



412246

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

The Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security (Montford) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (i) of subsection (2) of section 252.35, Florida Statutes, are amended, present paragraph (y) of that subsection is redesignated as paragraph (z), and a new paragraph (y) is added to that subsection, to read:

252.35 Emergency management powers; Division of Emergency Management.—



412246

11 (2) The division is responsible for carrying out the
12 provisions of ss. 252.31-252.90. In performing its duties, the
13 division shall:

14 (a) Prepare a state comprehensive emergency management
15 plan, which shall be integrated into and coordinated with the
16 emergency management plans and programs of the Federal
17 Government. The division must adopt the plan as a rule in
18 accordance with chapter 120. The plan shall be implemented by a
19 continuous, integrated comprehensive emergency management
20 program. The plan must contain provisions to ensure that the
21 state is prepared for emergencies and minor, major, and
22 catastrophic disasters, and the division shall work closely with
23 local governments and agencies and organizations with emergency
24 management responsibilities in preparing and maintaining the
25 plan. The state comprehensive emergency management plan shall be
26 operations oriented and:

27 1. Include an evacuation component that includes specific
28 regional and interregional planning provisions and promotes
29 intergovernmental coordination of evacuation activities. This
30 component must, at a minimum: contain guidelines for lifting
31 tolls on state highways; ensure coordination pertaining to
32 evacuees crossing county lines; set forth procedures for
33 directing people caught on evacuation routes to safe shelter;
34 establish strategies for ensuring sufficient, reasonably priced
35 fueling locations along evacuation routes; and establish
36 policies and strategies for emergency medical evacuations.

37 2. Include a shelter component that includes specific
38 regional and interregional planning provisions and promotes
39 coordination of shelter activities between the public, private,



412246

40 and nonprofit sectors. This component must, at a minimum:
41 contain strategies to ensure the availability of adequate public
42 shelter space in each region of the state; establish strategies
43 for refuge-of-last-resort programs; provide strategies to assist
44 local emergency management efforts to ensure that adequate
45 staffing plans exist for all shelters, including medical and
46 security personnel; provide for a postdisaster communications
47 system for public shelters; establish model shelter guidelines
48 for operations, registration, inventory, power generation
49 capability, information management, and staffing; and set forth
50 policy guidance for sheltering people with special needs or
51 mental illness and individuals experiencing homelessness.

52 3. Include a postdisaster response and recovery component
53 that includes specific regional and interregional planning
54 provisions and promotes intergovernmental coordination of
55 postdisaster response and recovery activities. This component
56 must provide for postdisaster response and recovery strategies
57 according to whether a disaster is minor, major, or
58 catastrophic. The postdisaster response and recovery component
59 must, at a minimum: establish the structure of the state's
60 postdisaster response and recovery organization; establish
61 procedures for activating the state's plan; set forth policies
62 used to guide postdisaster response and recovery activities;
63 describe the chain of command during the postdisaster response
64 and recovery period; describe initial and continuous
65 postdisaster response and recovery actions; identify the roles
66 and responsibilities of each involved agency and organization;
67 provide for a comprehensive communications plan; establish
68 procedures for monitoring mutual aid agreements; provide for



412246

69 rapid impact assessment teams; ensure the availability of an
70 effective statewide urban search and rescue program coordinated
71 with the fire services; ensure the existence of a comprehensive
72 statewide medical care and relief plan administered by the
73 Department of Health; and establish systems for coordinating
74 volunteers and accepting and distributing donated funds and
75 goods.

76 4. Include additional provisions addressing aspects of
77 preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation as determined
78 necessary by the division.

79 5. Address the need for coordinated and expeditious
80 deployment of state resources, including the Florida National
81 Guard. In the case of an imminent major disaster, procedures
82 should address predeployment of the Florida National Guard, and,
83 in the case of an imminent catastrophic disaster, procedures
84 should address predeployment of the Florida National Guard and
85 the United States Armed Forces.

86 6. Establish a system of communications and warning to
87 ensure that the state's population and emergency management
88 agencies are warned of developing emergency situations and can
89 communicate emergency response decisions.

90 7. Establish guidelines and schedules for annual exercises
91 that evaluate the ability of the state and its political
92 subdivisions to respond to minor, major, and catastrophic
93 disasters and support local emergency management agencies. Such
94 exercises shall be coordinated with local governments and, to
95 the extent possible, the Federal Government.

96 8. Assign lead and support responsibilities to state
97 agencies and personnel for emergency support functions and other



412246

98 support activities.

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100 The complete state comprehensive emergency management plan shall
101 be submitted to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
102 House of Representatives, and the Governor on February 1 of
103 every even-numbered year.

104 (i) Institute statewide public awareness programs. This
105 shall include an intensive public educational campaign on
106 emergency preparedness issues, including, but not limited to,
107 the personal responsibility of individual citizens to be self-
108 sufficient for up to 72 hours following a natural or manmade
109 disaster. The public educational campaign shall include relevant
110 information on statewide disaster plans, evacuation routes, fuel
111 suppliers, and shelters. Information on shelters must address
112 the different types of shelters available, such as special needs
113 shelters and shelters that accept individuals with service
114 animals or pets. All educational materials must be available in
115 alternative formats and mediums to ensure that they are
116 available to persons with disabilities.

117 (y) Deploy public or private resources to provide guidance
118 regarding procedures and required documentation to any entity
119 entitled to receive reimbursements for disaster-related
120 expenditures from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in
121 order to ensure that such entities receive the maximum allowable
122 reimbursements.

123 Section 2. Section 252.3551, Florida Statutes, is created
124 to read:

125 252.3551 Registry for homeless shelters and service
126 providers.—The division, in coordination with each local



412246

127 emergency management agency in the state, shall establish and
128 maintain a registry with each homeless shelter and homeless
129 service provider in the state. The purpose of the registry is to
130 help determine the number of individuals experiencing
131 homelessness who may need assistance or shelter during an
132 evacuation.

133 Section 3. Section 252.3568, Florida Statutes, is amended
134 to read:

135 252.3568 Emergency sheltering of persons with service
136 animals or pets.—

137 (1) In accordance with s. 252.35, the division shall
138 address strategies for the evacuation and sheltering of persons
139 with service animals or pets in the shelter component of the
140 state comprehensive emergency management plan and shall include
141 the requirement for similar strategies in its standards and
142 requirements for local comprehensive emergency management plans.
143 The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall assist
144 the division in determining strategies regarding this activity.

145 (2) The division shall publish information on its website
146 regarding policies governing the acceptance of service animals
147 or pets at shelters.

148 Section 4. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section
149 252.38, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

150 252.38 Emergency management powers of political
151 subdivisions.—Safeguarding the life and property of its citizens
152 is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each
153 political subdivision of the state.

154 (1) COUNTIES.—

155 (d) During a declared state or local emergency and upon the



412246

156 request of the director of a local emergency management agency,
157 the district school board or school boards, Florida College
158 System institutions, and state universities in the affected area
159 shall participate in emergency management by providing
160 facilities and necessary personnel to staff such facilities.
161 Each school board, Florida College System institution, and state
162 university providing transportation assistance in an emergency
163 evacuation shall coordinate the use of its vehicles and
164 personnel with the local emergency management agency.

165 Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and paragraph
166 (a) of subsection (4) of section 252.385, Florida Statutes, are
167 amended to read:

168 252.385 Public shelter space.—

169 (2) (a) The division shall administer a program to survey
170 existing schools, state universities, Florida College System
171 institutions ~~community colleges~~, and other state-owned,
172 municipally owned, and county-owned public buildings and any
173 private facility that the owner, in writing, agrees to provide
174 for use as a public hurricane evacuation shelter to identify
175 those that are appropriately designed and located to serve as
176 such shelters. The owners of the facilities must be given the
177 opportunity to participate in the surveys. The state university
178 boards of trustees, district school boards, Florida College
179 System institution ~~community college~~ boards of trustees, and ~~the~~
180 Department of Education are responsible for coordinating and
181 implementing the survey of public schools, state universities,
182 and Florida College System institutions ~~community colleges~~ with
183 the division or the local emergency management agency.

184 (4) (a) Public facilities, including schools, postsecondary



412246

185 education facilities, and other facilities owned or leased by
186 the state or local governments, but excluding hospitals, hospice
187 care facilities, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes,
188 which are suitable for use as public hurricane evacuation
189 shelters shall be made available at the request of the local
190 emergency management agencies. The local emergency management
191 agency shall coordinate with these entities to ensure that
192 designated facilities are ready to activate prior to a specific
193 hurricane or disaster. Such agencies shall coordinate with the
194 appropriate school board, state university, Florida College
195 System institution ~~community college~~, state agency, or local
196 governing board when requesting the use of such facilities as
197 public hurricane evacuation shelters.

198 Section 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

200 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

201 And the title is amended as follows:

202 Delete everything before the enacting clause
203 and insert:

204 A bill to be entitled

205 An act relating to disaster response and preparedness;
206 amending s. 252.35, F.S.; modifying requirements for
207 the state comprehensive emergency management plan and
208 statewide public awareness programs administered by
209 the Division of Emergency Management; requiring the
210 division to deploy resources to provide certain
211 guidance to entities to ensure the receipt of maximum
212 allowable reimbursements from the Federal Government
213 for disaster-related expenditures; creating s.



412246

214 252.3551, F.S.; requiring the division to establish
215 and maintain a registry with homeless shelters and
216 service providers for specified purposes; amending s.
217 252.3568, F.S.; revising requirements for the
218 development of strategies regarding the sheltering of
219 persons with service animals; requiring the division
220 to publish information on its website regarding
221 policies on the acceptance of service animals or pets
222 at shelters; amending s. 252.38, F.S.; requiring that,
223 upon the request of the director of a local emergency
224 management agency, Florida College System institutions
225 and state universities participate in emergency
226 management activities through the provision of
227 facilities and personnel; requiring Florida College
228 System institutions and state universities that
229 provide transportation assistance in an emergency
230 evacuation to coordinate the use of vehicles and
231 personnel with local emergency management agencies;
232 amending s. 252.385, F.S.; updating references to
233 community colleges; providing an effective date.