

By the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; and Senator Collins

583-02613-24

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to qualifications for county emergency
3 management directors; amending s. 252.38, F.S.;
4 requiring county emergency management directors to
5 meet specified qualifications; requiring such
6 directors to meet such qualifications by a specified
7 date; providing an effective date.

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

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11 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
12 252.38, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13 252.38 Emergency management powers of political
14 subdivisions.—Safeguarding the life and property of its citizens
15 is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each
16 political subdivision of the state.

17 (1) COUNTIES.—

18 (b)1. Each county emergency management agency created and
19 established pursuant to ss. 252.31-252.90 shall have a director.
20 The director must meet the following minimum training and
21 education qualifications:

22 a. A bachelor's degree.

23 b. Six years of verifiable experience in emergency
24 services, emergency management, emergency planning, law
25 enforcement, or firefighting services, of which at least 3 years
26 must be supervisory experience in emergency management,
27 response, or operations for a county, a municipality, the state,
28 or the Federal Government.

29 c. A master's degree in emergency preparedness or

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30 management, business or public administration, communications,
31 finance, homeland security, public health, criminal justice,
32 meteorology, or environmental science may be substituted for 2
33 years of experience of those required in sub-subparagraph b. but
34 not for the required years of supervisory experience.

35 d. Completion of the following National Incident Management
36 System courses, or equivalent courses established by the Federal
37 Emergency Management Agency through the Emergency Management
38 Institute:

39 (I) ICS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System;

40 (II) ICS-200: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action
41 Incidents;

42 (III) IS-700.b: National Incident Management System, An
43 Introduction;

44 (IV) IS-703.b: NIMS Resource Management; and

45 (V) IS-800.d: National Response Framework, An Introduction.

46
47 A valid accreditation as a Certified Master Exercise
48 Practitioner by the Federal Emergency Management Agency,
49 Certified Emergency Manager, or Florida Professional Emergency
50 Manager will satisfy the requirements of this sub-subparagraph.

51 e. A valid driver license. If the license is not a Florida
52 driver license, the director must obtain a Florida driver
53 license within 30 days after being appointed as director.

54 ~~2. established in a job description approved by the county.~~
55 The director shall be appointed by the board of county
56 commissioners or the chief administrative officer of the county,
57 as described in chapter 125 or the county charter, if
58 applicable, to serve at the pleasure of the appointing

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59 authority, in conformance with applicable resolutions,
60 ordinances, and laws.

61 3. A county constitutional officer, or an employee of a
62 county constitutional officer, may be appointed as director
63 following prior notification to the division.

64 4. Each board of county commissioners shall promptly inform
65 the division of the appointment of the director and other
66 personnel.

67 5. Each director has direct responsibility for the
68 organization, administration, and operation of the county
69 emergency management agency. The director shall coordinate
70 emergency management activities, services, and programs within
71 the county and shall serve as liaison to the division and other
72 local emergency management agencies and organizations.

73 Section 2. A county emergency management director who does
74 not satisfy the training or certification requirements of
75 section 1 of this act as of July 1, 2024, shall have until June
76 30, 2026, to complete such requirements.

77 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.