

HB 1109

2018

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the state emergency communications  
3           and warning system; amending s. 252.35, F.S.;  
4           directing the Division of Emergency Management to  
5           require that a qualified interpreter is included in  
6           certain emergency broadcasts; defining the term  
7           "qualified interpreter"; providing an effective date.  
8

9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
10

11           Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
12   252.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13           252.35   Emergency management powers; Division of Emergency  
14   Management.—

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

18           (a)   Prepare a state comprehensive emergency management  
19   plan, which shall be integrated into and coordinated with the  
20   emergency management plans and programs of the Federal  
21   Government. The division must adopt the plan as a rule in  
22   accordance with chapter 120. The plan shall be implemented by a  
23   continuous, integrated comprehensive emergency management  
24   program. The plan must contain provisions to ensure that the  
25   state is prepared for emergencies and minor, major, and

26 catastrophic disasters, and the division shall work closely with  
27 local governments and agencies and organizations with emergency  
28 management responsibilities in preparing and maintaining the  
29 plan. The state comprehensive emergency management plan shall be  
30 operations oriented and:

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

41 2. Include a shelter component that includes specific  
42 regional and interregional planning provisions and promotes  
43 coordination of shelter activities between the public, private,  
44 and nonprofit sectors. This component must, at a minimum:  
45 contain strategies to ensure the availability of adequate public  
46 shelter space in each region of the state; establish strategies  
47 for refuge-of-last-resort programs; provide strategies to assist  
48 local emergency management efforts to ensure that adequate  
49 staffing plans exist for all shelters, including medical and  
50 security personnel; provide for a postdisaster communications

51 system for public shelters; establish model shelter guidelines  
52 for operations, registration, inventory, power generation  
53 capability, information management, and staffing; and set forth  
54 policy guidance for sheltering people with special needs.

55 3. Include a postdisaster response and recovery component  
56 that includes specific regional and interregional planning  
57 provisions and promotes intergovernmental coordination of  
58 postdisaster response and recovery activities. This component  
59 must provide for postdisaster response and recovery strategies  
60 according to whether a disaster is minor, major, or  
61 catastrophic. The postdisaster response and recovery component  
62 must, at a minimum: establish the structure of the state's  
63 postdisaster response and recovery organization; establish  
64 procedures for activating the state's plan; set forth policies  
65 used to guide postdisaster response and recovery activities;  
66 describe the chain of command during the postdisaster response  
67 and recovery period; describe initial and continuous  
68 postdisaster response and recovery actions; identify the roles  
69 and responsibilities of each involved agency and organization;  
70 provide for a comprehensive communications plan; establish  
71 procedures for monitoring mutual aid agreements; provide for  
72 rapid impact assessment teams; ensure the availability of an  
73 effective statewide urban search and rescue program coordinated  
74 with the fire services; ensure the existence of a comprehensive  
75 statewide medical care and relief plan administered by the

76 Department of Health; and establish systems for coordinating  
77 volunteers and accepting and distributing donated funds and  
78 goods.

79 4. Include additional provisions addressing aspects of  
80 preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation as determined  
81 necessary by the division.

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

89 6. Establish a system of communications and warning to  
90 ensure that the state's population and emergency management  
91 agencies are warned of developing emergency situations and can  
92 communicate emergency response decisions. Such system shall  
93 require that a qualified interpreter is included in any  
94 televised broadcast of a developing weather emergency. As used  
95 in this subparagraph, the term "qualified interpreter" means a  
96 person who is certified by the National Registry of Interpreters  
97 for the Deaf or the Florida Registry of Interpreters for the  
98 Deaf.

99 7. Establish guidelines and schedules for annual exercises  
100 that evaluate the ability of the state and its political

101 subdivisions to respond to minor, major, and catastrophic  
102 disasters and support local emergency management agencies. Such  
103 exercises shall be coordinated with local governments and, to  
104 the extent possible, the Federal Government.

105 8. Assign lead and support responsibilities to state  
106 agencies and personnel for emergency support functions and other  
107 support activities.

108

109 The complete state comprehensive emergency management plan shall  
110 be submitted to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
111 House of Representatives, and the Governor on February 1 of  
112 every even-numbered year.

113 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.