

**By** the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; and Senators Montford, Taddeo, and Torres

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to disaster response and preparedness;  
3           amending s. 252.35, F.S.; modifying requirements for  
4           the state comprehensive emergency management plan and  
5           statewide public awareness programs administered by  
6           the Division of Emergency Management; requiring the  
7           division to deploy resources to provide certain  
8           guidance to entities to ensure the receipt of maximum  
9           allowable reimbursements from the Federal Government  
10          for disaster-related expenditures; creating s.  
11          252.3551, F.S.; requiring the division to establish  
12          and maintain a registry with homeless shelters and  
13          service providers for specified purposes; amending s.  
14          252.3568, F.S.; revising requirements for the  
15          development of strategies regarding the sheltering of  
16          persons with service animals; requiring the division  
17          to publish information on its website regarding  
18          policies on the acceptance of service animals or pets  
19          at shelters; amending s. 252.38, F.S.; requiring that,  
20          upon the request of the director of a local emergency  
21          management agency, Florida College System institutions  
22          and state universities participate in emergency  
23          management activities through the provision of  
24          facilities and personnel; requiring Florida College  
25          System institutions and state universities that  
26          provide transportation assistance in an emergency  
27          evacuation to coordinate the use of vehicles and  
28          personnel with local emergency management agencies;  
29          amending s. 252.385, F.S.; updating references to

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30 community colleges; providing an effective date.

31  
32 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

33  
34 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (i) of subsection (2) of  
35 section 252.35, Florida Statutes, are amended, present paragraph  
36 (y) of that subsection is redesignated as paragraph (z), and a  
37 new paragraph (y) is added to that subsection, to read:

38 252.35 Emergency management powers; Division of Emergency  
39 Management.—

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

43 (a) Prepare a state comprehensive emergency management  
44 plan, which shall be integrated into and coordinated with the  
45 emergency management plans and programs of the Federal  
46 Government. The division must adopt the plan as a rule in  
47 accordance with chapter 120. The plan shall be implemented by a  
48 continuous, integrated comprehensive emergency management  
49 program. The plan must contain provisions to ensure that the  
50 state is prepared for emergencies and minor, major, and  
51 catastrophic disasters, and the division shall work closely with  
52 local governments and agencies and organizations with emergency  
53 management responsibilities in preparing and maintaining the  
54 plan. The state comprehensive emergency management plan shall be  
55 operations oriented and:

56 1. Include an evacuation component that includes specific  
57 regional and interregional planning provisions and promotes  
58 intergovernmental coordination of evacuation activities. This

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59 component must, at a minimum: contain guidelines for lifting  
60 tolls on state highways; ensure coordination pertaining to  
61 evacuees crossing county lines; set forth procedures for  
62 directing people caught on evacuation routes to safe shelter;  
63 establish strategies for ensuring sufficient, reasonably priced  
64 fueling locations along evacuation routes; and establish  
65 policies and strategies for emergency medical evacuations.

66 2. Include a shelter component that includes specific  
67 regional and interregional planning provisions and promotes  
68 coordination of shelter activities between the public, private,  
69 and nonprofit sectors. This component must, at a minimum:  
70 contain strategies to ensure the availability of adequate public  
71 shelter space in each region of the state; establish strategies  
72 for refuge-of-last-resort programs; provide strategies to assist  
73 local emergency management efforts to ensure that adequate  
74 staffing plans exist for all shelters, including medical and  
75 security personnel; provide for a postdisaster communications  
76 system for public shelters; establish model shelter guidelines  
77 for operations, registration, inventory, power generation  
78 capability, information management, and staffing; and set forth  
79 policy guidance for sheltering people with special needs or  
80 mental illness and individuals experiencing homelessness.

81 3. Include a postdisaster response and recovery component  
82 that includes specific regional and interregional planning  
83 provisions and promotes intergovernmental coordination of  
84 postdisaster response and recovery activities. This component  
85 must provide for postdisaster response and recovery strategies  
86 according to whether a disaster is minor, major, or  
87 catastrophic. The postdisaster response and recovery component

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88 must, at a minimum: establish the structure of the state's  
89 postdisaster response and recovery organization; establish  
90 procedures for activating the state's plan; set forth policies  
91 used to guide postdisaster response and recovery activities;  
92 describe the chain of command during the postdisaster response  
93 and recovery period; describe initial and continuous  
94 postdisaster response and recovery actions; identify the roles  
95 and responsibilities of each involved agency and organization;  
96 provide for a comprehensive communications plan; establish  
97 procedures for monitoring mutual aid agreements; provide for  
98 rapid impact assessment teams; ensure the availability of an  
99 effective statewide urban search and rescue program coordinated  
100 with the fire services; ensure the existence of a comprehensive  
101 statewide medical care and relief plan administered by the  
102 Department of Health; and establish systems for coordinating  
103 volunteers and accepting and distributing donated funds and  
104 goods.

105 4. Include additional provisions addressing aspects of  
106 preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation as determined  
107 necessary by the division.

108 5. Address the need for coordinated and expeditious  
109 deployment of state resources, including the Florida National  
110 Guard. In the case of an imminent major disaster, procedures  
111 should address predeployment of the Florida National Guard, and,  
112 in the case of an imminent catastrophic disaster, procedures  
113 should address predeployment of the Florida National Guard and  
114 the United States Armed Forces.

115 6. Establish a system of communications and warning to  
116 ensure that the state's population and emergency management

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117 agencies are warned of developing emergency situations and can  
118 communicate emergency response decisions.

119 7. Establish guidelines and schedules for annual exercises  
120 that evaluate the ability of the state and its political  
121 subdivisions to respond to minor, major, and catastrophic  
122 disasters and support local emergency management agencies. Such  
123 exercises shall be coordinated with local governments and, to  
124 the extent possible, the Federal Government.

125 8. Assign lead and support responsibilities to state  
126 agencies and personnel for emergency support functions and other  
127 support activities.

128

129 The complete state comprehensive emergency management plan shall  
130 be submitted to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
131 House of Representatives, and the Governor on February 1 of  
132 every even-numbered year.

133 (i) Institute statewide public awareness programs. This  
134 shall include an intensive public educational campaign on  
135 emergency preparedness issues, including, but not limited to,  
136 the personal responsibility of individual citizens to be self-  
137 sufficient for up to 72 hours following a natural or manmade  
138 disaster. The public educational campaign shall include relevant  
139 information on statewide disaster plans, evacuation routes, fuel  
140 suppliers, and shelters. Information on shelters must address  
141 the different types of shelters available, such as special needs  
142 shelters and shelters that accept individuals with service  
143 animals or pets. All educational materials must be available in  
144 alternative formats and mediums to ensure that they are  
145 available to persons with disabilities.

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146 (y) Deploy public or private resources to provide guidance  
147 regarding procedures and required documentation to any entity  
148 entitled to receive reimbursements for disaster-related  
149 expenditures from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in  
150 order to ensure that such entities receive the maximum allowable  
151 reimbursements.

152 Section 2. Section 252.3551, Florida Statutes, is created  
153 to read:

154 252.3551 Registry for homeless shelters and service  
155 providers.—The division, in coordination with each local  
156 emergency management agency in the state, shall establish and  
157 maintain a registry with each homeless shelter and homeless  
158 service provider in the state. The purpose of the registry is to  
159 help determine the number of individuals experiencing  
160 homelessness who may need assistance or shelter during an  
161 evacuation.

162 Section 3. Section 252.3568, Florida Statutes, is amended  
163 to read:

164 252.3568 Emergency sheltering of persons with service  
165 animals or pets.—

166 (1) In accordance with s. 252.35, the division shall  
167 address strategies for the evacuation and sheltering of persons  
168 with service animals or pets in the shelter component of the  
169 state comprehensive emergency management plan and shall include  
170 the requirement for similar strategies in its standards and  
171 requirements for local comprehensive emergency management plans.  
172 The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall assist  
173 the division in determining strategies regarding this activity.

174 (2) The division shall publish information on its website

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175 regarding policies governing the acceptance of service animals  
176 or pets at shelters.

177 Section 4. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section  
178 252.38, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

179 252.38 Emergency management powers of political  
180 subdivisions.—Safeguarding the life and property of its citizens  
181 is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each  
182 political subdivision of the state.

183 (1) COUNTIES.—

184 (d) During a declared state or local emergency and upon the  
185 request of the director of a local emergency management agency,  
186 the district school board or school boards, Florida College  
187 System institutions, and state universities in the affected area  
188 shall participate in emergency management by providing  
189 facilities and necessary personnel to staff such facilities.  
190 Each school board, Florida College System institution, and state  
191 university providing transportation assistance in an emergency  
192 evacuation shall coordinate the use of its vehicles and  
193 personnel with the local emergency management agency.

194 Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and paragraph  
195 (a) of subsection (4) of section 252.385, Florida Statutes, are  
196 amended to read:

197 252.385 Public shelter space.—

198 (2) (a) The division shall administer a program to survey  
199 existing schools, state universities, Florida College System  
200 institutions ~~community colleges~~, and other state-owned,  
201 municipally owned, and county-owned public buildings and any  
202 private facility that the owner, in writing, agrees to provide  
203 for use as a public hurricane evacuation shelter to identify

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204 those that are appropriately designed and located to serve as  
205 such shelters. The owners of the facilities must be given the  
206 opportunity to participate in the surveys. The state university  
207 boards of trustees, district school boards, Florida College  
208 System institution ~~community college~~ boards of trustees, and ~~the~~  
209 Department of Education are responsible for coordinating and  
210 implementing the survey of public schools, state universities,  
211 and Florida College System institutions ~~community colleges~~ with  
212 the division or the local emergency management agency.

213 (4) (a) Public facilities, including schools, postsecondary  
214 education facilities, and other facilities owned or leased by  
215 the state or local governments, but excluding hospitals, hospice  
216 care facilities, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes,  
217 which are suitable for use as public hurricane evacuation  
218 shelters shall be made available at the request of the local  
219 emergency management agencies. The local emergency management  
220 agency shall coordinate with these entities to ensure that  
221 designated facilities are ready to activate prior to a specific  
222 hurricane or disaster. Such agencies shall coordinate with the  
223 appropriate school board, state university, Florida College  
224 System institution ~~community college~~, state agency, or local  
225 governing board when requesting the use of such facilities as  
226 public hurricane evacuation shelters.

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