

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2     An act relating to emergencies; amending s. 83.63,  
3     F.S.; requiring certain tenants to be given specified  
4     opportunities or notice; amending s. 101.733, F.S.;  
5     removing provisions relating to an elections emergency  
6     contingency plan; creating s. 101.7325, F.S.;  
7     authorizing certain supervisors of elections to  
8     request authority to take specified actions under  
9     certain circumstances; requiring certain requests to  
10    be submitted in a specified manner; requiring the  
11    Secretary of State to approve or deny such requests  
12    within a specified timeframe; providing criteria to be  
13    considered when determining if a request should be  
14    approved or denied; requiring certain requests to be  
15    deemed approved; requiring such approvals and denials  
16    to be posted in a specified manner; requiring such  
17    supervisors to use specified methods to inform  
18    affected voters of election changes; creating s.  
19    101.735, F.S.; requiring the Division of Elections to  
20    develop a statewide election emergency contingency  
21    plan for a specified purpose; requiring such plan to  
22    include certain procedures; requiring supervisors of  
23    elections to develop a local election emergency  
24    contingency plan in consultation with certain  
25    officials; requiring the plan to be submitted to the

26        division for approval by a certain date; requiring the  
27        division to make a certain determination by a  
28        specified date; requiring the division to adopt rules;  
29        creating s. 101.736, F.S.; defining the term "tabletop  
30        exercise"; requiring the Secretary of State, in  
31        coordination with supervisors of elections, to develop  
32        an election emergency training program; requiring the  
33        Secretary of State to convene a workgroup for a  
34        certain purpose by a specified date of every odd-  
35        numbered year; providing requirements for the  
36        workgroup; requiring the results of the workgroup to  
37        be used in a specified manner; creating s. 163.31795,  
38        F.S.; defining the terms "cumulative substantial  
39        improvement period" and "local government"; requiring  
40        local governments that are participating in a  
41        specified insurance program to adopt certain  
42        cumulative substantial improvement periods; amending  
43        s. 163.31801, F.S.; prohibiting certain entities from  
44        assessing impact fees for specified replacement  
45        structures; providing an exception; providing  
46        construction; amending s. 193.155, F.S.; providing  
47        that repair and maintenance of specified property is  
48        not a change, an addition, or an improvement under  
49        certain circumstances; revising the square footage  
50        limitations for certain changes, additions, and

51        improvements to damaged property; providing  
52        construction; amending s. 215.559, F.S.; removing a  
53        reference to a certain report; revising public  
54        hurricane shelter funding prioritization requirements  
55        for the Division of Emergency Management; amending s.  
56        250.375, F.S.; authorizing certain servicemembers to  
57        provide medical care in specified circumstances;  
58        amending s. 252.35, F.S.; revising requirements for  
59        the state comprehensive emergency management plan;  
60        requiring such plan to include an update on the status  
61        of certain emergency management capabilities;  
62        requiring the division to collaborate with the  
63        Department of Health; revising responsibilities of the  
64        division; requiring the division to develop a certain  
65        template; revising the purpose of certain training  
66        programs; requiring the division to set the minimum  
67        number of training hours that specified individuals  
68        must complete biennially; authorizing such training to  
69        be provided by certain entities; removing a specified  
70        reporting requirement; amending s. 252.355, F.S.;  
71        authorizing the Department of Veterans' Affairs to  
72        provide certain information to specified clients or  
73        their caregivers; requiring the Florida Housing  
74        Finance Corporation to enter into memoranda of  
75        understanding with specified agencies for a certain

76        purpose; providing that specified persons may use  
77        special needs shelters in certain circumstances;  
78        amending s. 252.359, F.S.; revising the manner in  
79        which the division facilitates transportation and  
80        distribution of essentials before and after an  
81        emergency; requiring local law enforcement to  
82        cooperate with the division to ensure the availability  
83        of essentials; providing that certain entities have  
84        specified responsibilities determining roadways;  
85        amending s. 252.3611, F.S.; directing specified  
86        entities to submit specified contracts and reports to  
87        the Legislature under specified conditions; requiring  
88        such contracts to be posted on a specified secure  
89        contract system; requiring the division to report  
90        annually to the Legislature specified information on  
91        expenditures relating to emergencies; providing  
92        requirements for such report; amending s. 252.363,  
93        F.S.; providing for the tolling and extension of  
94        certain determinations; providing for retroactive  
95        application; amending s. 252.365, F.S.; requiring  
96        agency heads to notify the Governor and the division  
97        of the person designated as the emergency coordination  
98        officer annually by a specified date; amending s.  
99        252.37, F.S.; requiring the division to notify the  
100        Legislature of its intent to accept or apply for

101 federal funds under certain circumstances; requiring  
102 the division to take steps to maximize the  
103 availability and expedite the distribution of  
104 financial assistance from the Federal Government to  
105 state and local agencies; requiring that such steps  
106 include the standardization and streamlining of the  
107 application process for federal financial assistance  
108 and the provision of assistance to applicants for a  
109 specified purpose; requiring the division to use  
110 certain federal funds to implement such requirements;  
111 creating s. 252.3713, F.S.; requiring the division to  
112 administer the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program;  
113 authorizing the division to retain a specified  
114 percentage of the funds for use within this state;  
115 requiring the remaining percentage to be distributed  
116 for use by certain recipients; authorizing  
117 subrecipients to make a certain election for a  
118 specified use; requiring the consideration of certain  
119 projects; authorizing the division to coordinate with  
120 specified entities under certain circumstances;  
121 requiring the division to ensure that certain  
122 requirements are met and certain projects are funded;  
123 authorizing fiscally constrained counties to request  
124 that the division administer the grant for such a  
125 county; authorizing such counties to request certain

126 assistance from the division; requiring the division  
127 to adopt rules; amending s. 252.373, F.S.; conforming  
128 a cross-reference; amending s. 252.38, F.S.; requiring  
129 political subdivisions to annually provide specified  
130 notification to the division before a specified date;  
131 creating s. 252.381, F.S.; requiring counties and  
132 municipalities to post certain information on their  
133 websites; requiring counties and municipalities to  
134 develop a poststorm permitting plan; providing  
135 requirements for such plan; requiring counties and  
136 municipalities to publish on their websites a  
137 specified storm recovery guide and updates to such  
138 guide; prohibiting certain counties and municipalities  
139 from increasing building permit or inspection fees  
140 within a specified timeframe; requiring certain  
141 counties and municipalities to use their best efforts  
142 to open a permitting office for a minimum number of  
143 hours per week; requiring entities to allow  
144 individuals to receive certain letters electronically  
145 on or before a specified date; amending s. 252.385,  
146 F.S.; revising reporting requirements for the  
147 division; revising requirements for a specified list;  
148 requiring the Department of Health and the Agency for  
149 Persons with Disabilities to assist the division with  
150 certain determinations; creating s. 252.421, F.S.;

151        requiring the division to coordinate with certain  
152        counties for a specified purpose; creating s. 252.422,  
153        F.S.; defining the term "impacted local government";  
154        prohibiting impacted local governments from proposing  
155        or adopting certain moratoriums, amendments, or  
156        procedures for a specified timeframe; authorizing the  
157        enforcement of certain amendments, plans, permits, and  
158        orders under certain circumstances; authorizing any  
159        person to file suit to enforce specified provisions;  
160        authorizing counties and municipalities to request a  
161        specified determination by a court; prohibiting  
162        counties and municipalities from taking certain  
163        actions until the court has issued a preliminary or  
164        final judgment; requiring plaintiffs to provide  
165        certain notification before filing suit; requiring  
166        impacted local governments to take certain actions  
167        upon receipt of such notification or a suit may be  
168        filed; providing for reasonable attorney fees and  
169        costs; authorizing the use of a certain summary  
170        procedure; requiring the court to advance the cause on  
171        the calendar; creating s. 252.505, F.S.; requiring  
172        certain contracts to include a specified provision;  
173        defining the term "emergency recovery period";  
174        amending s. 373.423, F.S.; requiring the Department of  
175        Environmental Protection to submit a Flood Inventory

176        and Restoration Report to the division by a specified  
177        date; requiring the department to work with specified  
178        entities to compile information for the report;  
179        providing specifications for the report; requiring the  
180        owner of certain infrastructure to submit certain  
181        information to the department; requiring the  
182        department to review and update the report biannually;  
183        requiring the department to submit an updated report  
184        to the division by a specified date; amending s.  
185        400.063, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending  
186        s. 403.7071, F.S.; providing that local governments  
187        are authorized and encouraged to add certain addendums  
188        to certain contracts and agreements; requiring  
189        counties and municipalities to apply to the department  
190        for authorization to designate at least one debris  
191        management site; authorizing municipalities to apply  
192        jointly with a county or adjacent municipality for  
193        authorization of a debris management site if such  
194        entities approve a memorandum of understanding;  
195        providing requirements for such memorandum; creating  
196        s. 489.1132, F.S.; providing definitions; requiring a  
197        hurricane preparedness plan to be available for  
198        inspection at certain worksites; requiring certain  
199        equipment to be secured in a specified manner no later  
200        than 24 hours before the impacts of a hurricane are



201        anticipated to begin; providing penalties; requiring  
202        the Florida Building Commission to establish specified  
203        best practices and report findings to the Legislature  
204        by a specified date; amending s. 553.902, F.S.;  
205        revising the definition of the term "renovated  
206        building"; requiring the division to consult with  
207        specified entities to develop certain recommendations  
208        and provide a report to the Legislature by a specified  
209        date; prohibiting certain counties from proposing or  
210        adopting certain moratoriums, amendments, or  
211        procedures for a specified timeframe; declaring that  
212        such moratoriums, amendments, or procedures are null  
213        and void; providing for retroactive application;  
214        authorizing the enforcement of certain amendments,  
215        plans, permits, and orders under certain  
216        circumstances; authorizing certain residents and  
217        business owners to bring a civil action for  
218        declaratory and injunctive relief against a county or  
219        municipality that violates specified provisions;  
220        providing for reasonable attorney fees and costs under  
221        specified circumstances; providing for future  
222        expiration; providing a directive to the Division of  
223        Law Revision; providing an effective date.

224  
225    Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

226  
227       **Section 1. Section 83.63, Florida Statutes, is amended to**  
228 **read:**

229       83.63 Casualty damage.—If the premises are damaged or  
230 destroyed other than by the wrongful or negligent acts of the  
231 tenant so that the enjoyment of the premises is substantially  
232 impaired;~~7~~

233       (1) The tenant may terminate the rental agreement and  
234 immediately vacate the premises. The tenant may vacate the part  
235 of the premises rendered unusable by the casualty, in which case  
236 the tenant's liability for rent shall be reduced by the fair  
237 rental value of that part of the premises damaged or destroyed.  
238 If the rental agreement is terminated, the landlord shall comply  
239 with s. 83.49(3).

240       (2) The tenant must be given:

241       (a) The opportunity to collect his or her belongings from  
242 the premises when it is safe to do so; or

243       (b) Notice of the date by which the tenant will be able to  
244 collect his or her belongings from the premises, which must  
245 occur within a reasonable time.

246       **Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 101.733, Florida**  
247 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

248       101.733 Emergency suspension or delay of an election  
249 ~~emergency; purpose; elections emergency contingency plan.—~~  
250 Because of the existing and continuing possibility of an

251 emergency or common disaster occurring before or during a  
252 regularly scheduled or special election, and in order to ensure  
253 maximum citizen participation in the electoral process and  
254 provide a safe and orderly procedure for persons seeking to  
255 exercise their right to vote, generally to minimize to whatever  
256 degree possible a person's exposure to danger during declared  
257 states of emergency, and to protect the integrity of the  
258 electoral process, it is hereby found and declared to be  
259 necessary to designate a procedure for the emergency suspension  
260 or delay and rescheduling of elections.

261 ~~(3) The Division of Elections of the Department of State~~  
262 ~~shall adopt, by rule, an elections emergency contingency plan,~~  
263 ~~which shall contain goals and policies that give specific~~  
264 ~~direction to state and local elections officials when an~~  
265 ~~election has been suspended or delayed due to an emergency. The~~  
266 ~~contingency plan shall be statewide in scope and shall address,~~  
267 ~~but not be limited to, the following concerns:~~

268 ~~(a) Providing a procedure for state and local elections~~  
269 ~~officials to follow when an election has been suspended or~~  
270 ~~delayed to ensure notice of the suspension or delay to the~~  
271 ~~proper authorities, the electorate, the communications media,~~  
272 ~~poll workers, and the custodians of polling places.~~

273 ~~(b) Providing a procedure for the orderly conduct of a~~  
274 ~~rescheduled election, whether municipal, county, district, or~~  
275 ~~statewide in scope; coordinating those efforts with the~~

~~appropriate elections official, and the members of the governing body holding such election, if appropriate; and working with the appropriate emergency management officials in determining the safety of existing polling places or designating additional polling places.~~

~~(c) Providing a procedure for the release and certification of election returns to the department for elections suspended or delayed and subsequently rescheduled under the provisions of ss. 101.731-101.74.~~

**Section 3. Section 101.7325, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

101.7325 Election emergency.—

(1) If the Governor declares a state of emergency for a natural emergency, as defined in s. 252.34, fewer than 60 days before an election, the supervisor of a county designated as affected by such declaration may request approval from the Secretary of State to take any of the following actions necessary while the declaration continues to designate the area as an affected area:

(a) Notwithstanding the designation deadline in s. 101.657(1)(b), change the location of designated early voting sites. The request must identify the new address of each early voting site and the hours during which early voting will occur at each site.

(b) Notwithstanding the early voting site locations

301 authorized in s. 101.657(1), request early voting sites at  
302 locations not specifically authorized by law. The request must  
303 set forth sufficient facts to establish that a sufficient number  
304 of early voting sites that were designated, or that may be  
305 designated under paragraph (a), are unavailable due to the  
306 emergency. For purposes of this paragraph, reasons that early  
307 voting sites may be unavailable include, but are not limited to,  
308 the site is no longer safe for occupancy, the site is located in  
309 an area that is currently dangerous to travel to and from, or  
310 the site does not have adequate utilities. An early voting site  
311 designated under this paragraph must, to the maximum extent  
312 practicable, be geographically located so as to provide all  
313 voters in the area with an equal opportunity to cast a ballot.

314 (c) Notwithstanding s. 101.657(1)(d), allow early voting  
315 to occur the day before an election.

316 (d) Notwithstanding ss. 101.657 and 101.71, allow election  
317 day voting at early voting sites. The request must set forth  
318 sufficient facts to establish that a sufficient number of early  
319 voting sites that were designated, or that may be designated  
320 under paragraph (a), are unavailable due to the emergency. For  
321 purposes of this paragraph, reasons that a polling place may be  
322 unavailable include, but are not limited to, the polling place  
323 is no longer safe for occupancy, the polling place is located in  
324 an area that is currently dangerous to travel to and from, or  
325 the polling place does not have adequate utilities. An early

326 voting site designated as a polling place under this paragraph  
327 must, to the maximum extent practicable, be geographically  
328 located so as to provide all voters in the area with an equal  
329 opportunity to cast a ballot.

330 (e) Notwithstanding the designation deadline in s.  
331 101.69(2)(b), designate additional secure ballot intake  
332 stations. The request must identify the location of the  
333 additional secure ballot intake stations.

334 (f) Send a vote-by-mail ballot to a voter who has  
335 requested such ballot:

336 1. By forwardable mail or to an address other than the  
337 address listed for the voter in the statewide voter registration  
338 system.

339 2. Notwithstanding s. 101.62(1)(a) and (b), without the  
340 voter's written request or if a written request is not signed.

341 3. Notwithstanding s. 101.62(3)(c), as soon as  
342 practicable.

343 (g) If the supervisor determines that a poll worker  
344 shortage exists, appoint poll workers who have not met the  
345 training requirements in s. 102.014. However, such poll workers  
346 must have received the required training within the previous 2  
347 years.

348 (h) Notwithstanding s. 102.012(2), appoint inspectors and  
349 clerks who are registered qualified electors of this state but  
350 who are not registered qualified electors of the applicable

351 county.

352 (2) Each supervisor who submits a request pursuant to  
353 subsection (1) must, to the extent practicable, submit all such  
354 requests at once. Supervisors may submit revised or additional  
355 requests should the emergency situation in his or her affected  
356 county change. The Secretary of State must approve or deny the  
357 requests in writing within 36 hours after receipt. In deciding  
358 whether to approve the requests, the Secretary of State must  
359 consider the severity of the natural emergency, the damage to  
360 the impacted area, the extent of voter displacement, whether  
361 voters in an affected area have an equal opportunity to cast a  
362 ballot, and any factor that could impede voter access to polling  
363 places, early voting sites, or supervisor offices. If the  
364 Secretary of State fails to approve or deny a request within the  
365 36-hour period, the request is deemed approved. The Secretary of  
366 State must publish each approval and denial on the department's  
367 website.

368 (3) The supervisor must publish each approval and denial  
369 pursuant to subsection (2) on its website and must also use  
370 print and broadcast media, social media, Internet websites,  
371 polling place signage, and any other method necessary to inform  
372 affected voters of any changes to elections made under this  
373 section.

374 **Section 4. Section 101.735, Florida Statutes, is created**  
375 **to read:**

376        101.735 Election emergency contingency plans.—

377        (1) The division shall adopt by rule a statewide election  
378 emergency contingency plan to provide specific direction in the  
379 event an emergency occurs preceding or during an election. The  
380 contingency plan shall include, at minimum, procedures to:

381        (a) Ensure that necessary parties are notified of any  
382 changes impacting an election that has been suspended, delayed,  
383 rescheduled, or otherwise affected by an emergency. As used in  
384 this paragraph, necessary parties include proper authorities,  
385 the electorate, the media, poll workers, and polling place  
386 custodians.

387        (b) Ensure that an election that has been suspended,  
388 delayed, rescheduled, or otherwise affected by an emergency is  
389 conducted in a safe and orderly manner. The procedures must  
390 include a plan to coordinate the actions of the division,  
391 supervisors, county canvassing boards, and, if appropriate,  
392 members of the governing body holding such election.

393        (c) Determine the safety of existing polling places or  
394 designate additional polling places in coordination with the  
395 appropriate emergency management officials.

396        (d) Release and certify returns to the division for  
397 elections suspended, delayed, rescheduled, or otherwise affected  
398 by an emergency.

399        (e) Coordinate efforts between supervisors in affected and  
400 unaffected counties to ensure voting opportunities for affected



401 voters, including ensuring the delivery of vote-by-mail ballots  
402 to law enforcement officers, military personnel, first  
403 responders, and utility line workers.

404 (2) Each supervisor shall develop, in consultation with  
405 local emergency management officials, a local election emergency  
406 contingency plan. The contingency plan must be submitted to the  
407 division for approval by May 1 of every odd-numbered year. The  
408 division must determine whether the local election emergency  
409 contingency plan is sufficient no later than May 30. The  
410 division shall adopt rules to implement this subsection,  
411 including the creation of standard criteria for determining the  
412 sufficiency of local election emergency contingency plans.

413 **Section 5. Section 101.736, Florida Statutes, is created**  
414 **to read:**

415 101.736 Election emergency training; best practices.—

416 (1) As used in this section, the term "tabletop exercise"  
417 means a session in which participants are guided through  
418 possible scenarios and discuss their roles and responsibilities  
419 if such a scenario occurs, as well as how they would respond to  
420 such a scenario.

421 (2) The Secretary of State, in coordination with  
422 supervisors, shall develop an election emergency training  
423 program. The training is required for newly elected or appointed  
424 supervisors and any critical staff, as determined by a  
425 supervisor. The Secretary of State shall update such training at

426 least once every 4 years.

427 (3) By June 1 of every odd-numbered year, the Secretary of  
428 State shall convene a workgroup to create a list of best  
429 practices for conducting an election during an emergency.

430 (a) The workgroup must include at least 10 current  
431 supervisors.

432 (b) The workgroup must participate in tabletop exercises  
433 involving election emergencies.

434 (4) Using the list created in subsection (3), the  
435 Secretary of State must:

436 (a) Incorporate practices applicable to all counties into  
437 the statewide election emergency contingency plan under s.  
438 101.735(1).

439 (b) Recommend practices applicable to specific counties to  
440 the applicable supervisor for inclusion in the supervisor's  
441 local election emergency contingency plan under s. 101.735(2).

442 **Section 6. Section 163.31795, Florida Statutes, is created**  
443 **to read:**

444 163.31795 Participation in the National Flood Insurance  
445 Program.—

446 (1) For purposes of this section, the term:

447 (a) "Cumulative substantial improvement period" means the  
448 period during which an aggregate of improvements or repairs are  
449 considered for purposes of determining substantial improvement  
450 as defined in s. 161.54(12).

451        (b) "Local government" has the same meaning as in s.  
452        163.2514.

453        (2) A local government that is participating in the  
454        National Flood Insurance Program may not adopt a cumulative  
455        substantial improvement period that is longer than 1 year.

456        **Section 7. Subsection (14) is added to section 163.31801,**  
457        **Florida Statutes, to read:**

458        163.31801 Impact fees; short title; intent; minimum  
459        requirements; audits; challenges.—

460        (14) A local government, school district, or special  
461        district may not assess an impact fee for the reconstruction or  
462        replacement of a previously existing structure if the  
463        replacement structure is of the same land use as the original  
464        structure and does not increase the impact on public facilities  
465        beyond that of the original structure. However, if the  
466        replacement structure increases the demand on public facilities  
467        due to a significant increase in size, intensity, or capacity of  
468        use, a local government, school district, or special district  
469        may assess an impact fee in an amount proportional to the  
470        difference in the demand between the replacement structure and  
471        the original structure. Any such fee must be reasonably  
472        connected to, or have a rational nexus with, the need for  
473        additional capital facilities and the increased impact generated  
474        by the reconstruction or replacement of a previously existing  
475        structure.

476       **Section 8. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (4) of**  
477 **section 193.155, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

478       193.155 Homestead assessments.—Homestead property shall be  
479 assessed at just value as of January 1, 1994. Property receiving  
480 the homestead exemption after January 1, 1994, shall be assessed  
481 at just value as of January 1 of the year in which the property  
482 receives the exemption unless the provisions of subsection (8)  
483 apply.

484       (4)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) and s. 193.624,  
485 changes, additions, or improvements to homestead property shall  
486 be assessed at just value as of the first January 1 after the  
487 changes, additions, or improvements are substantially completed.  
488 Maintenance or repair of the homestead property, including roof  
489 or window replacement, may not be considered to be a change, an  
490 addition, or an improvement under this subsection.

491       (b)1. Changes, additions, or improvements that replace all  
492 or a portion of homestead property, including ancillary  
493 improvements, damaged or destroyed by misfortune or calamity  
494 shall be assessed upon substantial completion as provided in  
495 this paragraph. Such assessment must be calculated using the  
496 homestead property's assessed value as of the January 1  
497 immediately before the date on which the damage or destruction  
498 was sustained, subject to the assessment limitations in  
499 subsections (1) and (2), when:

500       a. The square footage of the homestead property as changed

501 or improved does not exceed 130 ~~110~~ percent of the square  
502 footage of the homestead property before the damage or  
503 destruction; or

504 b. The total square footage of the homestead property as  
505 changed or improved does not exceed 2,000 ~~1,500~~ square feet.

506  
507 When a homestead property is elevated above the base flood  
508 elevation within a special flood hazard area, the square footage  
509 underneath the homestead property that is used only for parking,  
510 storage, or access is not included when determining the total  
511 square footage of the homestead property as changed or improved  
512 under this subparagraph.

513 2. The homestead property's assessed value must be  
514 increased by the just value of that portion of the changed or  
515 improved homestead property which is in excess of 130 ~~110~~  
516 percent of the square footage of the homestead property before  
517 the damage or destruction or of that portion exceeding 2,000  
518 ~~1,500~~ square feet.

519 3. Homestead property damaged or destroyed by misfortune  
520 or calamity which, after being changed or improved, has a square  
521 footage of less than 100 percent of the homestead property's  
522 total square footage before the damage or destruction shall be  
523 assessed pursuant to subsection (5).

524 4. Changes, additions, or improvements assessed pursuant  
525 to this paragraph must be reassessed pursuant to subsection (1)

in subsequent years. This paragraph applies to changes, additions, or improvements commenced within 5 years after the January 1 following the damage or destruction of the homestead.

**Section 9. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 215.559, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

215.559 Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program.—A Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program is established in the Division of Emergency Management.

(1) The Legislature shall annually appropriate \$10 million of the moneys authorized for appropriation under s. 215.555(7)(c) from the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund to the division for the purposes set forth in this section. Of the amount:

(b) Three million dollars in funds shall be used to construct or retrofit facilities used as public hurricane shelters. Each year the division shall prioritize the use of these funds for projects included in the annual report ~~of the Shelter Development Report~~ prepared in accordance with s. 252.385(3). The division shall ~~must~~ give funding priority to projects located in counties ~~regional planning council regions~~ that have shelter deficits, projects that are publicly owned, other than schools, and ~~to~~ projects that maximize the use of state funds.

**Section 10. Section 250.375, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

CS/CS/CS/HB 1535

2025

250.375 Medical officer authorization.—A servicemember  
trained to provide medical care who is serving under the  
direction of the Florida National Guard State Surgeon and is  
assigned to a military duty position and authorized by the  
Florida National Guard to provide medical care within the scope  
of the servicemember's professional licensure by virtue of such  
duty position may provide such medical care to military  
personnel and civilians within this state ~~physician who holds an~~  
~~active license to practice medicine in any state, a United~~  
~~States territory, or the District of Columbia,~~ while serving as  
~~a medical officer~~ with or in support of the Florida National  
Guard, pursuant to federal or state orders, ~~may practice~~  
~~medicine on military personnel or civilians~~ during an emergency  
or declared disaster ~~or during federal military training.~~

**Section 11. Paragraphs (y) through (dd) of subsection (2)  
of section 252.35, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
paragraphs (x) through (cc), respectively, and paragraphs (a),  
(c), and (n) and present paragraph (x) of that subsection are  
amended to read:**

252.35 Emergency management powers; Division of Emergency  
Management.—

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

(a) Prepare a state comprehensive emergency management

576 plan, which must ~~shall~~ be integrated into and coordinated with  
577 the emergency management plans and programs of the Federal  
578 Government. The division shall adopt the plan as a rule in  
579 accordance with chapter 120. The plan must be implemented by a  
580 continuous, integrated comprehensive emergency management  
581 program. The plan must contain provisions to ensure that the  
582 state is prepared for emergencies and minor, major, and  
583 catastrophic disasters, and the division shall work closely with  
584 local governments and agencies and organizations with emergency  
585 management responsibilities in preparing and maintaining the  
586 plan. The state comprehensive emergency management plan must be  
587 operations oriented and:

588 1. Include an evacuation component that includes specific  
589 regional and interregional planning provisions and promotes  
590 intergovernmental coordination of evacuation activities. This  
591 component must, at a minimum: contain guidelines for lifting  
592 tolls on state highways; ensure coordination pertaining to  
593 evacuees crossing county lines; set forth procedures for  
594 directing people caught on evacuation routes to safe shelter;  
595 establish strategies for ensuring sufficient, reasonably priced  
596 fueling locations along evacuation routes; and establish  
597 policies and strategies for emergency medical evacuations.

598 2. Include a shelter component that includes specific  
599 regional and interregional planning provisions and promotes  
600 coordination of shelter activities between the public, private,



601 and nonprofit sectors. This component must, at a minimum:  
602 contain strategies to ensure the availability of adequate public  
603 shelter space in each county ~~region of the state~~; establish  
604 strategies for refuge-of-last-resort programs; provide  
605 strategies to assist local emergency management efforts to  
606 ensure that adequate staffing plans exist for all shelters,  
607 including medical and security personnel; provide for a  
608 postdisaster communications system for public shelters;  
609 establish model shelter guidelines for operations, registration,  
610 inventory, power generation capability, information management,  
611 and staffing; and set forth policy guidance for sheltering  
612 people with special needs.

613       3. Include a postdisaster response and recovery component  
614 that includes specific regional and interregional planning  
615 provisions and promotes intergovernmental coordination of  
616 postdisaster response and recovery activities. This component  
617 must provide for postdisaster response and recovery strategies  
618 according to whether a disaster is minor, major, or  
619 catastrophic. The postdisaster response and recovery component  
620 must, at a minimum: establish the structure of the state's  
621 postdisaster response and recovery organization; establish  
622 procedures for activating the state's plan; set forth policies  
623 used to guide postdisaster response and recovery activities;  
624 describe the chain of command during the postdisaster response  
625 and recovery period; describe initial and continuous

626 postdisaster response and recovery actions; identify the roles  
627 and responsibilities of each involved agency and organization;  
628 provide for a comprehensive communications plan; establish  
629 procedures for coordinating and monitoring statewide mutual aid  
630 agreements reimbursable under federal public disaster assistance  
631 programs; provide for rapid impact assessment teams; ensure the  
632 availability of an effective statewide urban search and rescue  
633 program coordinated with the fire services; ensure the existence  
634 of a comprehensive statewide medical care and relief plan  
635 administered by the Department of Health; and establish systems  
636 for coordinating volunteers and accepting and distributing  
637 donated funds and goods.

638 4. Include additional provisions addressing aspects of  
639 preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation as determined  
640 necessary by the division.

641 5. Address the need for coordinated and expeditious  
642 deployment of state resources, including the Florida National  
643 Guard. In the case of an imminent major disaster, procedures  
644 should address predeployment of the Florida National Guard, and,  
645 in the case of an imminent catastrophic disaster, procedures  
646 should address predeployment of the Florida National Guard and  
647 the United States Armed Forces.

648 6. Establish a system of communications and warning to  
649 ensure that the state's population and emergency management  
650 agencies are warned of developing emergency situations,

651 including public health emergencies, and can communicate  
652 emergency response decisions.

653 7. Establish guidelines and schedules for annual exercises  
654 that evaluate the ability of the state and its political  
655 subdivisions to respond to minor, major, and catastrophic  
656 disasters and support local emergency management agencies. Such  
657 exercises shall be coordinated with local governments and, to  
658 the extent possible, the Federal Government.

659 8. Assign lead and support responsibilities to state  
660 agencies and personnel for emergency support functions and other  
661 support activities.

662 9. Include the public health emergency plan developed by  
663 the Department of Health pursuant to s. 381.00315.

664 10. Include an update on the status of the emergency  
665 management capabilities of the state and its political  
666 subdivisions. The update must include the emergency management  
667 capabilities related to public health emergencies, as determined  
668 in collaboration with the Department of Health.

669  
670 The complete state comprehensive emergency management plan must  
671 be submitted to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
672 House of Representatives, and the Governor on February 1 of  
673 every even-numbered year.

674 (c) Assist political subdivisions in preparing and  
675 maintaining emergency management plans. Such assistance must

676 include the development of a template for comprehensive  
677 emergency management plans, including plans for natural  
678 disasters, and guidance on the development of mutual aid  
679 agreements.

680 (n) Implement training programs to maintain this state's  
681 status as a national leader in emergency management and improve  
682 the ability of state and local emergency management personnel to  
683 prepare and implement emergency management plans and programs.  
684 This must ~~shall~~ include a continuous training program for  
685 agencies and individuals who ~~that~~ will be called on to perform  
686 key roles in state and local postdisaster response and recovery  
687 efforts and for local government personnel on federal and state  
688 postdisaster response and recovery strategies and procedures.  
689 The division shall specify requirements for the minimum number  
690 of training hours that county or municipal administrators,  
691 county or city managers, county or municipal emergency  
692 management directors, and county or municipal public works  
693 directors or other officials responsible for the construction  
694 and maintenance of public infrastructure must complete  
695 biennially in addition to the training required pursuant to s.  
696 252.38(1)(b). Such training may be provided by the division or,  
697 for county personnel, by a foundation that is a not-for-profit  
698 corporation under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and  
699 has a governing board that includes in its membership county  
700 commissioners and professional county staff. If training is

701 provided by a foundation, such training must be approved by the  
702 division.

703 ~~(x) Report biennially to the President of the Senate, the~~  
704 ~~Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chief Justice of~~  
705 ~~the Supreme Court, and the Governor, no later than February 1 of~~  
706 ~~every odd-numbered year, the status of the emergency management~~  
707 ~~capabilities of the state and its political subdivisions. This~~  
708 ~~report must include the emergency management capabilities~~  
709 ~~related to public health emergencies, as determined in~~  
710 ~~collaboration with the Department of Health.~~

711 **Section 12. Subsection (4) of section 252.355, Florida**  
712 **Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (5), paragraph (b) of**  
713 **subsection (2) is amended, and a new subsection (4) is added to**  
714 **that section, to read:**

715 252.355 Registry of persons with special needs; notice;  
716 registration program.—

717 (2) In order to ensure that all persons with special needs  
718 may register, the division shall develop and maintain a special  
719 needs shelter registration program. During a public health  
720 emergency in which physical distancing is necessary, as  
721 determined by the State Health Officer, the division must  
722 maintain information on special needs shelter options that  
723 mitigate the threat of the spread of infectious diseases.

724 (b) To assist in identifying persons with special needs,  
725 home health agencies, hospices, nurse registries, home medical

726 equipment providers, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the  
727 Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health,  
728 the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of  
729 Education, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the  
730 Department of Elderly Affairs, and memory disorder clinics  
731 shall, and any physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter  
732 459 and any pharmacy licensed under chapter 465 may, annually  
733 provide registration information to all of their special needs  
734 clients or their caregivers. The Florida Housing Finance  
735 Corporation shall enter into memoranda of understanding with the  
736 Department of Elderly Affairs and with the Agency for Persons  
737 with Disabilities to ensure special needs registration  
738 information is provided to residents of low-income senior  
739 independent living properties and independent living properties  
740 for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities  
741 funded by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, respectively.  
742 The division shall develop a brochure that provides information  
743 regarding special needs shelter registration procedures. The  
744 brochure must be easily accessible on the division's website.  
745 All appropriate agencies and community-based service providers,  
746 including aging and disability resource centers, memory disorder  
747 clinics, home health care providers, hospices, nurse registries,  
748 and home medical equipment providers, shall, and any physician  
749 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 may, assist emergency  
750 management agencies by annually registering persons with special

needs for special needs shelters, collecting registration information for persons with special needs as part of the program intake process, and establishing programs to educate clients about the registration process and disaster preparedness safety procedures. A client of a state-funded or federally funded service program who has a physical, mental, or cognitive impairment or sensory disability and who needs assistance in evacuating, or when in a shelter, must register as a person with special needs. The registration program shall give persons with special needs the option of preauthorizing emergency response personnel to enter their homes during search and rescue operations if necessary to ensure their safety and welfare following disasters.

(4) The caregiver of a person with special needs who is eligible for admission to a special needs shelter, and all persons for whom he or she is the caregiver, shall be allowed to shelter together in the special needs shelter. If a person with special needs is responsible for the care of persons without special needs, those persons shall be allowed to use the special needs shelter with the person with special needs.

**Section 13. Subsections (3) through (6) of section 252.359, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

252.359 Ensuring availability of emergency supplies.—

(3) The division, as a function of emergency preparation, response, and recovery, may facilitate ~~shall develop a system to~~

776 ~~certify each person who facilitates~~ the transport or  
777 distribution of essentials in commerce. The division ~~may not~~  
778 ~~certify a person other than a person who routinely transports or~~  
779 ~~distributes essentials. In developing the system, the division:~~

780     ~~(a) may provide for a preemergency or postemergency~~  
781 transportation of essentials ~~declaration certification.~~

782     ~~(b) Shall allow the certification of an employer, if~~  
783 ~~requested by the employer, to constitute a certification of the~~  
784 ~~employer's employees.~~

785     ~~(c) Shall create an easily recognizable indicium of~~  
786 ~~certification to assist local officials' efforts in determining~~  
787 ~~which persons have been certified under this subsection.~~

788     ~~(d) Shall limit the duration of each certificate to no~~  
789 ~~more than 1 year. Each certificate may be renewed so long as the~~  
790 ~~criteria for certification are met.~~

791     (4) A person authorized to transport essentials ~~or~~  
792 ~~employer certified~~ under subsection (3) is not required to  
793 obtain any additional certification or fulfill any additional  
794 requirement to transport or distribute essentials.

795     (5) Notwithstanding any curfew, restriction, road block,  
796 quarantine, or other limitation on access to an area, a person  
797 authorized ~~or employer certified~~ under subsection (3) to deliver  
798 essentials may enter or remain in the restricted ~~curfew~~ area for  
799 the limited purpose of facilitating the transport or  
800 distribution of essentials and may provide service that exceeds



otherwise applicable hours of service maximums to the extent authorized by a duly executed declaration of a state of emergency. Local law enforcement shall cooperate with the division to ensure the availability of essentials under this section.

(6) This section does not prohibit a law enforcement officer from specifying the permissible route of ingress or egress for a person authorized ~~certified~~ under subsection (3). Notwithstanding this section, all state roadways are determined by the Florida Highway Patrol in coordination with the Department of Transportation.

**Section 14. Subsection (2) of section 252.3611, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:**

252.3611 Transparency; audits.—

(2) ~~If when~~ the duration of a declaration of a state of an emergency issued by the Governor exceeds 90 days:

(a) 1. The Executive Office of the Governor or the appropriate agency, within 72 hours after ~~of~~ executing a contract executed with moneys authorized for expenditure to support the response to the declared state of emergency, must ~~the Executive Office of the Governor or the appropriate agency shall~~ submit a copy of such contract to the Legislature. For contracts executed during the first 90 days of the declared state of emergency, the Executive Office of the Governor or the

appropriate agency shall submit a copy to the Legislature within the first 120 days of the declared state of emergency.

2. All contracts executed to support the response to a declared state of emergency, including contracts executed before a declared state of emergency to secure resources or services in advance or anticipation of an emergency, must be posted on the secure contract tracking system required under s. 215.985(14).

(b) The Executive Office of the Governor or the appropriate agency shall submit monthly reports to the Legislature of all state expenditures, revenues received, and funds transferred by an agency during the previous month to support the declared state of emergency.

(5) Annually, by January 15, the division shall report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chairs of the appropriations committee of each house of the Legislature on expenditures related to emergencies incurred over the year from November 1 of the previous year. The report must include:

(a) A separate summary of each emergency event, whether complete or ongoing, and key actions taken by the division.

(b) Details of expenditures, separated by emergency event and agency, for preparing for, responding to, or recovering from the event. The report must specify detailed expenditures for the entire report time period; specify total expenditures for the event; and indicate amounts that are being or are anticipated to

851 be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency or  
852 other federal entity, amounts ineligible for reimbursement, and  
853 any amounts deobligated by the Federal Emergency Management  
854 Agency or other federal entity for reimbursement. The division  
855 shall review expenditures by state agencies to ensure that  
856 efforts, purchases, contracts, or expenditures are not  
857 duplicated.

858 (c) An accounting of all inventory and assets purchased,  
859 separated by emergency event and agency, for preparing for,  
860 responding to, or recovering from the event, including motor  
861 vehicles, boats, computers, and other equipment, and the current  
862 status of such assets, including divestment, sale, or donation  
863 by the state. The report must include a detailed accounting for  
864 the entire report time period and specify a total for the event.

865 **Section 15. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section**  
866 **252.363, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

867 252.363 Tolling and extension of permits and other  
868 authorizations.—

869 (1)(a) The declaration of a state of emergency issued by  
870 the Governor for a natural emergency tolls the period remaining  
871 to exercise the rights under a permit or other authorization for  
872 the duration of the emergency declaration. Further, the  
873 emergency declaration extends the period remaining to exercise  
874 the rights under a permit or other authorization for 24 months  
875 in addition to the tolled period. The extended period to

876 exercise the rights under a permit or other authorization may  
877 not exceed 48 months in total in the event of multiple natural  
878 emergencies for which the Governor declares a state of  
879 emergency. The tolling and extension of permits and other  
880 authorizations under this paragraph shall apply retroactively to  
881 September 28, 2022. This paragraph applies to the following:

882 1. The expiration of a development order issued by a local  
883 government.

884 2. The expiration of a building permit.

885 3. The expiration of a permit issued by the Department of  
886 Environmental Protection or a water management district pursuant  
887 to part IV of chapter 373.

888 4. Permits issued by the Department of Environmental  
889 Protection or a water management district pursuant to part II of  
890 chapter 373 for land subject to a development agreement under  
891 ss. 163.3220-163.3243 in which the permittee and the developer  
892 are the same or a related entity.

893 5. The buildout date of a development of regional impact,  
894 including any extension of a buildout date that was previously  
895 granted as specified in s. 380.06(7)(c).

896 6. The expiration of a development permit or development  
897 agreement authorized by Florida Statutes, including those  
898 authorized under the Florida Local Government Development  
899 Agreement Act, or issued by a local government or other  
900 governmental agency.

901        7. The formal determination of the delineation of the  
902 extent of wetlands under s. 373.421. Notwithstanding the  
903 timeframes provided in this paragraph, the tolling and extension  
904 of determinations under this subparagraph shall apply  
905 retroactively to January 1, 2023.

906        **Section 16. Subsection (4) of section 252.365, Florida**  
907 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

908        252.365 Emergency coordination officers; disaster-  
909 preparedness plans.—

910        (4) On or before May 1 of each year, the head of each  
911 agency shall notify the Governor and the division in writing of  
912 the person initially designated as the emergency coordination  
913 officer for such agency and her or his alternate and of any  
914 changes in persons so designated thereafter.

915        **Section 17. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (5) of**  
916 **section 252.37, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs**  
917 **(d) and (e), respectively, a new paragraph (c) is added to that**  
918 **subsection, and subsection (7) is added to that section, to**  
919 **read:**

920        252.37 Financing.—

921        (5) Unless otherwise specified in the General  
922 Appropriations Act:

923        (c) If the division intends to accept or apply for federal  
924 funds for a division-administered program that is new, that will  
925 be implemented in a manner that is innovative or significantly

different from the manner in which the program is typically administered, or that will require a state match for which the division will be required to seek new budget authority, the division must notify the Legislature of its intent to accept or apply for the federal funds. The notice must detail the federal program under which the funds will be accepted or applied for, the intended purpose and use of the funds, and the amount of funds, including the estimated state match.

(7) The division shall take steps to maximize the availability and expedite the distribution of financial assistance from the Federal Government to state and local agencies. Such steps must include the standardization and streamlining of the application process for financial assistance through the federal Public Assistance Program and provision of assistance to applicants in order to mitigate the risk of noncompliance with federal program requirements. The division shall use federal funds allocated as management costs or other funds as appropriated to implement this subsection.

**Section 18. Section 252.3713, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

252.3713 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.—

(1) The division shall administer the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program as authorized and described in s. 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended by Pub. L. No. 103-181, Pub. L. No. 103-337, and Pub.

951 L. No. 106-390.

952 (2) The division may retain no more than 25 percent of the  
953 total federal allocation of funds received for use within the  
954 state. A minimum of 75 percent of any funds received pursuant to  
955 a declared disaster must be distributed for use by the  
956 subrecipients in the counties specified in the Presidential  
957 Disaster Declaration for that disaster. However, a subrecipient  
958 may elect to share some or all of its allocation with the  
959 division to be used for projects benefiting the region in which  
960 the subrecipient is located.

961 (3) The division and subrecipients shall consider projects  
962 that fulfill the following purposes when adopting mitigation  
963 strategies and plans and applying for funds under the grant  
964 program:

965 (a) Reducing shelter space deficits through retrofitting  
966 of existing shelters and hardening of public buildings that are  
967 not schools. Reducing deficits in shelter space intended to  
968 accommodate individuals with special needs must be prioritized  
969 before addressing deficits in other types of shelter space.  
970 Additionally, general population shelters which are retrofitted  
971 must also account for federal accessibility standards and state  
972 accessibility standards in part II of chapter 553.

973 (b) Mitigating impacts to public infrastructure, including  
974 roads, bridges, and stormwater, water, and sewer systems, to  
975 enhance resistance to natural hazards and prevent and reduce

976 losses.

977 (c) Mitigating impacts to school facilities which will  
978 reduce future disaster losses and make the facilities more  
979 resistant to natural hazards.

980 (d) Retrofitting of regional and local emergency  
981 management or operations centers.

982 (e) Other projects that the division may define by rule.

983 (4) The division may coordinate with other state agencies  
984 and political subdivisions to develop and implement innovative  
985 approaches to funding mitigation projects using grants under the  
986 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, including, but not limited to,  
987 combining funding received from multiple federal and state  
988 programs. The division, in cooperation with other state agencies  
989 that administer federal grant programs, shall ensure that:

990 (a) Projects funded through multiple programs comply with  
991 all applicable federal and state requirements of the respective  
992 programs under which funding was received.

993 (b) Funding is used for projects in the geographic areas  
994 specified in the grant of funding.

995 (5) A fiscally constrained county may request that the  
996 division administer the grant for such county. A fiscally  
997 constrained county may request additional assistance from the  
998 division in preparing applications for grants and developing a  
999 structure for implementing, monitoring the execution of, and  
1000 closing out projects.



1001        (6) The division shall adopt rules to implement this  
1002 section.

1003        **Section 19. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section**  
1004 **252.373, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1005        252.373 Allocation of funds; rules.—

1006        (2) The division shall allocate funds from the Emergency  
1007 Management, Preparedness, and Assistance Trust Fund to local  
1008 emergency management agencies and programs pursuant to criteria  
1009 specified in rule. Such rules shall include, but are not limited  
1010 to:

1011        (a) Requiring that, at a minimum, a local emergency  
1012 management agency either:

1013        1. Have a program director who works at least 40 hours a  
1014 week in that capacity; or

1015        2. If the county has fewer than 75,000 population or is  
1016 party to an interjurisdictional emergency management agreement  
1017 entered into pursuant to s. 252.38(3)(c) ~~s. 252.38(3)(b)~~, that  
1018 is recognized by the Governor by executive order or rule, have  
1019 an emergency management coordinator who works at least 20 hours  
1020 a week in that capacity.

1021        **Section 20. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3) of**  
1022 **section 252.38, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs**  
1023 **(b) and (c), respectively, a new paragraph (a) is added to that**  
1024 **subsection, and paragraph (a) of subsection (1) is amended, to**  
1025 **read:**

1026           252.38   Emergency management powers of political  
1027 subdivisions.—Safeguarding the life and property of its citizens  
1028 is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each  
1029 political subdivision of the state.

1030           (1)   COUNTIES.—

1031           (a)   In order to provide effective and orderly governmental  
1032 control and coordination of emergency operations in emergencies  
1033 within the scope of ss. 252.31-252.90, each county within this  
1034 state shall be within the jurisdiction of, and served by, the  
1035 division. Except as otherwise provided in ss. 252.31-252.90,  
1036 each local emergency management agency shall have jurisdiction  
1037 over and serve an entire county. Unless part of an  
1038 interjurisdictional emergency management agreement entered into  
1039 pursuant to paragraph (3) (c) ~~(3) (b)~~ which is recognized by the  
1040 Governor by executive order or rule, each county must establish  
1041 and maintain such an emergency management agency and shall  
1042 develop a county emergency management plan and program that is  
1043 coordinated and consistent with the state comprehensive  
1044 emergency management plan and program. Counties that are part of  
1045 an interjurisdictional emergency management agreement entered  
1046 into pursuant to paragraph (3) (c) ~~(3) (b)~~ which is recognized by  
1047 the Governor by executive order or rule shall cooperatively  
1048 develop an emergency management plan and program that is  
1049 coordinated and consistent with the state comprehensive  
1050 emergency management plan and program.

1051 (3) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POWERS; POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.—

1052 (a) Each political subdivision shall notify the division  
1053 on or before May 1 each year of the person designated as the  
1054 emergency contact for the political subdivision and his or her  
1055 alternate and of any changes in persons so designated  
1056 thereafter. For a county, the emergency contact must be the  
1057 county emergency management director.

1058 **Section 21. Section 252.381, Florida Statutes, is created**  
1059 **to read:**

1060 252.381 Information related to natural emergencies;  
1061 poststorm county and municipal permitting; operations.—

1062 (1) Each county and municipality must post on its publicly  
1063 accessible website:

1064 (a) A frequently asked questions web page related to  
1065 natural emergency response, emergency preparedness, and public  
1066 relief for residents following an emergency. The web page must  
1067 answer questions concerning resident evacuations; safety tips;  
1068 generator, food and drinking water, and wastewater and  
1069 stormwater safety; damage assessment; debris cleanup; accessing  
1070 assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and  
1071 this state; building recovery; natural emergency guidance;  
1072 applicable laws; and what to do before, during, and after an  
1073 emergency.

1074 (b) A disaster supply list and a list of emergency  
1075 shelters.

1076        (c) Links to information about flood zones.

1077        (d) A checklist for residents explaining next steps to  
1078 take during postdisaster recovery.

1079        (e) Information specific to persons with disabilities,  
1080 including, but not limited to, guidelines for special needs  
1081 shelter registration; an explanation of how to register for  
1082 special needs shelters and where to obtain assistance with that  
1083 process; guidelines as to the level of care that is or is not  
1084 provided at a special needs shelter as well as situations when  
1085 either a general population shelter or hospital should be  
1086 considered; and any other postdisaster assistance or resources  
1087 available to affected persons with disabilities impacted by a  
1088 disaster.

1089        (2) Each county and municipality shall develop a poststorm  
1090 permitting plan to expedite recovery and rebuilding by providing  
1091 for special building permit and inspection procedures after a  
1092 hurricane or tropical storm. The plan must, at a minimum:

1093        (a) Ensure sufficient personnel are prepared and available  
1094 to expeditiously manage postdisaster building inspection,  
1095 permitting, and enforcement tasks. The plan must anticipate  
1096 conditions that would necessitate supplemental personnel for  
1097 such tasks and address methods for fulfilling such personnel  
1098 needs, including through mutual aid agreements as authorized in  
1099 s. 252.40, other arrangements, such as those with private sector  
1100 contractors, or supplemental state or federal funding. The plan

1101 must include training requirements and protocols for  
1102 supplemental personnel to ensure compliance with local  
1103 floodplain management requirements that apply within the county  
1104 or municipality.

1105 (b) Account for multiple or alternate locations where  
1106 building permit services may be offered in person to the public  
1107 following a hurricane or tropical storm during regular business  
1108 hours.

1109 (c) Specify a protocol to expedite permitting procedures  
1110 and, if practicable, for the waiver or reduction of applicable  
1111 fees in accordance with and in addition to the procedures and  
1112 waivers provided for under s. 553.7922. The plan must identify  
1113 the types of permits that are frequently requested following a  
1114 hurricane or tropical storm and methods to expedite the  
1115 processing of such permits.

1116 (d) Specify procedures and resources necessary to promote  
1117 expeditious debris removal following a hurricane or tropical  
1118 storm.

1119 (3) (a) Each county and municipality shall publish on its  
1120 website a hurricane and tropical storm recovery permitting guide  
1121 for residential and commercial property owners. The guide must  
1122 describe:

1123 1. The types of poststorm repairs that require a permit  
1124 and applicable fees.

1125 2. The types of poststorm repairs that do not require a

1126 permit.

1127 3. The poststorm permit application process and specific  
1128 modifications the county or municipality commonly makes to  
1129 expedite the process, including the physical locations where  
1130 permitting services will be offered.

1131 4. Local requirements for rebuilding specific to the  
1132 county or municipality, including elevation requirements  
1133 following substantial damage and substantial improvement  
1134 pursuant to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and any  
1135 local amendments to the building code.

1136 (b) As soon as practicable following a hurricane or  
1137 tropical storm, a county or municipality within the area for  
1138 which a state of emergency pursuant to s. 252.36 for such  
1139 hurricane or tropical storm is declared shall publish updates on  
1140 its website to the information required under paragraph (a)  
1141 which are specific to such storm, including any permitting fee  
1142 waivers or reductions.

1143 (4) For 180 days after a state of emergency is declared  
1144 pursuant to s. 252.36 for a hurricane or tropical storm, a  
1145 county or municipality within the area for which the state of  
1146 emergency is declared may not increase building permit or  
1147 inspection fees.

1148 (5) On or before May 1, 2026, each county and municipality  
1149 must provide an online option for receiving, reviewing, and  
1150 accessing substantial damage and substantial improvement

1151 letters. The county or municipality must allow homeowners to  
1152 provide an e-mail address where they can receive digital copies  
1153 of such letters.

1154 (6) As soon as reasonably practicable following the  
1155 landfall and passage of a hurricane or tropical storm, each  
1156 county and municipality that has experienced a direct impact  
1157 from a natural emergency must use its best efforts to open a  
1158 permitting office at which residents can access government  
1159 services for at least 40 hours per week.

1160 **Section 22. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 252.385,**  
1161 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

1162 252.385 Public shelter space; public records exemption.—

1163 (2)~~(a)~~ The division shall administer a program to survey  
1164 existing schools, universities, community colleges, and other  
1165 state-owned, municipally owned, and county-owned public  
1166 buildings and any private facility that the owner, in writing,  
1167 agrees to provide for use as a public hurricane evacuation  
1168 shelter to identify those that are appropriately designed and  
1169 located to serve as such shelters. The owners of the facilities  
1170 must be given the opportunity to participate in the surveys. The  
1171 state university boards of trustees, district school boards,  
1172 community college boards of trustees, and the Department of  
1173 Education are responsible for coordinating and implementing the  
1174 survey of public schools, universities, and community colleges  
1175 with the division or the local emergency management agency.

1176       ~~(b) By January 31 of each even-numbered year, the division~~  
1177       ~~shall prepare and submit a statewide emergency shelter plan to~~  
1178       ~~the Governor and Cabinet for approval, subject to the~~  
1179       ~~requirements for approval in s. 1013.37(2). The emergency~~  
1180       ~~shelter plan must project, for each of the next 5 years, the~~  
1181       ~~hurricane shelter needs of the state, including periods of time~~  
1182       ~~during which a concurrent public health emergency may~~  
1183       ~~necessitate more space for each individual to accommodate~~  
1184       ~~physical distancing. In addition to information on the general~~  
1185       ~~shelter needs throughout this state, the plan must identify the~~  
1186       ~~general location and square footage of special needs shelters,~~  
1187       ~~by regional planning council region. The plan must also include~~  
1188       ~~information on the availability of shelters that accept pets.~~  
1189       ~~The Department of Health shall assist the division in~~  
1190       ~~determining the estimated need for special needs shelter space~~  
1191       ~~and the adequacy of facilities to meet the needs of persons with~~  
1192       ~~special needs based on information from the registries of~~  
1193       ~~persons with special needs and other information.~~

1194       (3) (a) The division shall annually provide by October 15  
1195       to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of  
1196       the House of Representatives a report that includes, ~~and the~~  
1197       ~~Governor~~ a list of facilities recommended to be retrofitted  
1198       using state funds. State funds should be maximized and targeted  
1199       to projects in counties ~~regional planning council regions~~ with  
1200       hurricane evacuation shelter deficits. Additionally, the



1201 division shall prioritize on the list of recommended facilities  
1202 other state-owned, municipal-owned, and county-owned public  
1203 buildings, other than schools, for retrofitting using state  
1204 funds. The owner or lessee of a public hurricane evacuation  
1205 shelter that is included on the list of facilities recommended  
1206 for retrofitting is not required to perform any recommended  
1207 improvements.

1208 (b) The report required in paragraph (a) must include a  
1209 statewide emergency shelter plan that must project, for each of  
1210 the next 5 years, the hurricane shelter needs of the state. In  
1211 addition to information on the general shelter needs throughout  
1212 this state, the plan must identify, by county, the general  
1213 location and square footage of special needs shelters. The plan  
1214 must also include information on the availability of shelters  
1215 that accept pets. The Department of Health and the Agency for  
1216 Persons with Disabilities shall assist the division in  
1217 determining the estimated need for special needs shelter space,  
1218 the estimated need for general shelter space to accommodate  
1219 persons with developmental disabilities, including, but not  
1220 limited to, autism, and the adequacy of facilities to meet the  
1221 needs of persons with special needs based on information from  
1222 the registries of persons with special needs and other  
1223 information.

1224 **Section 23. Section 252.421, Florida Statutes, is created**  
1225 **to read:**

252.421 Management of roadway debris related to natural emergencies.—The division shall coordinate with fiscally constrained counties, as described in s. 218.67(1), included in a declared state of emergency for a category 3 or higher hurricane and the Department of Transportation to provide such counties with state resources to remove debris from roadways, including roadways that are publicly accessible but not maintained by the county.

**Section 24. Section 252.422, Florida Statutes, is created to read:**

252.422 Restrictions on county or municipal regulations after a hurricane.—

(1) As used in this section, the term "impacted local government" means a county listed in a federal disaster declaration located entirely or partially within 100 miles of the track of a storm declared to be a hurricane by the National Hurricane Center while the storm was categorized as a hurricane or a municipality located within such a county.

(2) For 1 year after a hurricane makes landfall, an impacted local government may not propose or adopt:

(a) A moratorium on construction, reconstruction, or redevelopment of any property.

(b) A more restrictive or burdensome amendment to its comprehensive plan or land development regulations.

(c) A more restrictive or burdensome procedure concerning

1251 review, approval, or issuance of a site plan, development  
1252 permit, or development order, to the extent that those terms are  
1253 defined in s. 163.3164.

1254 (3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), a comprehensive plan  
1255 amendment, land development regulation amendment, site plan,  
1256 development permit, or development order approved or adopted by  
1257 an impacted local government before or after the effective date  
1258 of this act may be enforced if:

1259 (a) The associated application is initiated by a private  
1260 party other than the impacted local government and the property  
1261 that is the subject of the application is owned by the  
1262 initiating private party;

1263 (b) The proposed comprehensive plan amendment was  
1264 submitted to reviewing agencies pursuant to s. 163.3184 before  
1265 landfall; or

1266 (c) The proposed comprehensive plan amendment or land  
1267 development regulation is approved by the state land planning  
1268 agency pursuant to s. 380.05.

1269 (4) (a) Any person may file suit against any impacted local  
1270 government for declaratory and injunctive relief to enforce this  
1271 section.

1272 (b) A county or municipality may request a determination  
1273 by a court of competent jurisdiction as to whether such action  
1274 violates this section. Upon such a request, the county or  
1275 municipality may not enforce the action until the court has

1276 issued a preliminary or final judgment determining whether the  
1277 action violates this section.

1278 (c) Before a plaintiff may file suit, the plaintiff shall  
1279 notify the impacted local government by setting forth the facts  
1280 upon which the complaint or petition is based and the reasons  
1281 the impacted local government's action violates this section.  
1282 Upon receipt of the notice, the impacted local government shall  
1283 have 14 days to withdraw or revoke the action at issue or  
1284 otherwise declare it void. If the impacted local government does  
1285 not withdraw or revoke the action at issue within the time  
1286 prescribed, the plaintiff may file suit. The plaintiff shall be  
1287 entitled to entry of a preliminary injunction to prevent the  
1288 impacted local government from implementing the challenged  
1289 action during pendency of the litigation. In any action  
1290 instituted pursuant to this paragraph, the prevailing plaintiff  
1291 shall be entitled to reasonable attorney fees and costs.

1292 (d) In any case brought under this section, any party is  
1293 entitled to the summary procedure provided in s. 51.011, and the  
1294 court shall advance the cause on the calendar.

1295 **Section 25. Section 252.505, Florida Statutes, is created**  
1296 **to read:**

1297 252.505 Breach of contract during emergency recovery  
1298 periods for natural emergencies.—Each state or local government  
1299 contract for goods or services related to emergency response for  
1300 a natural emergency entered into, renewed, or amended on or

1301 after July 1, 2025, must include a provision that requires a  
1302 vendor or service provider that breaches such contract during an  
1303 emergency recovery period to pay actual, consequential, and  
1304 liquidated damages and a \$5,000 penalty. As used in this  
1305 section, the term "emergency recovery period" means a 1-year  
1306 period that begins on the date that the Governor initially  
1307 declared a state of emergency for a natural emergency.

1308 **Section 26. Subsection (4) is added to section 373.423,**  
1309 **Florida Statutes, to read:**

1310 373.423 Inspection.—

1311 (4) (a) By September 1, 2026, the department shall submit a  
1312 Flood Inventory and Restoration Report to the Division of  
1313 Emergency Management. The department must work with water  
1314 management districts, local governments, and operators of public  
1315 and private stormwater management systems to compile the  
1316 necessary information for the report, which must:

1317 1. Identify priority infrastructure needs within each  
1318 water management district jurisdiction that may result in  
1319 flooding or property damage or threaten human health if left  
1320 unaddressed;

1321 2. Identify locations that have both historic flooding  
1322 occurrences, based on flood zones identified by the Federal  
1323 Emergency Management Agency, and the potential to flood from  
1324 future significant storm events, such as hurricanes and tropical  
1325 storms;

1326       3. For each location identified in subparagraph 1. or  
1327       subparagraph 2., include an inspection and maintenance schedule  
1328       and specific information on the age of the infrastructure,  
1329       upstream impacts, and other factors that may lead to system  
1330       failure if unaddressed; and

1331       4. Include a list of facilities prioritized for funding to  
1332       address flooding issues.

1333       (b) The owner of any priority infrastructure identified in  
1334       the report must submit an inspection and maintenance schedule to  
1335       the department.

1336       (c) The department must review and update the report on a  
1337       biannual basis. The report must provide information regarding  
1338       compliance with the inspection and maintenance schedules,  
1339       include any additional revisions based on storm event  
1340       experience, and revise the list of facilities as new flooding  
1341       events take place and new projects are implemented to alleviate  
1342       infrastructure deficiencies which led to flooding events. The  
1343       department must submit an updated report to the Division of  
1344       Emergency Management by September 1 of each year in which the  
1345       report is due.

1346       **Section 27. Subsection (1) of section 400.063, Florida**  
1347       **Statutes, is amended to read:**

1348       400.063 Resident protection.—

1349       (1) The Health Care Trust Fund shall be used for the  
1350       purpose of collecting and disbursing funds generated from the

license fees and administrative fines as provided for in ss. 393.0673(5), 400.062(3), 400.121(2), and 400.23(8). Such funds shall be for the sole purpose of paying for the appropriate alternate placement, care, and treatment of residents who are removed from a facility licensed under this part or a facility specified in s. 393.0678(1) in which the agency determines that existing conditions or practices constitute an immediate danger to the health, safety, or security of the residents. If the agency determines that it is in the best interest of the health, safety, or security of the residents to provide for an orderly removal of the residents from the facility, the agency may utilize such funds to maintain and care for the residents in the facility pending removal and alternative placement. The maintenance and care of the residents shall be under the direction and control of a receiver appointed pursuant to s. 393.0678(1) or s. 400.126(1). However, funds may be expended in an emergency upon a filing of a petition for a receiver, upon the declaration of a state of local emergency pursuant to s. 252.38(3)(b)5. ~~s. 252.38(3)(a)5.~~, or upon a duly authorized local order of evacuation of a facility by emergency personnel to protect the health and safety of the residents.

**Section 28. Subsection (7) of section 403.7071, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:**

403.7071 Management of storm-generated debris.—Solid waste

generated as a result of a storm event that is the subject of an emergency order issued by the department may be managed as follows:

(7) Unless otherwise specified in a contract or franchise agreement between a local government and a private solid waste or debris management service provider, a private solid waste or debris management service provider is not required to collect storm-generated yard trash, debris, or waste. Local governments are authorized and encouraged to add an addendum to existing contracts or franchise agreements for collection of storm-generated debris.

(8) (a) Each county and municipality shall apply to the department for authorization of at least one debris management site as described in subsection (2) and shall annually seek preauthorization for any previously approved debris management sites, as allowed by the department.

(b) A municipality may jointly apply for authorization of a debris management site with a county or at least one adjacent municipality, if the parties develop and approve a memorandum of understanding. Such memorandum must clearly outline the capacity of the debris management site and location of the site relative to each party. The memorandum of understanding must be approved annually as part of the preauthorization process described in paragraph (a).

**Section 29. Section 489.1132, Florida Statutes, is created**



to read:

489.1132 Regulation of hoisting equipment used in construction, demolition, or excavation work during a hurricane.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Controlling entity" means the general contractor, prime contractor, or construction manager with overall responsibility for a construction project.

(b) "Hoisting equipment" means power-operated cranes, derricks, and hoists used in construction, demolition, or excavation work that are regulated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

(c) "Mobile crane" means a type of hoisting equipment incorporating a cable-suspended latticed boom or hydraulic telescoping boom designed to be moved between operating locations by transport over a roadway. The term does not include a mobile crane with a boom length of less than 25 feet or a maximum rated load capacity of less than 15,000 pounds.

(d) "Tower crane" means a type of hoisting equipment using a vertical mast or tower to support a working boom in an elevated position if the working boom can rotate to move loads laterally either by rotating at the top of the mast or tower or by the rotation of the mast or tower itself, whether the mast or tower base is fixed in one location or ballasted and moveable between locations.

1426        (2) (a) When a tower crane or mobile crane is located on a  
1427 worksite, a hurricane preparedness plan for the crane must be  
1428 available for inspection at the worksite.

1429        (b) In preparation for a hurricane, the controlling entity  
1430 must ensure that hoisting equipment is secured in the following  
1431 manner no later than 24 hours before the impacts of the  
1432 hurricane are anticipated to begin:

1433            1. All hoisting equipment must be secured in compliance  
1434 with manufacturer recommendations relating to hurricane and  
1435 high-wind events, including any recommendations relating to the  
1436 placement, use, and removal of advertising banners and rigging.

1437            2. Tower crane turntables must be lubricated before the  
1438 event.

1439            3. Fixed booms on mobile cranes must be laid down whenever  
1440 feasible.

1441            4. Booms on hydraulic cranes must be retracted and stored.

1442            5. The counterweights of any hoists must be locked below  
1443 the top tie-in.

1444            6. Tower cranes must be set in the weathervane position.

1445            7. All rigging must be removed from hoist blocks.

1446            8. All power at the base of tower cranes must be  
1447 disconnected.

1448        (3) A person licensed under this part who intentionally  
1449 violates this section is subject to discipline under ss. 455.227  
1450 and 489.129.

1451       (4) The Florida Building Commission shall establish best  
1452 practices for the utilization of tower cranes and hoisting  
1453 equipment on construction job sites during hurricane season and  
1454 report its findings to the Legislature by December 31, 2026.

1455       **Section 30. Subsection (6) of section 553.902, Florida**  
1456 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

1457       553.902 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

1458       (6) "Renovated building" means a residential or  
1459 nonresidential building undergoing alteration that varies or  
1460 changes insulation, HVAC systems, water heating systems, or  
1461 exterior envelope conditions, if the estimated cost of  
1462 renovation exceeds 30 percent of the assessed value of the  
1463 structure. However, if the alteration is a result of a natural  
1464 disaster that is the subject of a declaration of a state of  
1465 emergency by the Governor, the estimated cost of renovation must  
1466 exceed 75 percent of the fair market value of the building  
1467 before the natural disaster.

1468       **Section 31.** The Division of Emergency Management shall  
1469 consult with local governments, the Department of Business and  
1470 Professional Regulation, the Department of Environmental  
1471 Protection, and any other appropriate agencies to develop  
1472 recommendations for statutory changes necessary to streamline  
1473 the permitting process for repairing and rebuilding structures  
1474 damaged during natural emergencies. By July 1, 2026, the  
1475 division shall provide a report containing such recommendations

1476 to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
1477 Representatives.

1478 **Section 32.** (1) Each county listed in the Federal  
1479 Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Debby (DR-4806), Hurricane  
1480 Helene (DR-4828), or Hurricane Milton (DR-4834), and each  
1481 municipality within one of those counties, may not propose or  
1482 adopt any moratorium on construction, reconstruction, or  
1483 redevelopment of any property damaged by such hurricanes;  
1484 propose or adopt more restrictive or burdensome amendments to  
1485 its comprehensive plan or land development regulations; or  
1486 propose or adopt more restrictive or burdensome procedures  
1487 concerning review, approval, or issuance of a site plan,  
1488 development permit, or development order, to the extent that  
1489 those terms are defined by s. 163.3164, Florida Statutes, before  
1490 October 1, 2027, and any such moratorium or restrictive or  
1491 burdensome comprehensive plan amendment, land development  
1492 regulation, or procedure shall be null and void ab initio. This  
1493 subsection applies retroactively to August 1, 2024.

1494 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), any comprehensive plan  
1495 amendment, land development regulation amendment, site plan,  
1496 development permit, or development order approved or adopted by  
1497 a county or municipality before or after the effective date of  
1498 this act may be enforced if:

1499 (a) The associated application is initiated by a private  
1500 party other than the county or municipality.

1501        (b) The property that is the subject of the application is  
1502 owned by the initiating private party.

1503        (3) (a) A resident of or the owner of a business in a  
1504 county or municipality may bring a civil action for declaratory  
1505 and injunctive relief against the county or municipality for a  
1506 violation of this section. Pending adjudication of the action  
1507 and upon filing of a complaint showing a violation of this  
1508 section, the resident or business owner is entitled to a  
1509 preliminary injunction against the county or municipality  
1510 preventing implementation of the moratorium or the comprehensive  
1511 plan amendment, land development regulation, or procedure. If  
1512 such civil action is successful, the resident or business owner  
1513 is entitled to reasonable attorney fees and costs.

1514        (b) Attorney fees and costs and damages may not be awarded  
1515 pursuant to this subsection if:

1516        1. The resident or business owner provides the governing  
1517 body of the county or municipality written notice that a  
1518 proposed or enacted moratorium, comprehensive plan amendment,  
1519 land development regulation, or procedure is in violation of  
1520 this section; and

1521        2. The governing body of the county or municipality  
1522 withdraws the proposed moratorium, comprehensive plan amendment,  
1523 land development regulation, or procedure within 14 days; or, in  
1524 the case of an adopted moratorium, comprehensive plan amendment,  
1525 land development regulation, or procedure, the governing body of

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1526 a county or municipality notices an intent to repeal within 14  
1527 days after receipt of the notice and repeals the moratorium,  
1528 comprehensive plan amendment, land development regulation, or  
1529 procedure within 14 days thereafter.

1530 (4) This section expires June 30, 2028.

1531 **Section 33.** The Division of Law Revision is directed to  
1532 replace the phrase "the effective date of this act" wherever it  
1533 occurs in this act with the date this act becomes a law.

1534 **Section 34.** This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
1535 law.