

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Florida Disaster Volunteer
 3 Leave Act; amending s. 110.120, F.S.; providing and
 4 revising definitions; providing that certain employees
 5 may be granted a leave of absence with pay for a
 6 specified period of time under certain circumstances;
 7 providing requirements for such leave to be granted;
 8 providing restrictions on the location an employee may
 9 provide disaster-related services; providing an
 10 exception; requiring certain documentation from an
 11 employee; providing an effective date.

12
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 14

15 Section 1. Section 110.120, Florida Statutes, is amended
 16 to read:

17 110.120 Administrative leave for disaster service
 18 volunteers.—

19 (1) SHORT TITLE.—This section shall be known and may be
 20 cited as the "Florida Disaster Volunteer Leave Act."

21 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term
 22 ~~following terms shall apply:~~

23 (a) "State agency" means any official, officer,
 24 commission, board, authority, council, committee, or department
 25 of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of state

26 | government.

27 | (b) "Disaster" means an event that has resulted in a state
 28 | of emergency as declared by the Governor through an executive
 29 | order under chapter 252 ~~includes disasters designated at level~~
 30 | ~~II and above in the American National Red Cross regulations and~~
 31 | ~~procedures.~~

32 | (c) "Disaster area" means a location under a state of
 33 | emergency as declared by the Governor through an executive order
 34 | under chapter 252.

35 | (d) "Volunteer" means a person who has entered into an
 36 | agreement with a nonprofit organization that is exempt from
 37 | federal income tax under s. 501(c)(3) or s. 501(c)(4) of the
 38 | Internal Revenue Code to provide nonpaid services to a disaster
 39 | area for disaster response or recovery.

40 | (3) LEAVE OF ABSENCE.—An employee of a state agency who is
 41 | a ~~certified disaster service volunteer of the American Red Cross~~
 42 | may be granted a leave of absence with pay for not more than 120
 43 | working hours ~~15 working days~~ in any 12-month period to provide
 44 | ~~participate in specialized disaster relief services for the~~
 45 | ~~American Red Cross~~. Such leave of absence may be granted upon
 46 | the request of the employee ~~American Red Cross~~ and upon the
 47 | approval of the employee's employing agency after the agency
 48 | verifies the employee's volunteer status. An employee granted
 49 | leave under this section is ~~shall not be deemed to be an~~
 50 | employee of the state for purposes of workers' compensation.

HB 1181

2020

51 Leave under this section ~~act~~ may be granted only to provide
52 volunteer ~~for~~ services related to a disaster occurring within
53 the boundaries of the state ~~of Florida~~, except that, with the
54 approval of the head of the employee's employing agency ~~Governor~~
55 ~~and Cabinet~~, leave may be granted to provide volunteer ~~for~~
56 services in response to a disaster occurring within the
57 boundaries of the states or territories of the United States. An
58 employee granted leave under this section must provide to the
59 head of his or her employing agency, at a minimum, the following
60 documentation showing he or she completed volunteer services:

61 (a) Documentation specifying the time period that the
62 employee provided services as a volunteer.

63 (b) A description of the disaster response or recovery
64 services that the employee provided.

65 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.