

House Bill No. 911

An act relating to the use of state facilities as emergency shelters; amending s. 252.385, F.S.; providing for use of certain state facilities as emergency shelters; requiring the Department of Management Services to list state-owned facilities that are suitable for use as emergency shelters; providing requirements with respect to such listing; defining terms; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 252.385, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, to read:

252.385 Public shelter space.—

(4)(a) Public facilities, including schools, postsecondary education facilities, and other facilities owned or leased by the state or local governments, but excluding hospitals or nursing homes, which are suitable for use as public hurricane evacuation shelters shall be made available at the request of the local emergency management agencies. Such agencies shall coordinate with the appropriate school board, university, community college, state agency, or local governing board when requesting the use of such facilities as public hurricane evacuation shelters.

(d) The Department of Management Services shall include in the annual state facilities inventory report required under ss. 216.015-216.016 a separate list of state-owned facilities, including, but not limited to, meeting halls, auditoriums, conference centers, and training centers that have unoccupied space suitable for use as an emergency shelter during a storm or other catastrophic event. Facilities must be listed by the county and municipality where the facility is located and must be made available in accordance with paragraph (a). As used in this paragraph, the term “suitable for use as an emergency shelter” means meeting the standards set by the American Red Cross for a hurricane evacuation shelter, and the term “unoccupied” means vacant due to suspended operation or nonuse. The list must be updated by May 31 of each year.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

Approved by the Governor June 1, 2006.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 1, 2006.