

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to certification of 911 public safety  
 3           telecommunicators; amending s. 401.465, F.S.; revising  
 4           the definition of the term "911 public safety  
 5           telecommunicator" to exclude certain law enforcement  
 6           officers; revising requirements for certification of  
 7           911 public safety telecommunicators; providing  
 8           conditions under which the requirement for completion  
 9           of a public safety telecommunication training program  
 10          may be waived for certain law enforcement officers;  
 11          providing for exemption from the examination fee;  
 12          providing an effective date.

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

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 16           Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and paragraphs  
 17           (d) and (j) of subsection (2) of section 401.465, Florida  
 18           Statutes, are amended, paragraph (k) of subsection (2) is  
 19           redesignated as paragraph (l), and a new paragraph (k) is added  
 20           to subsection (2) of that section, to read:

21           401.465 911 public safety telecommunicator certification.—

22           (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

23           (a) "911 public safety telecommunicator" means a public  
 24           safety dispatcher or 911 operator whose duties and  
 25           responsibilities include the answering, receiving, transferring,  
 26           and dispatching functions related to 911 calls; dispatching law  
 27           enforcement officers, fire rescue services, emergency medical  
 28           services, and other public safety services to the scene of an

HB 1227

2012

29 emergency; providing real-time information from federal, state,  
30 and local crime databases; or supervising or serving as the  
31 command officer to a person or persons having such duties and  
32 responsibilities. However, the term does not include  
33 administrative support personnel, including, but not limited to,  
34 those whose primary duties and responsibilities are in  
35 accounting, purchasing, legal, and personnel, or sworn state-  
36 certified law enforcement officers selected by their chief  
37 executive to perform on an occasional or limited basis as a  
38 public safety telecommunicator.

39 (2) PERSONNEL; STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION.—

40 (d) The department shall determine whether the applicant  
41 meets the requirements specified in this section and in rules of  
42 the department and shall issue a certificate to any person who  
43 meets such requirements. Such requirements must include the  
44 following:

45 1. Completion of an appropriate 911 public safety  
46 telecommunication training program;

47 2. Certification under oath that the applicant is not  
48 addicted to alcohol or any controlled substance;

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

52 4. Submission of the application fee prescribed in  
53 subsection (3);

54 5. Submission of a completed application to the department  
55 which indicates compliance with subparagraphs 1., 2., and 3.;

56 and

HB 1227

2012

57           6. Effective October 1, 2012, passage of an examination  
58 approved ~~administered~~ by the department which measures the  
59 applicant's competency and proficiency in the subject material  
60 of the public safety telecommunication training program.

61           (j) If a person was employed as a 911 public safety  
62 telecommunicator, ~~a sworn state-certified law enforcement~~  
63 ~~officer~~, or a state-certified firefighter before April 1, 2012,  
64 he or she must pass the examination administered by the  
65 department which measures the competency and proficiency in the  
66 subject material of the public safety telecommunication program,  
67 as defined in paragraph (1) (c). Upon passage of the examination,  
68 the completion of the public safety telecommunication training  
69 program shall be waived.

70           (k)1. The requirement for completion of a public safety  
71 telecommunication training program is waived for a person  
72 employed as a sworn state-certified law enforcement officer  
73 selected by his or her chief executive to perform on an  
74 occasional or limited basis as a public safety telecommunicator  
75 if the person passes the department-approved examination that  
76 measures the competency and proficiency of an applicant in the  
77 subject material comprising the public safety telecommunication  
78 program.

79           2. A sworn state-certified law enforcement officer who  
80 fails an examination taken under subparagraph 1. must take a  
81 department-approved public safety telecommunication training  
82 program prior to retaking the examination.

83           3. The testing required under this paragraph is exempt  
84 from the examination fee required under subsection (3).

HB 1227

2012

85

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.