

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Infrastructure and Security

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BILL: CS/CS/SB 538, 1st Eng.
INTRODUCER: Community Affairs; Infrastructure and Security; and Senator Diaz
SUBJECT: Emergency Management
DATE: March 11, 2020

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 – 093237 (body and title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 contains the substance of HB 865. The amendment does not contain the provision added by the Senate floor amendment to SB 538 that allows meetings or calls by emergency management agencies related to any response to a declared disaster to not be a public meeting requiring public notice when two or more members of a county or municipality governing body that exercises local emergency management powers attend within 14 days of the date that the declaration is issued by either the Governor or the Federal Government, provided they do not discuss or undertake any official action.

The amendment also changes the relating to clause from “emergency management” to “emergency reporting.”

Otherwise, SB 538 and HB 865 are nearly identical in directing the State Watch Office (SWO) to create and maintain a list of emergency related reportable incidents. Political subdivisions must notify the SWO of incidents occurring within their geographic boundaries.