

1 (3) The Legislature, as a matter of public policy,
2 encourages counties and municipalities to explore the use of
3 emerging technologies as a means of disseminating information
4 to the public before, during, and after an emergency or
5 natural disaster. Use of the Internet, e-mail, text messaging,
6 and emergency telephone notification should be considered in
7 formulating strategies and plans for public communications. In
8 order to support efforts to increase the use of emerging
9 technologies, the Department of Community Affairs shall
10 compile a list of potential grant fund sources from federal
11 and state agencies and from private entities. The department
12 shall disseminate this list to all counties and municipalities
13 so that the counties and municipalities may use the list as a
14 guide for applying for grants.

15 Section 2. Paragraphs (c) and (d) are added to
16 subsection (3) of section 252.38, Florida Statutes, to read:

17 252.38 Emergency management powers of political
18 subdivisions.--Safeguarding the life and property of its
19 citizens is an innate responsibility of the governing body of
20 each political subdivision of the state.

21 (3) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POWERS; POLITICAL
22 SUBDIVISIONS.--

23 (c) A county or municipality may establish a volunteer
24 disaster assistance recovery program within the county or
25 municipality for the purpose of facilitating and improving
26 communications between emergency managers and the public in
27 the event of an emergency or natural disaster, and for the
28 purpose of delivering supplies and services through
29 prearranged agreements with local businesses. Local
30 governments may form disaster assistance recovery advisory
31 committees to negotiate voluntary compliance standards and

1 agreements with local businesses for the provision of goods
2 and services in the period immediately preceding, during, and
3 immediately after a declared emergency. The members of the
4 disaster assistance recovery advisory committee shall include,
5 but need not be limited to, residents of the county or
6 municipality and owners of businesses that are located within
7 the county or municipality.

8 (d) Pursuant to s. 252.41, a county or municipality
9 may require a representative of a private utility company be
10 present at its local emergency operations center for purposes
11 of coordination during an actual emergency or natural disaster
12 if other adequate means of coordination cannot be readily
13 established.

14 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
15 law.

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17 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
19 SB 232

20 Expresses legislative encouragement to counties and
21 municipalities to explore the use of emerging technologies to
22 improve communications between emergency managers and the
23 public. In order to support the increased use of these
24 technologies, requires the Department of Communities Affairs
25 to prepare a list of grant funding sources and disseminate the
26 list to all counties and municipalities.

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

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