

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to code enforcement officers; amending
 3 s. 162.04, F.S.; revising the definition of the term
 4 "code enforcement officer"; amending s. 162.21, F.S.;
 5 providing educational requirements for code
 6 enforcement officers; providing for certification upon
 7 successful passage of minimum standards training
 8 course and examination; requiring certain currently
 9 employed officers to pass a basic skills examination
 10 within a specified period; specifying timeframes
 11 within which standards training courses must be
 12 passed; requiring postcertification training by code
 13 enforcement officers at specified intervals; providing
 14 an effective date.

15
 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 18 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 162.04, Florida
 19 Statutes, is amended to read:

20 162.04 Definitions.—As used in ss. 162.01-162.13, the
 21 term:

22 (2) "Code enforcement officer ~~inspector~~" means any
 23 authorized agent or employee of the county or municipality whose
 24 duty it is to enforce codes and ordinances enacted by the county
 25 or municipality and who meets the requirements of s. 162.21(2)
 26 within 1 year after his or her date of hire ~~assure code~~

27 | ~~compliance.~~

28 | Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 162.21, Florida
29 | Statutes, is amended to read:

30 | 162.21 Enforcement of county or municipal codes or
31 | ordinances; penalties.—

32 | (2) (a) A county or a municipality may designate certain of
33 | its employees or agents as code enforcement officers. ~~The~~
34 | ~~training and qualifications of the employees or agents for such~~
35 | ~~designation shall be determined by the county or the~~
36 | ~~municipality.~~ Employees or agents who may be designated as code
37 | enforcement officers include ~~may include, but are not limited~~
38 | ~~to,~~ code inspectors, law enforcement officers, animal control
39 | officers, or firesafety inspectors. Designation as a code
40 | enforcement officer does not provide the code enforcement
41 | officer with the power of arrest or subject the code enforcement
42 | officer to the provisions of ss. 943.085-943.255.

43 | (b) A code enforcement officer must successfully complete
44 | a nationally recognized, 40-hour minimum standards training
45 | course. The course must include either instruction in report
46 | writing, legal aspects of code enforcement, property ownership,
47 | ethics, communication skills, and principles and practices of
48 | code enforcement or instruction in the topics contained in the
49 | fundamentals of code enforcement course provided by the Florida
50 | Association of Code Enforcement. A code enforcement officer who
51 | successfully completes a nationally recognized, 40-hour minimum
52 | standards training course and passes an examination shall be

53 issued a certificate.

54 1. A code enforcement officer hired on or after October 1,
55 2015, has up to 1 year after his or her date of hire to pass the
56 nationally recognized minimum standards training course provided
57 in this paragraph.

58 2. An employee or agent of a county or municipality
59 designated as a code enforcement officer before October 1, 2015,
60 who is not certified as of that date is not required to complete
61 the nationally recognized minimum standards training course.
62 However, such employee or agent must pass a basic skills
63 examination before October 1, 2016. The basic skills examination
64 shall be created and provided by the Florida Association of Code
65 Enforcement and shall assess an employee's or agent's knowledge
66 of chapter 162 and relevant Florida constitutional provisions.

67 (c) A code enforcement officer must successfully complete
68 an additional 16 hours of postcertification training every 2
69 years to maintain state certification. Postcertification
70 training may include instruction in legal aspects of code
71 enforcement, administrative aspects of code enforcement, officer
72 safety, or other relevant courses approved by the Florida
73 Association of Code Enforcement.

74 (d) ~~Nothing in This subsection does not amend, alter, or~~
75 ~~contravene section amends, alters, or contravenes~~ the provisions
76 of any state-administered retirement system or any state-
77 supported retirement system established by general law.

78 Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2015.