

** Alderman **
Michele Smith

Chicago's 43rd Ward



Victory in Springfield: Sprinkler Task Force Bill PASSES Committee

Dear Friend,

Congratulations! Yesterday, thanks to the **hard work and industrious effort by our State Representative Sara Feigenholtz** and the swift and overwhelming work done by 43rd Ward residents and my fellow lakefront aldermen Joe Moore (49th), Harry Osterman (48th), James Cappleman (46th), Tom Tunney (44th), Brendan Reilly (42nd), Pat Dowell (3rd), William Burns (4th), and Leslie Hairston (5th), **House Bill 4609 (Amendment 1) PASSED** the Illinois State Government Administration Committee by a 17-2 vote.

State Representative Feigenholtz's [bill](#) creates the Task Force on Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Education, comprised of 21 members representing firefighters, homeowners' associations, building trades, and community members.

This task force would be a brain trust of experts with decades of experience in fire safety law and best practices that will research and consider the effects of any legislation requiring fire sprinklers in homes, businesses, and high-rise buildings. This group will examine all questions related to increasing rent prices, insurance rates, and installation costs and provide a comprehensive, unbiased report with recommendations to the General Assembly. **Any rule requiring the installation of fire sprinklers in any structure would have to be passed by the elected General Assembly**, not the State Fire Marshal and a small committee called the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR), as was the case last summer. Our goal is to ensure that any potential changes to state fire sprinkler laws are created with more transparency, adequate public input, and open discussion in the General Assembly.

There have been no fire sprinkler mandate proposals from the Illinois Fire Marshal's Office in recent weeks or months. However, **yesterday in committee, the State Fire Marshal was clear in his remarks that a mandate is his ultimate goal.**

The bill will now proceed for a vote by the entire State Assembly. Further public input on this issue will be critical to ensure this bill's passage in the General

Assembly. We will keep you apprised of next steps.

Once again, our ward showed that we can organize and get things done.
Congratulations again.

Sincerely,



Michele Smith
43rd Ward Alderman

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