



## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

HB5664

by Rep. Daniel J. Burke

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Greek Housing Fire Safety Act. Provides that in the case of a Greek housing structure (that is, a fraternity or sorority house) the construction of which is begun on or after January 1, 2011, that construction must include the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems. Provides that in the case of a Greek housing structure construction of which was begun before January 1, 2011, automatic fire sprinkler systems are required in every such structure by January 1, 2019. Provides that if a Greek housing structure does not comply with these provisions, it is unlawful to occupy the structure as a Greek housing structure. Provides for enforcement by a unit of local government (if the Greek housing structure is under the jurisdiction of the unit of local government in whose territory it is located) or an institution of higher education (if the Greek housing structure is under the jurisdiction of the institution of higher education that its residents attend). Effective January 1, 2011.

LRB096 18329 DRJ 34185 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning safety.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Greek  
5 Housing Fire Safety Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative findings. Fire deaths and burn  
7 injuries among college students have become a common  
8 occurrence. It has been proven that automatic fire sprinkler  
9 systems are a highly effective method of controlling or  
10 extinguishing a fire in its early stages and protecting the  
11 lives of the building's occupants and the responding  
12 firefighters. Many students are living in Greek housing that is  
13 not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler  
14 systems. Insurance companies recognize the benefits of  
15 sprinkler systems and have offered significant policy  
16 discounts to Greek organizations to cover housing protected by  
17 automatic sprinkler systems. Dormitories in the State of  
18 Illinois are already required to have automatic fire sprinkler  
19 systems by 2013.

20 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

21 "Automatic fire sprinkler system" means a fire sprinkler  
22 system as defined in the Fire Sprinkler Contractor Licensing

1 Act.

2 "Greek housing structure" means a structure that provides  
3 housing for members of a social fraternity or sorority exempt  
4 from taxation under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code  
5 of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 50(a)), the active membership of which  
6 consists primarily of students in attendance at a public or  
7 private institution of higher education. The structure may also  
8 provide for other activities in addition to housing.

9 Section 15. Automatic fire sprinkler systems required.

10 (a) In the case of a Greek housing structure the  
11 construction of which is begun on or after January 1, 2011,  
12 that construction must include the installation of automatic  
13 fire sprinkler systems.

14 (b) In the case of a Greek housing structure construction  
15 of which was begun before January 1, 2011, automatic fire  
16 sprinkler systems are required in every such structure by  
17 January 1, 2019.

18 (c) If a Greek housing structure does not comply with this  
19 Section, it is unlawful to occupy the structure as a Greek  
20 housing structure.

21 (d) Nothing in this Act may be construed to abrogate any  
22 statute, rule, or ordinance requiring that a fire extinguisher  
23 be present in a Greek housing structure.

24 Section 20. Enforcement of Act.

1           (a) If a Greek housing structure is under the jurisdiction  
2 of the unit of local government in whose territory it is  
3 located, that unit of local government is responsible for  
4 enforcing this Act with respect to that structure.

5           (b) If a Greek housing structure is under the jurisdiction  
6 of the institution of higher education that its residents  
7 attend, that institution of higher education is responsible for  
8 enforcing this Act with respect to that structure.

9           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January  
10 1, 2011.