Office (DFS) and a fire protection engineer be inserted back onto the commission. Recommendations from FFMIA and the Florida Chapter of the Society for Fire Protection Engineers is appropriate. That would be 17 total members and is still a reduction of 10 members so there is a compromising win for all.

Justification:

The SFMO (DFS) needs to be engaged and represented in this process due to the nature of the relationship of the two codes working together and the need for conflict resolution between the codes. This would provide a needed balance as they are the final authority for the Florida Fire Prevention Code and can speak intelligently to any potential conflicts that may arise.

The fire protection engineer should be included as they are an integral part of the design for construction of many buildings under the purview of this code. Their absence on the commission may result in omissions in code adoption that will result in costly design defects after the fact. Promoting an environment for defects is in direct conflict with the direction we have been given from the legislature particularly in the aftermath of the current hurricane season.

Respectfully,


Jon W. Pasqualone
Executive Director

