

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Community Affairs Committee

BILL: CS/SB 232

SPONSOR: Domestic Security Committee and Senator Constantine

SUBJECT: Emergency Management/Counties

DATE: March 3, 2005

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Pardue</u>	<u>Skelton</u>	<u>DS</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Vickers</u>	<u>Yeatman</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The bill encourages counties and municipalities to explore emerging technologies to improve communications between emergency managers and the public. To support this effort the bill requires the Department of Community Affairs to compile and disseminate a list of grant funding sources that counties and municipalities can use in writing grant applications.

The bill also authorizes counties and municipalities to establish volunteer disaster assistance recovery programs and to require private utility company representatives in their emergency operations centers for coordination.

This bill amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 252.32 and 252.38.

II. Present Situation:

County emergency operations centers across the state are focal points for coordinating the planning and response to emergencies and natural disasters within their jurisdictions. Organized by functional areas such as transportation, communications, public health, and public safety, emergency operations centers facilitate the allocation of recovery resources and provide vital information to the public regarding emergency assistance and disaster recovery. Emergency operations centers actions are characteristically focused on immediate response to the current emergency incident. The county emergency operations centers work directly with the state emergency operations center to assure coordination of all functions, services, and asset deliveries.

At some point during the emergency or natural disaster response, focus shifts from immediate incident management to long term recovery and mitigation. While the emergency operations

centers continue over all incident management, outreach programs such as disaster field offices are set up in the affected communities. Outreach programs also disseminate information to the public about available recovery assistance and begin processing grant and loan applications, assist with emergency housing placement, and assist with other long-term recovery needs.

Information flows to the public through a multi-path approach with heavy reliance on broadcast media.

However, with emerging technologies, additional means of communication with the public are available to emergency managers. County and municipal Internet websites disseminate emergency planning information. In addition, slightly more than half of all Florida counties now have emergency telephone notification systems that can telephonically transmit emergency information to their residents.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill expresses legislative encouragement to counties and municipalities to explore the use of emerging technologies to improve communications between emergency managers and the public. In order to support the increased use of these technologies, the bill requires the Department of Community Affairs to prepare a list of grant funding sources and disseminate the list to all counties and municipalities.

The bill permissively authorizes counties and municipalities to establish volunteer disaster assistance recovery programs. Counties and municipalities may form disaster assistance recovery committees made up of community residents and business owners for the purpose of setting voluntary compliance standards and negotiating prearranged agreements for delivery of goods and services in an emergency situation.

The bill permissively authorizes counties and municipalities to require a private utility company representative to be present in its emergency operations center for coordination purposes if desired.

The bill provides an effective date upon becoming law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

This bill may aid post disaster recovery by facilitating coordination and communications between emergency managers and business and industry. However, the impact is unknown, and is categorized only as a potential positive impact.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Chapter 125, Part VI, F.S., addresses employment of volunteers by county governments and authorizes incidental reimbursement including, but not limited to transportation costs, lodging, and subsistence, as deemed necessary in order to perform the prescribed duty. Section 252.41, F.S., further addresses emergency management support forces and entitles non-employees to compensation as may be directed by the Division of Emergency Management. Fiscal impact to counties and municipalities is unknown but likely insignificant. The impact would be dictated by the size and scope of the recovery effort.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
