

By Senator Simpson

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

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

29 162.21 Enforcement of county or municipal codes or

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30 ordinances; penalties.-

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

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

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

57 2. An employee or agent of a county or municipality
58 designated as a code enforcement officer before October 1, 2015,

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

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

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

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