

By Senator Bullard

39-00419-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to emergency management; amending s.
3 414.095, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and
4 Family Services, to the extent permitted by federal law,
5 to expedite application procedures for persons who reside
6 in an area damaged by a major disaster and who apply for
7 temporary cash assistance; requiring that the application
8 process be completed within a specified time; requiring
9 the department to train its employees who are responsible
10 for determining eligibility for temporary cash assistance
11 in order to expedite the application process for the
12 victims of a major disaster and to assist the victims in
13 contacting agencies that provide temporary shelter, food,
14 food stamps, and other relief; amending s. 252.36, F.S.;
15 authorizing the Governor to employ such measures and give
16 such directions to certain specified agencies as are
17 necessary for the purpose of addressing the needs for
18 immediate cash, shelter, or food assistance for children,
19 families, and the elderly and disabled during an
20 emergency; providing an effective date.

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

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24 Section 1. Present subsection (18) of section 414.095,
25 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (19), and a new
26 subsection (18) is added to that section, to read:

27 414.095 Determining eligibility for temporary cash
28 assistance.--

29 (18) EXPEDITED APPLICATION PROCESS.--

39-00419-08

2008442__

30 (1) To the extent permitted by federal law or regulation,
31 the department shall expedite application procedures for
32 applicants who reside in an area damaged by a major disaster, as
33 defined in s. 252.34. The department must complete the
34 application process within 10 calendar days after receiving a
35 completed application.

36 (2) The department shall train its employees who are
37 responsible for determining eligibility for temporary cash
38 assistance in order to expedite the application process for the
39 victims of major disasters and to assist the victims in
40 contacting appropriate agencies that provide temporary shelter,
41 food, food stamps, and other relief.

42 Section 2. Present subsections (8), (9), and (10) of
43 section 252.36, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections
44 (9), (10), and (11), respectively, and a new subsection (8) is
45 added to that section, to read:

46 252.36 Emergency management powers of the Governor.--

47 (8) The Governor shall employ such measures and give such
48 directions to the Department of Children and Family Services, the
49 Agency for Workforce Development, the Department of Elderly
50 Affairs, and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities as are
51 reasonably necessary for the purpose of securing compliance with
52 the provisions of ss. 252.31-252.60 or with the findings or
53 recommendations of such agencies regarding the need for immediate
54 cash, shelter, or food assistance for children, families, and the
55 elderly and disabled during an emergency.

56 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.