

By Senator DiCeglie

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1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to building inspections during an  
3 emergency; amending ss. 252.35 and 252.381, F.S.;  
4 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
5 creating s. 468.634, F.S.; authorizing the Governor to  
6 allow individuals to work in specified positions if  
7 they meet certain requirements; requiring the Division  
8 of Emergency Management and the Department of Business  
9 and Professional Regulation to develop certain  
10 training; requiring certain local governments to  
11 develop certain training; providing an effective date.  
12

13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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15 Section 1. Paragraph (n) of subsection (2) of section  
16 252.35, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17 252.35 Emergency management powers; Division of Emergency  
18 Management.—

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

22 (n) Implement training programs to maintain this state's  
23 status as a national leader in emergency management and improve  
24 the ability of state and local emergency management personnel to  
25 prepare and implement emergency management plans and programs.  
26 This must include a continuous training program for agencies and  
27 individuals who will be called on to perform key roles in state  
28 and local postdisaster response and recovery efforts and for  
29 local government personnel on federal and state postdisaster

18-01155A-26

20261260\_\_

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). Such training may be provided by the division or, for county personnel, by a foundation that is a not-for-profit corporation under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and has a governing board that includes in its membership county commissioners and professional county staff. If training is provided by a foundation, including the training program required under s. 468.634(2), such training must be approved by the division.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 252.381, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(2)(a) Each county and municipality shall develop a poststorm 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 postdisaster 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

18-01155A-26

20261260\_\_

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 must include training requirements and protocols for supplemental personnel to ensure compliance with local floodplain management requirements that apply within the county or municipality, including the training program required under s. 468.634(3), if applicable.

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

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

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

Section 3. Section 468.634, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

468.634 Emergency provisions.—

(1) Notwithstanding any other law, the Governor may allow a person to act in any of the following positions if such person is qualified for such work in a state that has a mutual aid agreement entered into pursuant to s. 252.40(2) and such person

18-01155A-26

20261260\_\_

88 has taken the training program described in subsection (2) and,  
89 if applicable, subsection (3):

90 (a) Building code inspector.

91 (b) Building inspector.

92 (c) Coastal construction inspector.

93 (d) Commercial electrical inspector.

94 (e) Electrical inspector.

95 (f) Mechanical inspector.

96 (g) Plumbing inspector.

97 (h) Residential electrical inspector.

98 (i) Residential inspector.

99 (j) Plans examiner.

100 (k) Building plans examiner.

101 (l) Plumbing plans examiner.

102 (m) Mechanical plans examiner.

103 (n) Electrical plans examiner.

104 (2) The Division of Emergency Management and the Department  
105 of Business and Professional Regulation shall develop a Florida  
106 Building Code training program.

107 (3) A local government with a local amendment to the  
108 Florida Building Code shall develop a training program on all  
109 local amendments applicable within the jurisdiction of such  
110 government.

111 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.