

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to 911 emergency dispatcher certification;
 3 amending s. 401.465, F.S.; requiring any person serving as
 4 a 911 emergency dispatcher to be certified by the
 5 Department of Health on or after a specified date;
 6 providing conditions under which a public safety agency
 7 may employ a 911 emergency dispatcher trainee for a
 8 limited period; providing clarifying language with respect
 9 to certification or recertification as a 911 emergency
 10 dispatcher; revising requirements for certification as a
 11 911 emergency dispatcher; providing an effective date.

12
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14
 15 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 401.465, Florida
 16 Statutes, is amended to read:

17 401.465 911 emergency dispatcher certification.--

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

19 (a) Effective October 1, 2012, any person serving as a 911
 20 emergency dispatcher must be certified by the department.

21 Notwithstanding this requirement, a public safety agency as
 22 defined s. 365.171(3)(d) may employ a 911 emergency dispatcher
 23 trainee for a period not to exceed 6 months, provided that the
 24 trainee is under the direct supervision, as determined by rule
 25 of the department, of a certified 911 emergency dispatcher with
 26 a minimum of 2 years' experience.

27 (b) (a) An applicant ~~Any person who desires~~ to be certified
 28 or recertified as a 911 emergency dispatcher must ~~may~~ apply to

HB 769

2009

29 the department under oath on forms provided by the department.
30 The department shall establish by rule educational and training
31 criteria for the certification and recertification of 911
32 emergency dispatchers. Prior to October 1, 2012, any person who
33 desires to be certified or recertified as a 911 emergency
34 dispatcher may apply to the department as described in this
35 section.

36 ~~(c)(b)~~ The department shall determine whether the
37 applicant meets the requirements specified in this section and
38 in rules of the department and shall issue a certificate to any
39 person who meets such requirements. Such requirements must
40 include, but need not be limited to, the following:

41 1. Completion of an appropriate 911 emergency dispatcher
42 training program that is equivalent to or more stringent than
43 the most recently approved emergency dispatcher course of the
44 Department of Education and consists of not less than 208 hours;

45 ~~2. Completion and documentation of at least 2 years of~~
46 ~~supervised full-time employment as a 911 emergency dispatcher~~
47 ~~since January 1, 2002;~~

48 ~~2.3.~~ Certification under oath that the applicant is not
49 addicted to alcohol or any controlled substance;

50 ~~3.4.~~ Certification under oath that the applicant is free
51 from any physical or mental defect or disease that might impair
52 the applicant's ability to perform his or her duties;

53 ~~4.5.~~ Submission of the application fee prescribed in
54 subsection (3); and

HB 769

2009

55 5.6. Submission of a completed application to the
56 department which indicates compliance with subparagraphs 1., 2.,
57 3., and 4.

58 (d)~~(e)~~ The department shall establish by rule a procedure
59 for the biennial renewal certification of 911 emergency
60 dispatchers.

61 (e)~~(d)~~ Each 911 emergency dispatcher certificate expires
62 automatically if not renewed at the end of the 2-year period and
63 may be renewed if the holder meets the qualifications for
64 renewal as established by the department. A certificate that is
65 not renewed at the end of the 2-year period automatically
66 reverts to an inactive status for a period that may not exceed
67 180 days. Such certificate may be reactivated and renewed within
68 the 180-day period if the certificateholder meets all other
69 qualifications for renewal and pays a \$50 late fee. Reactivation
70 shall be in a manner and on forms prescribed by department rule.

71 (f)~~(e)~~ The department may suspend or revoke a certificate
72 at any time if it determines that the certificateholder does not
73 meet the applicable qualifications.

74 (g)~~(f)~~ A certificateholder may request that his or her 911
75 emergency dispatcher certificate be placed on inactive status by
76 applying to the department before his or her current
77 certification expires and paying a fee set by the department
78 which may not exceed \$100.

79 1. A certificateholder whose certificate has been on
80 inactive status for 1 year or less may renew his or her
81 certificate pursuant to the rules adopted by the department and

HB 769

2009

82 upon payment of a renewal fee set by the department which may
83 not exceed \$100.

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

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

89 (h)~~(g)~~ The department shall establish by rule a procedure
90 for the initial certification of 911 emergency dispatchers as
91 defined in this section who have documentation of at least 5
92 years of supervised full-time employment as a 911 emergency
93 dispatcher since January 1, 2002.

94 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2009.