

By the Committee on Domestic Security; and Senator Diaz de la Portilla

583-1959-06

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to emergency management;

3 providing legislative findings with respect to

4 the need for improvements in the state's

5 infrastructure in response to the hurricane

6 seasons of 2004 and 2005; providing for the

7 Legislature to make funds available to local

8 agencies through appropriations to the

9 Department of Community Affairs; providing

10 criteria for an appropriation to fund the

11 construction or renovation of county emergency

12 operations centers; providing limitations on

13 the use of such funds; providing criteria for

14 an appropriation to fund equipping public

15 special-needs hurricane evacuation shelters

16 with the permanent capacity to generate

17 emergency power; providing criteria for an

18 appropriation for retrofitting public hurricane

19 evacuation shelters; providing for funds to be

20 appropriated to improve the logistical staging

21 and warehouse capacity of commodities used

22 following a disaster; providing criteria for an

23 appropriation to establish a regional hurricane

24 evacuation shelter pilot program; providing an

25 effective date.

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27 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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29 Section 1. The Legislature finds that there is a

30 compelling need for improvements in infrastructure, as

31 identified during the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons, in

1 order to better protect the residents of this state. The
2 Legislature shall make funds available to local agencies
3 through appropriations to the Department of Community Affairs
4 for the purpose of meeting these needs, based on criteria
5 established in this section, for county emergency operations
6 centers, emergency power for public special-needs hurricane
7 evacuation shelters, public hurricane evacuation shelter
8 retrofits, improved logistical staging and warehouse capacity
9 for commodities, and regional shelters. The criteria in this
10 section shall be used by the Legislature to determine
11 eligibility for funding.

12 (1) The Legislature finds that county emergency
13 operations centers should meet the minimum criteria for
14 structural survivability and sufficiency of operational space,
15 as determined by assessments performed by the Department of
16 Community Affairs based on guidance from the Federal Emergency
17 Management Agency. Criteria for an appropriation for a county
18 emergency operations center include, but are not limited to,
19 county population, hurricane evacuation clearance time for the
20 vulnerable population of the county, structural survivability
21 of the existing emergency operations center, and FEMA guidance
22 for workspace requirements for the emergency operations
23 center. First priority for funding shall be for county
24 emergency operations centers where no survivable facility
25 exists and where workspace deficits exist. Funding provided
26 under this section may not be used for land acquisition or
27 recurring expenditures. Funding is limited to the construction
28 or structural renovation of the county emergency operations
29 center in order to meet national workspace recommendations and
30 may not be used to purchase equipment, furnishings,
31 communications, or operational systems.

1 (2) The Legislature finds that all designated public
2 special-needs hurricane evacuation shelters should be equipped
3 with permanent emergency power generating capacity in order to
4 provide the necessary equipment, heating, ventilation, and
5 air-conditioning to meet the medical needs of patients by June
6 1, 2007. An appropriation for equipping a public special-needs
7 hurricane evacuation shelter with permanent emergency power
8 may also be used in coordination with local communities in
9 order to increase the number of shelter spaces available and
10 ensure that there is a sufficient number of public
11 special-needs shelters designated to meet the anticipated
12 demand based on best available data as determined by the
13 Department of Community Affairs and the Department of Health.

14 (3) The Legislature finds that retrofitting public
15 hurricane evacuation shelters is an efficient and economical
16 method of accelerating the state and local efforts to reduce
17 the shelter deficit. Criteria for an appropriation for the
18 retrofitting of a public hurricane evacuation shelter include,
19 but are not limited to, the project's ability to meet the
20 structural and siting requirements of American Red Cross
21 Standard ARC 4496, "Guidelines for Hurricane Evacuation
22 Shelter Selection," once completed; the shelter needs for the
23 local government as well as the overall needs of the hurricane
24 evacuation planning region; the cost-effectiveness of the
25 project in terms of the number of public hurricane evacuation
26 spaces; and the priority ranking of the proposed project in
27 the applicable local mitigation strategy.

28 (4) The Legislature finds that improved logistical
29 staging and warehouse capacity for commodities will help
30 ensure that adequate supplies, equipment, and commodities are
31 available and accessible to respond to disasters. Appropriated

1 funds may be used for increasing storage capacity; improving
2 technologies to manage commodities; and enhancing the ability
3 to maintain in a safe and secure manner an inventory of
4 supplies, equipment, and commodities that would be needed in
5 the immediate aftermath of a disaster.

6 (5) The Legislature finds that regional hurricane
7 evacuation shelters are an efficient and economical method of
8 providing additional shelter space and that the establishment
9 of a regional hurricane evacuation shelter pilot program will
10 encourage local governments to assist with reducing the
11 shelter deficit. Criteria for an appropriation for a regional
12 hurricane evacuation shelter include, but are not limited to,
13 the project's ability to meet the structural and siting
14 requirements of American Red Cross Standard ARC 4496,
15 "Guidelines for Hurricane Evacuation Shelter Selection," once
16 completed; the location of the project with respect to the
17 communities' public hurricane evacuation shelter deficit and
18 the public hurricane evacuation shelter deficit of the
19 hurricane evacuation planning region where the facility is
20 located; the cost-effectiveness of the project in terms of the
21 number of public hurricane evacuation spaces; and an
22 interlocal agreement by two or more local governments to
23 operate the facility.

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
25 law.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
Senate Bill 0862

Senate Bill 862 as originally filed stated the intent to revise laws relating to emergency preparedness.

This committee substitute provides a finding that infrastructure improvements are needed in the following areas to better provide for the safety of Florida residents:

- County emergency operations centers
- Emergency power for public special needs hurricane evacuation shelters
- Retrofits for public hurricane evacuation shelters
- Improved commodities logistical staging and warehouse capacity
- Regional shelters

The committee substitute also provides criteria to be used for qualifying infrastructure improvement projects for funding if such funding is appropriated by the Legislature.