



# FLORIDA FIRE MARSHALS AND INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION

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## MISSION STATEMENT

**To serve the people of Florida by providing leadership for superior life safety strategies through inspection, investigation, public education, and code management.**

## 2021 Adopted Legislative Position Paper

The following pages represent FFMIA's position on legislative areas of interest and concern. FFMIA works very closely with all allied fire and emergency services agencies, association's and regulated industries as well as private sector interests in an effort to advocate for a safer living, working and respite environment for our over 22 million residents and 100 million plus annual visitors.

These positions have been thoroughly reviewed by a committee of fire prevention professionals and approved by the FFMIA Board of Directors on January 27, 2021. Updates will be provided as necessary.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding the position of FFMIA on these or any other legislative matters.

Sincerely,

*Jon W. Pasqualone*

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Executive Director



**FLORIDA FIRE MARSHALS AND INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION 2021  
LEGISLATIVE POSITION PAPER**

The following five (5) items on this page represent the highest priority items for FFMIA during the 2021 legislative session. The pages that follow represent our guiding principles as we monitor areas of interest that may influence our profession and our positions.

- Oppose efforts to undermine the integrity of the Florida Fire Prevention Code and Florida Building Code adoption processes and model code technical provisions.
- Draft and move legislation that will provide for criminal prosecution of individuals interfering with a fire inspector in the line of duty.
- Oppose legislation that would weaken the requirements or extend the compliance time frames for retrofitting high rise residential occupancies with fire sprinklers.
- Monitor and participate in the development of legislation for in-building radio communication systems.
- Oppose legislation that would allow one-and two-family dwellings to be used for alternative occupancies without compliance with relevant fire and building codes for such use.



## **About FFMIA**

The Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit association. We are membership owned and operated with a volunteer board of directors representing each of six (6) regions in the state. Our leadership team consists of five (5) officers, six (6) regional and one (1) statewide director, plus two section chairs representing the fire and life safety educators and fire investigation fields. We supplement the daily management with employment of full-time staff along with contractual partnerships. We support over 1,600 fire code officials throughout the State of Florida as a training provider and we promote member representation on a number of technical committees with code promulgation providers, as well as representing on many State of Florida task forces, councils and committees.

The FFMIA leadership team also provides our membership and the citizens of this great state a voice in the annual legislative process. We advocate for a safer living, working and recreational environment through the adoption and enforcement of codes and standards throughout Florida. Our recommended actions are based on need as determined through historical data and code development processes.



**FLORIDA FIRE MARSHALS AND INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION  
2021 LEGISLATIVE POSITION PAPER**

**Fire Service Training, Professional Standards and Certification**

- 10.1 Support legislation to increase the required training hours for initial certification of Fire Safety Inspectors.
- 10.2 Oppose the establishment of a mandatory certification program for fire service public educators or fire investigators.
- 10.3 Draft and move legislation that will provide for criminal prosecution of individuals interfering with a fire inspector in the line of duty.
- 10.4 Support legislation that would change the SFMO “Certification” programs to “Licensure” programs.
- 10.5 Support legislation that will create a mandatory Fire Code Administrator Program

**Fire Prevention and Life Safety Codes**

- 20.1 Support legislation reinstating the one and two-family dwelling fire sprinkler requirements contained in the International Residential Code as part of the Florida Building Code.
- 20.2 Oppose legislation or rule making that would reduce local home rule fire code authority to implement innovative solutions to fire prevention and life safety concerns.
- 20.3 Support legislation that would require fire sprinkler systems in all new construction.
- 20.4 Support legislation that would encourage jurisdictions to provide local financial incentives for the voluntary installation of fire sprinkler systems.
- 20.5 Support legislation repealing the “Uniform Fire Code” provisions of Florida Statute 633.
- 20.6 Oppose legislation or rule making that would reduce the existing life safety and or property protection requirements in any historical structure.
- 20.7 Oppose legislation that would repeal the prohibition on stand-by water fees, additional ERU’s and other utility charges for one and two-family fire sprinkler protection contained in 633.
- 20.8 Oppose legislation or rule making that would reduce the minimum standards for the installation of residential smoke alarms.
- 20.9 Oppose legislation that would privatize fire code enforcement functions without maintaining local approval and oversight by the authority having jurisdiction over the FFPC.
- 20.10 Oppose legislation that would remove the National Fire Protection Association’s NFPA 1 Fire Code as the adopted minimum fire code for the State of Florida.
- 20.11 Oppose legislation that would remove the National Fire Protection Association’s NFPA 101 Life Safety Code as the adopted minimum life safety code for the State of Florida.
- 20.12 Oppose legislation that would expand the Florida Building Commission’s authority into fire code adoption and enforcement issues.



- 20.13 Support legislation and rule-making that would apply the Florida Fire Prevention Code to agricultural processing facilities that are currently exempt from fire safety oversight.
- 20.14 Oppose legislation or rule making that would weaken the High-Rise fire sprinkler retrofit requirements within the Florida Fire Prevention Code.
- 20.15 Oppose legislation or rule making that would allow Architects or Engineers authority to conduct fire inspections and/or plans review without being certified as a State Fire Safety Inspector.
- 20.16 Support legislation that would provide a dedicated funding source to the State Fire Marshals' Office for Fire Code promulgation, interpretation and education. (This would be similar to the "surcharge" language in Florida Statute 553.721.)
- 20.17 Support legislation that would update the referenced fire safety standards in Florida Statute 509 and other specialty statutes to reference the current edition of the Florida Fire Prevention Code.
- 20.18 Support legislation banning the sale of novelty lighters that appeal to children
- 20.19 Support legislation banning the sale of matches and lighters to those under the age of 18.
- 20.20 Oppose legislation that would remove the fire service authority from new construction plans review and inspections.
- 20.21 Support legislation that would require Non-expedited Declaratory Statement Requests to be reviewed in an advisory capacity by the Fire Code Advisory Council prior to issuance by the State Fire Marshal's Office.
- 20.22 Oppose legislation expanding the application of the Truss Marking Law of Florida Statute 633 to other types of construction without fire test data indicating the risk is equal to or greater than that of the types of construction currently covered under the light-frame construction definition.
- 20.23 Oppose legislation that would weaken any of the model codes and standards for the State of Florida unless environmental conditions or technical substantiation justify such actions.
- 20.24 Support legislation that repeals the restrictions placed on the Authority Having Jurisdiction to adopt an ordinance, rule or regulation regarding fireworks (F.S. 791.07).
- 20.25 Support legislation that will clarify the statewide amendment process to the Florida Fire Prevention Code to include a sunset provision, processing thru the Fire Code Advisory Council, publication of amendments and draft code versions on the SFMO web site and specific criteria for consideration of statewide amendment adoption.
- 20.26 Support rule promulgation simplifying the informal interpretation process contained in F.S. 633.
- 20.27 Oppose legislation modifying the minimum fire flow provisions contained in NFPA 1.
- 20.28 Oppose any legislation that would allow LP cabinet heaters (stand-alone) to be used inside of residential occupancies.
- 20.29 Oppose any legislation that would further legalize the sale and use of fireworks to the public.
- 20.30 Support legislation that would mandate disclosure of the benefits of residential fire sprinklers to buyers of new one-and two-family dwellings.
- 20.31 Support legislation that creates a dedicated funding source and/or tax incentive for existing high-rise residential occupancies that retrofit with fire sprinklers.
- 20.32 Monitor legislation providing for the use of door-step trash services in multi-family residential occupancies.



- 20.33 Support legislation that would prohibit “sober homes” and similar rehabilitation facilities in 1 and 2 family homes.
- 20.34 Oppose legislation that would extend the compliance dates for in-building communication system requirements for first responders.
- 20.35 Oppose any prohibition on local government(s) code enforcement members to investigate complaints filed by anonymous individuals.
- 20.36 Support legislation that will maintain the presence and authority of fire prevention code enforcement inclusion in school safety and security efforts.

### **Fire Investigation**

- 30.1 Oppose legislation that would place an unfunded mandate on local government by limiting the assistance that the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services can provide local government with fire investigations.
- 30.2 Support legislation that establishes a statutory “Arson Reward” program and provides a dedicated funding source for the “Arson Reward” program administered by the State Fire Marshal’s Office.
- 30.3 Oppose legislation that would weaken the State Fire Marshal’s Office by the transfer of any of the existing Bureaus currently under the responsibility of the CFO/Fire Marshal’s Office to other state agency.

### **Wildland/Urban Interface**

- 40.1 Support the continued use and adoption of NFPA 1144, Standard for Wildfire Prevention and Control, as the wildfire prevention and control standard for the State of Florida.
- 40.2 Support legislation adding a representative from the Florida Forest Service to the Florida Fire Code Advisory Council.

### **General**

- 50.1 Support legislation that would require appointment of two members of the fire service as representatives on the Florida Building Commission. 1 (FFMIA) 1 (FFCA)
- 50.2 Monitor legislation impacting and assure continued maintenance of representation on:
- Florida Fire Code Advisory Council
  - Florida Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council
  - Florida Fire Incident Reporting System Technical Advisory Panel
- 50.3 Support legislation creating a human trafficking awareness training program for the Florida fire service with an appropriation request from the Legislature.

Approved: 01/27/2021

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