



City of Cambridge

O-12

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 17, 2003

MAYOR SULLIVAN
VICE MAYOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

ORDERED: That the City Council go on record in support of House 3376, which is legislation to improve MGL ch. 148 Sec. 26G, the law requiring sprinklers in buildings, by removing certain exceptions and loopholes; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Cambridge legislative delegation to the State House.

In City Council March 17, 2003.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

ORDER # 12

Supporting House 3376, which is
legislation to improve MGL ch.
148 Sec 26G, the law requiring
sprinklers in buildings by
removing certain exceptions and
loopholes.
Mayor Sullivan

ORDER ADOPTED.

In City Council March 17, 2003

0-12

*Refiled as House 3376***IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND ONE****AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE INSTALLATION OF
AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS.**

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

SECTION 1. Section 26G of chapter 148 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph, as so appearing, in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following new paragraph:- Every building or structure, including any additions or major alterations thereto, which total, in the aggregate, more than seventy-five hundred gross square feet in floor area shall be protected throughout with an adequate system of automatic sprinklers in accordance with the provisions of the state building code. No such sprinkler system shall be required unless sufficient water and water pressure exists. For the purposes of this section, the gross square feet of a building or structure shall include the sum total of the combined floor areas for all floor levels, basements, sub-basements and additions, in the aggregate, measured from the outside walls, irrespective of the existence of interior fire resistive walls, floors and ceilings. This section shall not apply to buildings used for agricultural purposes as defined in section A of chapter 128.

SECTION 2. The second paragraph of said section 26G of said chapter 148, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 16 and 17, in two places, the words "or additions" and inserting in place thereof the words:- or structures.

SECTION 3. The second paragraph of said section 26G of said chapter 148, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out the third sentence in its entirety.

SECTION 4. This act shall apply to construction of buildings, structures or additions or major modifications thereto which total in the aggregate more than seventy-five hundred gross square feet approved by permit after July 1, 2002.

M.G.L. - Chapter 148, Section 26G

Page 1 of 1

GENERAL LAWS OF MASSACHUSETTS**TITLE XX.****PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOOD ORDER.****CHAPTER 148. FIRE PREVENTION.****Chapter 148: Section 26G. Buildings or additions; automatic suppressant or sprinkler systems.**

Section 26G. In any city or town which accepts the provisions of this section, every building of more than seventy-five hundred gross square feet in floor area or every addition of more than seventy-five hundred gross square feet in floor area shall be protected throughout with an adequate system of automatic sprinklers in accordance with the provisions of the state building code; provided, however, that in the case of said addition, such an adequate system of automatic sprinklers shall be installed in said addition only. No such sprinkler system shall be required unless sufficient water and water pressure exists. For purposes of this section, the gross square feet of a building or addition shall include the sum total of the floor areas for all floor levels, basements and sub-basements, measured from outside walls, irrespective of the existence of interior fire resistive walls, floors and ceilings. This section shall not apply to buildings used for agricultural purposes as defined in section one A of chapter one hundred and twenty-eight.

In such buildings or additions, or in certain areas of such buildings or additions, where the discharge of water would be an actual danger in the event of fire, the head of the fire department shall permit the installation of such other fire suppressant systems as are prescribed by the state building code in lieu of automatic sprinklers. Automatic suppressant or sprinkler systems shall not be required in rooms or areas of a telephone central office equipment building when such rooms or areas are protected with an automatic fire alarm system. Sprinkler systems shall not be required in a one story building having a fire resistance rating as prescribed in the state building code that is used solely for offices provided the building is protected by an automatic fire alarm system. Sprinkler systems shall not be required in open-air parking structures, defined as: buildings, structures, or portions thereof, used for parking motor vehicles and having not less than twenty-five per cent of the total wall area open to atmosphere at each level, utilizing at least two sides of the structure. This section shall not apply to buildings or additions used for residential purposes.

The head of the fire department shall enforce the provisions of this section.

Whoever is aggrieved by the head of the fire department's interpretation, order, requirement, direction or failure to act under the provisions of this section, may, within forty-five days after the service of notice thereof, appeal from such interpretation, order, requirement, direction or failure to act to the automatic sprinkler appeals board as provided in section two hundred and one of chapter six.

Return to:

**** Next Section ** Previous Section ** Chapter 148 Table of Contents ** Legislative Home Page**

R- 428

Support of House 3376, which is
legislation to improve MGL Ch. 148 Sec. 26C
the law requiring sprinklers in hotels,
by removing certain exceptions and loopholes