

By Senator Aronberg

27-00114B-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to emergency dispatchers; creating s.
3 401.465, F.S.; providing definitions; requiring the
4 Department of Health to establish criteria for the
5 certification of 911 emergency dispatchers; providing
6 requirements for certification; requiring the department
7 to determine if an applicant meets the requirements for
8 certification; requiring the department to establish a
9 procedure for certificate renewal; providing for the
10 expiration and renewal of certificates; authorizing the
11 department to suspend or revoke a certificate; providing
12 that a certificateholder may request inactivation of his
13 or her certification; providing requirements for renewing
14 an inactive certificate; providing fees for original
15 application and renewal of a certificate; requiring that
16 fees be deposited in a trust fund and used for specified
17 purposes; providing for replacement of a lost or destroyed
18 certificate; requiring the department to issue a
19 replacement certificate under certain circumstances;
20 providing an effective date.

21
22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

23
24 Section 1. Section 401.5, Florida Statutes, is created to
25 read:

26 401.465 911 emergency dispatcher certification.--

27 (1) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this section, the term:

28 (a) "911 emergency dispatcher" means a person employed by a
29 state agency or local government as a public safety dispatcher or

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30 911 operator whose duties and responsibilities include answering
31 911 calls; dispatching law enforcement officers, fire rescue
32 services, emergency medical services, and other public safety
33 services to the scene of an emergency; providing real-time
34 information from federal, state, and local crime databases; or
35 supervising or serving as the command officer to a person or
36 persons having such duties and responsibilities. However, the
37 term does not include administrative support personnel,
38 including, but not limited to, those whose primary duties and
39 responsibilities are in accounting, purchasing, legal, and
40 personnel.

41 (b) "Department" means the Department of Health.

42 (2) PERSONNEL; STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION.--

43 (a) The department shall establish by rule educational and
44 training criteria for the certification and recertification of
45 911 emergency dispatchers. Such rules must include, but need not
46 be limited to, the following requirements:

47 1. Any person who desires to be certified or recertified as
48 a 911 emergency dispatcher shall apply to the department under
49 oath on forms provided by the department which shall contain such
50 information as the department reasonably requires and may include
51 affirmative evidence of the applicant's ability to comply with
52 applicable laws and rules.

53 2. The department shall determine whether the applicant
54 meets the requirements specified in this section and in rules of
55 the department and shall issue a certificate to any person who
56 meets such requirements.

57 (b) An applicant for certification or recertification as a
58 911 emergency dispatcher shall:

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59 1. Have completed an appropriate 911 emergency dispatcher
60 training program that is equivalent to the most recently approved
61 emergency dispatcher course of the Department of Education and
62 that consists of not less than 208 hours;

63 2. Certify under oath that he or she is not addicted to
64 alcohol or any controlled substance;

65 3. Certify under oath that he or she is free from any
66 physical or mental defect or disease that might impair the
67 applicant's ability to perform his or her duties;

68 4. Submit the application fee prescribed in subsection (3);
69 and

70 5. Submit a completed application to the department which
71 indicates compliance with subparagraphs 1., 2., and 3.

72 (c) The department shall establish by rule a procedure for
73 the biennial renewal certification of 911 emergency dispatchers.

74 (d) Each 911 emergency dispatcher certificate expires
75 automatically if not renewed, and may be renewed if the holder
76 meets the qualifications for renewal as established by the
77 department. A certificate that is not renewed at the end of the
78 2-year period automatically reverts to an inactive status for a
79 period that may not exceed 180 days. Such certificate may be
80 reactivated and renewed within the 180-day period if the
81 certificateholder meets all other qualifications for renewal and
82 pays a \$50 late fee. Reactivation shall be in a manner and on
83 forms prescribed by department rule.

84 (e) The department may suspend or revoke a certificate at
85 any time if it determines that the certificateholder does not
86 meet the applicable qualifications.

87 (f) A certificateholder may request that his or her 911

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88 emergency dispatcher certificate be placed on inactive status by
89 applying to the department before his or her current
90 certification expires and paying a fee set by the department
91 which may not exceed \$100.

92 1. A certificateholder whose certificate has been on
93 inactive status for 1 year or less may renew his or her
94 certificate pursuant to the rules adopted by the department and
95 upon payment of a renewal fee set by the department which may not
96 exceed \$100.

97 2. A certificateholder whose certificate has been on
98 inactive status for more than 1 year may renew his or her
99 certificate pursuant to rules adopted by the department.

100 3. A certificate that has been inactive for more than 6
101 years automatically expires and may not be renewed.

102 (3) FEES.--

103 (a) The fee for application for the 911 emergency
104 dispatcher original certificate is \$75.

105 (b) The application fee for the 911 emergency dispatcher
106 biennial renewal certificate is \$100.

107 (c) Fees collected under this section shall be deposited
108 into the Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund and used solely
109 for salaries and expenses of the department incurred in
110 administering this section.

111 (d) If a certificate issued under this section is lost or
112 destroyed, the person to whom the certificate was issued may,
113 upon payment of a fee set by the department which may not exceed
114 \$25, obtain a duplicate or substitute certificate.

115 (e) Upon surrender of the original 911 emergency dispatcher
116 certificate and receipt of a replacement fee set by the

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117 | department which may not exceed \$25, the department shall issue a
118 | replacement certificate to make a change in name.

119 | Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2008.