
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1299 (Arreguín) - State Fire Marshal Fire Suppression Education and Training Safety Act

Version: March 25, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 14, 2026

Policy Vote: E.M. 9 - 0, L., P.E. & R. 5 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: SB 1299 establishes certification and training requirements under the Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) for individuals to perform work on fire suppression systems, as specified.

***** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments adopted by the committee on May 14, 2026

Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown fiscal impact to the SFM. Staff notes that while the bill generally codifies the SFM's current regulations regarding its Automatic Extinguishing System (AES) Program, it introduces an alternative pathway for persons to be eligible to work on water-based fire suppression systems and uses terminology that departs from existing regulatory standards (e.g., "chemical-based fire suppression systems" vs. "engineered and pre-engineered fixed extinguishing systems"). If the SFM must update its AES regulations, there may be additional, but potentially absorbable, rulemaking workload. Administrative workload for the SFM may be offset to some extent by fee revenue (SFM Licensing and Certification Fund).
- To the extent there are prosecutions for misdemeanor violations of this bill, there will be related cost pressures to the courts (Trial Court Trust Fund) to adjudicate the criminal charges and costs to the counties to incarcerate persons who are convicted. These actual cost pressures and costs will depend on the number of prosecutions and convictions.

Author Amendments:

- Authorize a person to perform an investigation of internal piping condition and obstructions of water-based fire suppression systems without SFM certification or registration if the person meets both of the following criteria:
 - The person holds a valid certificate or license from a nationally recognized professional standards organization that requires the holder to successfully demonstrate having at least five years of experience in the inspection, testing, and maintained of water-based fire suppression systems.
 - The person successfully passes a written examination on California-based regulations and a practical physical examination.

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