

By the Committee on Governmental Operations; and Senators
Aronberg, Fasano and Margolis

585-07961-08

20081694c1

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; requiring the department to
15 establish a procedure for the initial certification of
16 certain 911 emergency dispatchers; providing fees for
17 original application and renewal of a certificate;
18 requiring that fees be deposited in a trust fund and used
19 for specified purposes; providing for replacement of a
20 lost or destroyed certificate; requiring the department to
21 issue a replacement certificate under certain
22 circumstances; providing an effective date.

23
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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26 Section 1. Section 401.5, Florida Statutes, is created to
27 read:

28 401.465 911 emergency dispatcher certification.--

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

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

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

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

45 (a) Any person who desires to be certified or recertified
46 as a 911 emergency dispatcher may apply to the department under
47 oath on forms provided by the department. The department shall
48 establish by rule educational and training criteria for the
49 certification and recertification of 911 emergency dispatchers.

50 (b) The department shall determine whether the applicant
51 meets the requirements specified in this section and in rules of
52 the department and shall issue a certificate to any person who
53 meets such requirements. Such requirements must include, but need
54 not be limited to, the following:

55 1. Completion of an appropriate 911 emergency dispatcher
56 training program that is equivalent to the most recently approved
57 emergency dispatcher course of the Department of Education and
58 consists of not less than 208 hours;

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59 2. Completion and documentation of at least 2 years of
60 supervised full-time employment as a 911 emergency dispatcher
61 since January 1, 2002;

62 3. Certification under oath that the applicant is not
63 addicted to alcohol or any controlled substance;

64 4. Certification under oath that the applicant is free from
65 any physical or mental defect or disease that might impair the
66 applicant's ability to perform his or her duties;

67 5. Submission of the application fee prescribed in
68 subsection (3); and

69 6. Submission of a completed application to the department
70 which indicates compliance with subparagraphs 1., 2., 3., and 4.

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

73 (d) Each 911 emergency dispatcher certificate expires
74 automatically if not renewed at the end of the 2-year period and
75 may be renewed if the holder meets the qualifications for renewal
76 as established by the department. A certificate that is not
77 renewed at the end of the 2-year period automatically reverts to
78 an inactive status for a period that may not exceed 180 days.

79 Such certificate may be reactivated and renewed within the 180-
80 day period if the certificateholder meets all other
81 qualifications for renewal and pays a \$50 late fee. Reactivation
82 shall be in a manner and on forms prescribed by department rule.

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

86 (f) A certificateholder may request that his or her 911
87 emergency dispatcher certificate be placed on inactive status by

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88 applying to the department before his or her current
89 certification expires and paying a fee set by the department
90 which may not exceed \$100.

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

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

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

101 (g) The department shall establish by rule a procedure for
102 the initial certification of 911 emergency dispatchers as defined
103 in this section who have documentation of at least 5 years of
104 supervised full-time employment as a 911 emergency dispatcher
105 since January 1, 2002.

106 (3) FEES.--

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

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

111 (c) Fees collected under this section shall be deposited
112 into the Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund and used solely
113 for salaries and expenses of the department incurred in
114 administering this section.

115 (d) If a certificate issued under this section is lost or
116 destroyed, the person to whom the certificate was issued may,

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117 upon payment of a fee set by the department which may not exceed
118 \$25, obtain a duplicate or substitute certificate.

119 (e) Upon surrender of the original 911 emergency dispatcher
120 certificate and receipt of a replacement fee set by the
121 department which may not exceed \$25, the department shall issue a
122 replacement certificate to make a change in name.

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