

By the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; and Senators Clemens, Bullard, and Soto

583-02863-16

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to natural hazards; creating s.  
3 252.3655, F.S.; creating an interagency workgroup to  
4 share information, coordinate ongoing efforts, and  
5 collaborate on initiatives relating to natural  
6 hazards; defining the term "natural hazards";  
7 requiring certain agencies to designate liaisons to  
8 the workgroup; designating the director of the  
9 Division of Emergency Management or his or her  
10 designee as the liaison to and coordinator of the  
11 workgroup; specifying duties and responsibilities of  
12 each liaison and the workgroup; requiring the division  
13 to prepare an annual report; specifying report  
14 requirements; requiring each agency liaison to ensure  
15 that the report is posted on his or her agency's  
16 website; requiring the workgroup to submit the report  
17 to the Governor and the Legislature; providing an  
18 effective date.

19  
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21  
22 Section 1. Section 252.3655, Florida Statutes, is created  
23 to read:

24 252.3655 Natural hazards interagency workgroup.—

25 (1) (a) An interagency workgroup is created for the purpose  
26 of sharing information on the current and potential impacts of  
27 natural hazards throughout the state, coordinating the ongoing  
28 efforts of state agencies in addressing the impacts of natural  
29 hazards, and collaborating on statewide initiatives to address  
30 the impacts of natural hazards. As used in this section, the  
31 term "natural hazards" includes, but is not limited to, extreme

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32 heat, drought, wildfire, sea-level change, high tides, storm  
33 surge, saltwater intrusion, stormwater runoff, flash floods,  
34 inland flooding, and coastal flooding.

35 (b) Each agency within the executive branch of state  
36 government, each water management district, and the Florida  
37 Public Service Commission shall select from within such agency a  
38 person to be designated as the agency liaison to the workgroup.

39 (c) The director of the Division of Emergency Management or  
40 his or her designee shall serve as the liaison to and  
41 coordinator of the workgroup.

42 (d) Each liaison shall provide information from his or her  
43 respective agency on the current and potential impacts of  
44 natural hazards to his or her agency, agency resources available  
45 to mitigate against natural hazards, and efforts made by the  
46 agency to address the impacts of natural hazards.

47 (e) The workgroup shall meet in person or by teleconference  
48 on a quarterly basis to share information, leverage agency  
49 resources, coordinate ongoing efforts, and provide information  
50 for inclusion in the annual progress report submitted pursuant  
51 to subsection (2).

52 (2) (a) On behalf of the workgroup, the Division of  
53 Emergency Management shall prepare an annual progress report on  
54 the implementation of the state's hazard mitigation plan,  
55 developed and submitted in accordance with 42 U.S.C. s. 5165 and  
56 any implementing regulations, as it relates to natural hazards.  
57 At a minimum, the annual progress report must:

58 1. Assess the relevance, level, and significance of current  
59 agency efforts to address the impacts of natural hazards; and

60 2. Strategize and prioritize ongoing efforts to address the

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61 impacts of natural hazards.

62 (b) Each liaison is responsible for ensuring that the  
63 workgroup's annual progress report is posted on his or her  
64 agency's website.

65 (c) By January 1, 2018, and each year thereafter, the  
66 workgroup shall submit the annual progress report to the  
67 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
68 House of Representatives.

69 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.