

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.

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

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 24 Section 1. Section 401.465, Florida Statutes, is created
 25 to 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

29 a state agency or local government as a public safety dispatcher
30 or 911 operator whose duties and responsibilities include
31 answering 911 calls; dispatching law enforcement officers, fire
32 rescue services, emergency medical services, and other public
33 safety services to the scene of an emergency; providing real-
34 time information from federal, state, and local crime databases;
35 or 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
48 as a 911 emergency dispatcher shall apply to the department
49 under oath on forms provided by the department which shall
50 contain such information as the department reasonably requires
51 and may include affirmative evidence of the applicant's ability
52 to comply with 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:

59 1. Have completed an appropriate 911 emergency dispatcher
60 training program that is equivalent to the most recently
61 approved emergency dispatcher course of the Department of
62 Education and 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
69 (3); 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
 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
 96 not 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,

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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
116 dispatcher certificate and receipt of a replacement fee set by
117 the department which may not exceed \$25, the department shall
118 issue a replacement certificate to make a change in name.

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