

CHAPTER 2016-198

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1288

An act relating to emergency management; amending s. 252.34, F.S.; defining the term “activate” for purposes of part I of ch. 252, F.S.; creating s. 252.359, F.S.; directing the Division of Emergency Management to create a statewide system to facilitate the transport and distribution of essentials in commerce during a declared emergency; defining the term “essentials”; directing the division to create a certification system for persons transporting or distributing essentials in commerce; providing requirements and conditions for the certification system; permitting certain activities by certified persons during a curfew; authorizing a law enforcement officer to specify a permissible route of ingress or egress for a certified person; amending ss. 163.360, 474.2125, and 627.659, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Present subsections (1) through (9) of section 252.34, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (2) through (10), respectively, and a new subsection (1) is added to that section, to read:

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

(1) “Activate” means the execution and implementation of the necessary plans and activities required to mitigate, respond to, or recover from an emergency or disaster pursuant to this chapter and the state comprehensive emergency management plan.

Section 2. Section 252.359, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

252.359 Ensuring availability of emergency supplies.—

(1) In order to meet the needs of residents affected during a declared emergency and to ensure the continuing economic resilience of communities impacted by disaster, the division shall establish a statewide system to facilitate the transport and distribution of essentials in commerce.

(2) As used in this section, the term “essentials” means goods that are consumed or used as a direct result of a declared emergency, or that are consumed or used to preserve, protect, or sustain life, health, safety, or economic well-being.

(3) The division shall develop a system to certify each person who facilitates the transport or distribution of essentials in commerce. The division may not certify a person other than a person who routinely transports or distributes essentials. In developing the system, the division:

(a) May provide for a preemergency or postemergency declaration certification.

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

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

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

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

(5) Notwithstanding any curfew, a person or employer certified under subsection (3) may enter or remain in the curfew area for the limited purpose of facilitating the transport or 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.

(6) This section does not prohibit a law enforcement officer from specifying the permissible route of ingress or egress for a person certified under subsection (3).

Section 3. Subsection (10) of section 163.360, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

163.360 Community redevelopment plans.—

(10) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this part, when the governing body certifies that an area is in need of redevelopment or rehabilitation as a result of an emergency under s. 252.34(4) ~~s. 252.34(3)~~, with respect to which the Governor has certified the need for emergency assistance under federal law, that area may be certified as a "blighted area," and the governing body may approve a community redevelopment plan and community redevelopment with respect to such area without regard to the provisions of this section requiring a general plan for the county or municipality and a public hearing on the community redevelopment.

Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 474.2125, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

474.2125 Temporary license.—

(1) The board shall adopt rules providing for the issuance of a temporary license to a licensed veterinarian of another state for the purpose of enabling her or him to provide veterinary medical services in this state for the

animals of a specific owner or, as may be needed in an emergency as defined in s. 252.34(4) ~~s. 252.34(3)~~, for the animals of multiple owners, provided the applicant would qualify for licensure by endorsement under s. 474.217. No temporary license shall be valid for more than 30 days after its issuance, and no license shall cover more than the treatment of the animals of one owner except in an emergency as defined in s. 252.34(4) ~~s. 252.34(3)~~. After the expiration of 30 days, a new license is required.

Section 5. Subsection (4) of section 627.659, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.659 Blanket health insurance; eligible groups.—Blanket health insurance is that form of health insurance which covers special groups of individuals as enumerated in one of the following subsections:

(4) Under a policy or contract issued in the name of a volunteer fire department, first aid group, local emergency management agency as defined in s. 252.34(6) ~~s. 252.34(5)~~, or other group of first responders as defined in s. 112.1815, which is deemed the policyholder, covering all or any grouping of the members or employees of the policyholder or covering all or any participants in an activity or operation sponsored or supervised by the policyholder.

Section 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor April 6, 2016.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 6, 2016.