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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/13/2025	.	
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The Committee on Community Affairs (DiCeglie) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause
and insert:

Section 1. Subsection (23) is added to section 161.101,
Florida Statutes, to read:

161.101 State and local participation in authorized
projects and studies relating to beach management and erosion
control.—

(23) Notwithstanding subsections (1), (15), and (16), and



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for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, for beaches located in any county listed in a federal declaration of disaster in 2024 that were impacted by erosion caused by Hurricane Debby, Hurricane Helene, or Hurricane Milton, the department may waive or reduce the match requirements for local governments. This subsection expires July 1, 2026.

Section 2. Effective upon becoming a law, section 193.4518, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

193.4518 Assessment of agricultural equipment rendered unable to be used due to hurricanes ~~Hurricane Idalia~~.—

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

(a) "Farm" has the same meaning as provided in s. 823.14(3).

(b) "Farm operation" has the same meaning as provided in s. 823.14(3).

(c) "Unable to be used" means the tangible personal property was damaged, or the farm, farm operation, or agricultural processing facility was affected, to such a degree that the tangible personal property could not be used for its intended purpose.

(2)(a) For purposes of ad valorem taxation and applying to the 2024 tax roll only, tangible personal property owned and operated by a farm, a farm operation, or an agriculture processing facility located in Charlotte County, Citrus County, Columbia County, Dixie County, Gilchrist County, Hamilton County, Hernando County, Jefferson County, Lafayette County, Levy County, Madison County, Manatee County, Pasco County, Pinellas County, Sarasota County, Suwannee County, or Taylor County is deemed to have a market value no greater than its



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value for salvage if the tangible personal property was unable to be used for at least 60 days due to the effects of Hurricane Idalia.

(b)(3) The deadline for an applicant to file an application with the property appraiser for assessment pursuant to this subsection ~~section~~ is March 1, 2024.

(c)(4) If the property appraiser denies an application, the applicant may file, pursuant to s. 194.011(3), a petition with the value adjustment board which requests that the tangible personal property be assessed pursuant to this section. Such petition must be filed on or before the 25th day after the mailing by the property appraiser during the 2024 calendar year of the notice required under s. 194.011(1).

(d)(5) This subsection ~~section~~ applies to tax rolls beginning January 1, 2024.

(3)(a) For purposes of ad valorem taxation and applying to the 2025 tax roll only, tangible personal property owned and operated by a farm, a farm operation, or an agriculture processing facility located in Alachua County, Baker County, Bradford County, Brevard County, Charlotte County, Citrus County, Clay County, Collier County, Columbia County, DeSoto County, Dixie County, Duval County, Flagler County, Franklin County, Gilchrist County, Glades County, Gulf County, Hamilton County, Hardee County, Hendry County, Hernando County, Highlands County, Hillsborough County, Indian River County, Jefferson County, Lafayette County, Lake County, Lee County, Leon County, Levy County, Madison County, Manatee County, Marion County, Martin County, Okeechobee County, Orange County, Osceola County, Palm Beach County, Pasco County, Pinellas County, Polk County,



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Putnam County, Sarasota County, Seminole County, St. Johns County, St. Lucie County, Sumter County, Suwannee County, Taylor County, Union County, Volusia County, or Wakulla County is deemed to have a market value no greater than its value for salvage if the tangible personal property was unable to be used for at least 60 days due to the effects of Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton.

(b) The deadline for an applicant to file an application with the property appraiser for assessment pursuant to this subsection is August 1, 2025.

(c) If the property appraiser denies an application, the applicant may file, pursuant to s. 194.011(3), a petition with the value adjustment board which requests that the tangible personal property be assessed pursuant to this section. Such petition must be filed on or before the 25th day after the mailing by the property appraiser during the 2025 calendar year of the notice required under s. 194.011(1).

(d) This subsection applies retroactively to January 1, 2025.

Section 3. 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:



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(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 4. Section 250.375, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

250.375 Medical officer authorization.—A servicemember trained to provide medical care who is assigned to a military duty position and authorized by the Florida National Guard to provide medical care 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 5. Subsection (1) and paragraphs (a), (c), (n), (s), and (x) of subsection (2) of section 252.35, Florida Statutes, are amended, and a new paragraph (dd) is added to subsection (2) of that section, to read:

252.35 Emergency management powers; Division of Emergency



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Management.—

(1) The division is responsible for maintaining a comprehensive statewide program of emergency management. The division is responsible for coordination with efforts of the Federal Government with other departments and agencies of state government, with county and municipal governments and school boards, and with private agencies that have a role in emergency management. The Legislature intends for other departments and agencies of state government, county and municipal governments and school boards, and private agencies that have a role in emergency management to coordinate to the greatest extent possible in the provision of emergency management efforts through the division.

(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 plan, which must ~~shall~~ be integrated into and coordinated with the emergency management plans and programs of the Federal Government. The complete state comprehensive emergency management plan must be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on October 1 of every odd-numbered year. The division shall adopt the plan as a rule in accordance with chapter 120. The plan must be implemented by a continuous, integrated comprehensive emergency management program. The plan must contain provisions to ensure that the state is prepared for emergencies and minor, major, and catastrophic disasters, and the division shall work closely with local governments and



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agencies and organizations with emergency management responsibilities in preparing and maintaining the plan. The state comprehensive emergency management plan must be operations oriented and:

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

2. Include a shelter component that includes specific regional and interregional planning provisions and promotes coordination of shelter activities between the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. This component must, at a minimum: contain strategies to ensure the availability of adequate public shelter space in each county ~~region of the state~~; establish strategies for refuge-of-last-resort programs; provide strategies to assist local emergency management efforts to ensure that adequate staffing plans exist for all shelters, including medical and security personnel; provide for a postdisaster communications system for public shelters; establish model shelter guidelines for operations, registration, inventory, power generation capability, information management, and staffing; and set forth policy guidance for sheltering people with special needs.



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3. Include a postdisaster response and recovery component that includes specific regional and interregional planning provisions and promotes intergovernmental coordination of postdisaster response and recovery activities. This component must provide for postdisaster response and recovery strategies according to whether a disaster is minor, major, or catastrophic. The postdisaster response and recovery component must, at a minimum: establish the structure of the state's postdisaster response and recovery organization; establish procedures for activating the state's plan; set forth policies used to guide postdisaster response and recovery activities; describe the chain of command during the postdisaster response and recovery period; describe initial and continuous postdisaster response and recovery actions; identify the roles and responsibilities of each involved agency and organization; provide for a comprehensive communications plan; establish procedures for coordinating and monitoring statewide mutual aid agreements reimbursable under federal public disaster assistance programs; provide for rapid impact assessment teams; ensure the availability of an effective statewide urban search and rescue program coordinated with the fire services; ensure the existence of a comprehensive statewide medical care and relief plan administered by the Department of Health; and establish systems for coordinating volunteers and accepting and distributing donated funds and goods.

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

5. Address the need for coordinated and expeditious



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deployment of state resources, including the Florida National Guard. In the case of an imminent major disaster, procedures should address predeployment of the Florida National Guard, and, in the case of an imminent catastrophic disaster, procedures should address predeployment of the Florida National Guard and the United States Armed Forces.

6. Establish a system of communications and warning to ensure that the state's population and emergency management agencies are warned of developing emergency situations, including public health emergencies, and can communicate emergency response decisions.

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

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

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

10. Include an update on the status of the emergency management capabilities of the state and its political subdivisions.

~~The complete state comprehensive emergency management plan must be submitted to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor on February 1 of~~



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~~every even-numbered year.~~

(c) Assist political subdivisions in preparing and maintaining emergency management plans. Such assistance must include the development of a template for comprehensive emergency management plans and guidance on the development of mutual aid agreements when requested by the political subdivision.

(n) Implement training programs to maintain Florida's status as a national leader in emergency management and improve the ability of state and local emergency management personnel to prepare and implement emergency management plans and programs. This must ~~shall~~ include a continuous training program for agencies and individuals who ~~that~~ will be called on to perform key roles in state and local postdisaster response and recovery efforts and for local government personnel on federal and state postdisaster response and recovery strategies and procedures. The division shall specify requirements for the minimum number of training hours that county or municipal administrators, county or city managers, county or municipal emergency management directors, and county or municipal public works directors or other officials responsible for the construction and maintenance of public infrastructure must complete biennially in addition to the training required pursuant to s. 252.38(1)(b).

(s) Complete an inventory of disaster response equipment, including portable generators owned by the state and local governments which are capable of operating during a major disaster. The inventory must identify, at a minimum, the location of each generator, the number of generators stored at



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each specific location, the agency to which each generator belongs, the primary use of the generator by the owner agency, and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of persons having the authority to loan the stored generators as authorized by the division during a declared emergency.

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

(dd) Conduct, by April 1 of each year, an annual hurricane readiness session in each region designated by the division to facilitate coordination between all emergency management stakeholders. Each county emergency management director or his or her designee shall, and other county and municipal personnel may, attend the session for his or her region. A session must include, but is not limited to, guidance on timelines for preparation and response, information on state and federal postdisaster resources and assistance, guidance to promote efficient and expedited rebuilding of the community after a hurricane, best practices for coordination and communication among entities engaged in postdisaster response and recovery, and discussion of any outstanding county or municipal preparedness or readiness needs.

Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 252.355, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:



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

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

(b) To assist in identifying persons with special needs, home health agencies, hospices, nurse registries, home medical equipment providers, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of Education, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Elderly Affairs, and memory disorder clinics shall, and any physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 and any pharmacy licensed under chapter 465 may, annually provide registration information to all of their special needs clients or their caregivers. The division shall develop a brochure that provides information regarding special needs shelter registration procedures. The brochure must be easily accessible on the division's website. All appropriate agencies and community-based service providers, including aging and disability resource centers, memory disorder clinics, home health care providers, hospices, nurse registries, and home medical equipment providers, shall, and any physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 may, assist emergency management agencies by annually registering persons with special



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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.

Section 7. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section 252.3611, Florida Statutes, are 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, regardless of whether pursuant to the original declaration or extensions of the same declaration:

(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



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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.

(3) Once an emergency exceeds 1 year, the Auditor General shall conduct a financial audit of all associated expenditures and a compliance audit of all associated contracts entered into during the declared emergency. The Auditor General shall ~~must~~ update the audit annually until the emergency is declared to be ended. The Auditor General shall post the results of the audits on his or her official website.

(4) Following the expiration or termination of a state of emergency, the Auditor General shall conduct a financial audit of all associated expenditures and a compliance audit of all associated contracts entered into during the state of emergency. The Auditor General shall post the results of the audits on his or her official website.

(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



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

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

Section 8. Subsections (2) and (4) of section 252.365,
Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

252.365 Emergency coordination officers; disaster-
preparedness plans.—

(2) The emergency coordination officer is responsible for
~~coordinating with the division on emergency preparedness issues,~~



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preparing and maintaining emergency preparedness and postdisaster response and recovery plans for such agency, maintaining rosters of personnel to assist in disaster operations, ~~and~~ coordinating appropriate training for agency personnel, and coordinating with the division on emergency preparedness and recovery issues, including identifying priorities for postdisaster long-term recovery activities.

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

Section 9. Section 252.3655, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

252.3655 Natural hazards risks and mitigation interagency coordinating group ~~workgroup~~.—

(1)(a) An interagency coordinating group ~~workgroup~~ is created for the purpose of sharing information on the current and potential risks and impacts of natural hazards throughout this ~~the~~ state, coordinating the ongoing efforts of state agencies in addressing and mitigating the risks and impacts of natural hazards, and collaborating on statewide initiatives to address and mitigate the risks and impacts of natural hazards. As used in this section, the term “natural hazards” includes, but is not limited to, extreme heat, drought, wildfire, sea-level change, high tides, storm surge, saltwater intrusion, stormwater runoff, flash floods, inland flooding, and coastal flooding.

(b) The agency head, or his or her designated senior



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manager, from each of the following agencies shall serve on the coordinating group:

1. Chief Resilience Officer of the Statewide Office of Resilience.

2. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

3. Department of Commerce.

4. Department of Environmental Protection.

5. Department of Financial Services.

6. Department of Law Enforcement.

7. Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

8. Department of Military Affairs.

9. Division of Emergency Management.

10. Department of Transportation.

11. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

12. Office of Insurance Regulation.

13. Public Service Commission.

14. Each water management district ~~Each agency within the executive branch of state government, each water management district, and the Florida Public Service Commission shall select from within such agency a person to be designated as the agency liaison to the workgroup.~~

(c) The director of the Division of Emergency Management, or his or her designee, shall serve as the administrator ~~liaison to and coordinator~~ of the coordinating group ~~workgroup~~.

(d) Each agency representative ~~liaison~~ shall provide information from his or her respective agency, including all relevant reports, on the current and potential risks and impacts of natural hazards to this state ~~to his or her agency~~, agency resources available, and efforts made by the agency to address



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and mitigate the risks and impacts of ~~against~~ natural hazards, ~~and efforts made by the agency to address the impacts of natural hazards.~~

(e) 1. The coordinating group ~~workgroup~~ shall meet in person or by means of communications media technology as provided in s. 120.54(5) (b)2. at least ~~teleconference on a quarterly basis~~ to share information, leverage agency resources, coordinate ongoing efforts, and provide information for inclusion in the annual progress report submitted pursuant to subsection (2). Agency heads for the agencies listed in paragraph (b) shall meet in person at least annually to collectively strategize and ~~prioritize state efforts.~~

2. Information regarding the coordinating group, including meeting agendas and reports, must be posted in a conspicuous location on the division's website.

(2) (a) On behalf of the coordinating group ~~workgroup~~, the division ~~of Emergency Management~~ shall prepare an annual progress report on the implementation of the state's hazard mitigation plan, developed and submitted in accordance with 42 U.S.C. s. 5165 and any implementing regulations, as it relates to natural hazards. At a minimum, the annual progress report must:

1. Assess each agency's ~~the relevance, level, and significance of current agency~~ efforts to address and mitigate the risks and impacts of natural hazards; ~~and~~

2. Strategize and prioritize ongoing efforts to address and mitigate the risks and impacts of natural hazards; ~~and~~

3. Provide recommendations regarding statutory changes and funding that may assist in addressing or mitigating the risks



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and impacts of natural hazards; and

4. Provide recommendations for state and local natural hazard mitigation strategies.

~~(b) Each liaison is responsible for ensuring that the workgroup's annual progress report is posted on his or her agency's website.~~

~~(c) By January 1 of each year, 2019, and each year thereafter,~~ the division on behalf of the coordinating group shall submit the annual progress report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Section 10. Present paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (5) of section 252.37, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (d) and (e), respectively, a new paragraph (c) is added to that subsection, and subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

252.37 Financing.—

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

(c) If the division intends to accept or apply for federal funds for a division-administered program that is new, that will 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



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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 cost or other funds as appropriated to implement this subsection.

Section 11. 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. L. No. 106-390.

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

(3) The division and subrecipients shall prioritize



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projects that fulfill the following purposes when adopting mitigation strategies and plans and applying for funds under the grant program:

(a) Reducing shelter space deficits through retrofitting of existing shelters and hardening of public buildings that are not schools. Reducing deficits in shelter space intended to accommodate individuals with special needs must be prioritized before addressing deficits in other types of shelter space.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) Funding is used for projects in the geographic areas



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specified in the grant of funding.

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

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

Section 12. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 252.373, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

252.373 Allocation of funds; rules.—

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

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

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

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

Section 13. Present paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3) of section 252.38, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as



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paragraphs (b) and (c), respectively, a new paragraph (a) is added to that subsection, and paragraph (a) of subsection (1) is amended, to read:

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

(1) COUNTIES.—

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

(3) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POWERS; POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.—



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

Section 14. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 252.385, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

252.385 Public shelter space; public records exemption.—

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

~~(b) By January 31 of each even-numbered year, the division shall prepare and submit a statewide emergency shelter plan to the Governor and Cabinet for approval, subject to the requirements for approval in s. 1013.37(2). The emergency shelter plan must project, for each of the next 5 years, the hurricane shelter needs of the state, including periods of time during which a concurrent public health emergency may~~



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~~necessitate more space for each individual to accommodate physical distancing. In addition to information on the general shelter needs throughout this state, the plan must identify the general location and square footage of special needs shelters, by regional planning council region. The plan must also include information on the availability of shelters that accept pets. The Department of Health shall assist the division in determining the estimated need for special needs shelter space and the adequacy of facilities to meet the needs of persons with special needs based on information from the registries of persons with special needs and other information.~~

(3)(a) The division shall annually provide by October 15 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report that includes, ~~and the Governor~~ a list of facilities recommended to be retrofitted using state funds. State funds should be maximized and targeted to projects in counties ~~regional planning council regions~~ with hurricane evacuation shelter deficits. Additionally, the division shall prioritize on the list of recommended facilities other state-owned, municipal-owned, and county-owned public buildings, other than schools, for retrofit using state funds. The owner or lessee of a public hurricane evacuation shelter that is included on the list of facilities recommended for retrofitting is not required to perform any recommended improvements.

(b) The report required in paragraph (a) must include a statewide emergency shelter plan that must project, for each of the next 5 years, the hurricane shelter needs of the state. In addition to information on the general shelter needs throughout



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this state, the plan must identify, by county, the general location and square footage of special needs shelters. The plan must also include information on the availability of shelters that accept pets. The Department of Health and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities shall assist the division in determining the estimated need for special needs shelter space, the estimated need for general shelter space to accommodate persons with developmental disabilities, including, but not limited to, autism, and the adequacy of facilities to meet the needs of persons with special needs based on information from the registries of persons with special needs and other information.

Section 15. Section 252.392, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

252.392 Post-storm county and municipal permitting; operations.—

(1) (a) Each county and municipality shall develop a post-storm permitting plan to expedite recovery and rebuilding by providing for special building permit and inspection procedures after a hurricane or tropical storm. The plan must, at a minimum:

1. Ensure sufficient personnel are prepared and available to expeditiously manage post-disaster building inspection, permitting, and enforcement tasks. The plan must anticipate conditions that would necessitate supplemental personnel for such tasks and address methods for fulfilling such personnel needs, including through mutual aid agreements as authorized in s. 252.40, other arrangements, such as those with private sector contractors, or supplemental state or federal funding. The plan



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736 must include training requirements and protocols for
737 supplemental personnel to ensure compliance with local
738 floodplain management requirements that apply within the county
739 or municipality.

740 2. Account for multiple or alternate locations where
741 building permit services may be offered in-person to the public
742 following a hurricane or tropical storm, during regular business
743 hours.

744 3. Specify a protocol to expedite permitting procedures
745 and, if practicable, for the waiver or reduction of applicable
746 fees in accordance with and in addition to the procedures and
747 waivers provided for under s. 553.7922. The plan must identify
748 the types of permits that are frequently requested following a
749 hurricane or tropical storm and methods to expedite the
750 processing of such permits.

751 4. Specify procedures and resources necessary to promote
752 expeditious debris removal following a hurricane or tropical
753 storm.

754 (b) Each county and municipality shall update the plan no
755 later than May 1 annually.

756 (2)(a) By May 1 annually, each county and municipality
757 shall publish on its website a hurricane and tropical storm
758 recovery permitting guide for residential and commercial
759 property owners. The guide must describe:

760 1. The types of post-storm repairs that require a permit
761 and applicable fees.

762 2. The types of post-storm repairs that do not require a
763 permit.

764 3. The post-storm permit application process and specific



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modifications the county or municipality commonly makes to expedite the process, including the physical locations where permitting services will be offered.

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

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

(3) For 180 days after a state of emergency is declared pursuant to s. 252.36 for a hurricane or tropical storm, a county or municipality within the area for which the state of emergency is declared:

(a) May not increase building permit or inspection fees.

(b) Must have employees and supplemental personnel available during the county's or municipality's normal business hours to process permits.

Section 16. Subsection (1) of section 400.063, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

400.063 Resident protection.—

(1) The Health Care Trust Fund shall be used for the purpose of collecting and disbursing funds generated from the license fees and administrative fines as provided for in ss.



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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 17. 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



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or debris management service provider, a private solid waste or debris management service provider is not required to collect storm-generated yard trash. 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 18. (1) Each county listed in the federal disaster declaration for Hurricane Debby (DR-4806), Hurricane Helene (DR-4828), or Hurricane Milton (DR-4834), and each municipality within one of those counties, shall not propose or adopt any moratorium on construction, reconstruction, or redevelopment of any property damaged by such hurricanes; propose or adopt more restrictive or burdensome amendments to its comprehensive plan or land development regulations; or propose or adopt more restrictive or burdensome procedures concerning review, approval, or issuance of a site plan, development permit, or development order, to the extent that those terms are defined by



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s. 163.3164, Florida Statutes, before October 1, 2027, and any such moratorium or restrictive or burdensome comprehensive plan amendment, land development regulation, or procedure shall be null and void ab initio. This subsection applies retroactively to August 1, 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

1. The resident or business owner provides the governing body of the county or municipality written notice that a



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proposed or enacted moratorium, comprehensive plan amendment,
land development regulation, or procedure is in violation of
this section; and

2. The governing body of the county or municipality
withdraws the proposed moratorium, comprehensive plan amendment,
land development regulation, or procedure within 14 days; or, in
the case of an adopted moratorium, comprehensive plan amendment,
land development regulation, or procedure, the governing body of
a county or municipality notices an intent to repeal within 14
days after receipt of the notice and repeals the moratorium,
comprehensive plan amendment, land development regulation, or
procedure within 14 days thereafter.

(4) This section shall take effect upon becoming a law and
expires June 30, 2028.

Section 19. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment
made by this act to section 252.35, Florida Statutes, in a
reference thereto, subsection (6) of section 252.55, Florida
Statutes, is reenacted to read:

252.55 Civil Air Patrol, Florida Wing.—

(6) The wing commander of the Florida Wing of the Civil Air
Patrol shall biennially furnish the division a 2-year projection
of the goals and objectives of the Civil Air Patrol which shall
be reported in the division's biennial report submitted pursuant
to s. 252.35.

Section 20. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon
this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,
2025.



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===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause
and insert:

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to emergency preparedness and
response; amending s. 161.101, F.S.; authorizing the
Department of Environmental Protection to waive or
reduce local government match requirements under
certain circumstances; providing for future
expiration; amending s. 193.4518, F.S.; providing a
tangible personal property assessment limitation,
during a certain timeframe and in certain counties,
for certain agricultural equipment that is unable to
be used due to Hurricanes Debby, Helene, or Milton;
specifying conditions for applying for and receiving
the assessment limitation; providing procedures for
petitioning the value adjustment board if an
application is denied; providing for retroactive
application; amending s. 215.559, F.S.; deleting a
reference to a certain report; revising public
hurricane shelter funding prioritization requirements
for the Division of Emergency Management; amending s.
250.375, F.S.; authorizing certain servicemembers to
provide medical care in specified circumstances;
amending s. 252.35, F.S.; providing legislative
intent; revising the date by which the state
comprehensive emergency management plan must be
submitted to the Legislature and the Governor;



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revising the components of the plan; requiring the division to provide certain assistance to political subdivisions; revising requirements for training provided by the division; revising inventory requirements; deleting a requirement for a certain biennial report; requiring the division to conduct an annual hurricane readiness session in each region designated by the division for a specified purpose; requiring all county emergency management directors, and authorizing other county and municipal personnel to attend such session; requiring that the session include specified topics and needs; amending s. 252.355, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide certain information to specified clients or their caregivers; amending s. 252.3611, F.S.; directing specified entities to submit specified contracts and reports to the Legislature under specified conditions; requiring that such contracts be posted on a specified secure contract system; requiring the Auditor General to post the results of specified audits on his or her official website; requiring the division to report annually to the Legislature specified information on expenditures related to emergencies; providing requirements for such report; amending s. 252.365, F.S.; revising the responsibilities for agency emergency coordination officers; requiring agency heads to notify the Governor and the division of the person designated as the emergency coordination officer annually by a



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specified date; amending s. 252.3655, F.S.; creating the natural hazards risks and mitigation interagency coordinating group; providing the purpose of the group; providing for the membership and administration of the group; requiring agency representatives to provide information relating to natural hazards to this state, agency resources, efforts to address and mitigate risk and impacts of natural hazards; requiring the group to meet in person or by communication media technology at least quarterly for specified purposes; requiring specified agency heads to meet at least annually to strategize and prioritize state efforts; requiring the division, on behalf of the group, to prepare a certain progress report; revising the requirements of such report; revising requirements for an annual progress report by the division on behalf of the group; requiring the division, on behalf of the group, to submit such report to the Governor and the Legislature; amending s. 252.37, F.S.; requiring the division to notify the Legislature of its intent to accept or apply for federal funds under certain circumstances; requiring the division to take steps to maximize the availability and expedite distribution of financial assistance from the Federal Government to state and local agencies; requiring that such steps include the standardization and streamlining of the application process for federal financial assistance and the provision of assistance to those applicants for a



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997 specified purpose; requiring the division to use
998 certain federal funds to implement such requirements;
999 creating s. 252.3713, F.S.; requiring the division to
1000 administer the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program;
1001 authorizing the division to retain a specified
1002 percentage of the funds for use within the state;
1003 requiring that the remaining percentage be distributed
1004 for use by certain recipients; authorizing
1005 subrecipients to make a certain election for a
1006 specified use; requiring the prioritization of certain
1007 projects; authorizing the division to coordinate with
1008 specified entities under certain circumstances;
1009 requiring that such cooperation ensures certain
1010 requirements are met and certain projects are funded;
1011 authorizing fiscally constrained counties to request
1012 that the division administer the grant for such a
1013 county; authorizing such counties to request certain
1014 assistance from the division; requiring the division
1015 to adopt rules; amending s. 252.373, F.S.; conforming
1016 a cross-reference; amending s. 252.38, F.S.; requiring
1017 each political subdivision to notify the division of
1018 the designated emergency contact annually by a
1019 specified date; amending s. 252.385, F.S.; revising
1020 reporting requirements for the division; revising
1021 requirements for a specified list; requiring the
1022 Department of Health and the Agency for Persons with
1023 Disabilities to assist the division with certain
1024 determinations; creating s. 252.392, F.S.; requiring
1025 counties and municipalities to develop a post-storm



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1026 permitting plan; providing requirements for the plan;
1027 requiring annual updates to the plan by a specified
1028 date; requiring counties and municipalities to
1029 publish, and post on their websites, a specified storm
1030 recovery guide annually by a specified date;
1031 prohibiting certain counties and municipalities from
1032 increasing building permit or inspection fees within a
1033 specified timeframe; requiring such counties and
1034 municipalities to have certain personnel available
1035 during normal business hours; amending s. 400.063,
1036 F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; amending s.
1037 403.7071, F.S.; providing that local governments are
1038 authorized and encouraged to add certain addendums to
1039 certain contracts or agreements; requiring counties
1040 and municipalities to apply to the Department of
1041 Environmental Protection for authorization to
1042 designate at least one debris management site;
1043 authorizing municipalities to apply jointly with a
1044 county or another adjacent municipality for
1045 authorization of a minimum number of debris management
1046 sites if such entities approve a memorandum of
1047 understanding; providing requirements for such
1048 memoranda; prohibiting certain counties from proposing
1049 or adopting certain moratoriums, amendments, or
1050 procedures for a specified period; declaring that such
1051 moratoriums, amendments, or procedures are null and
1052 void; providing for retroactive application; providing
1053 that certain comprehensive plan amendments, land
1054 development regulation amendments, site plans, and



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1055 development permits or orders may be enforced under
1056 specified conditions; authorizing residents and owners
1057 of certain businesses to bring a civil action for
1058 declaratory and injunctive relief against a county or
1059 municipality that violates specified provisions;
1060 providing that such residents or business owners are
1061 entitled to a preliminary injunction against such
1062 county or municipality, under a specified condition;
1063 providing for the award of attorney fees and costs;
1064 prohibiting the awarding of attorney fees and costs
1065 and damages under specified circumstances; providing
1066 for future expiration; reenacting s. 252.55(6), F.S.,
1067 relating to a certain biennial report submitted by the
1068 wing commander of the Civil Air Patrol, to incorporate
1069 the amendment made to s. 252.35, F.S., in a reference
1070 thereto; providing effective dates.