

CHAPTER 2024-193

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1567

An act relating to qualifications for county emergency management directors; amending s. 252.38, F.S.; requiring county emergency management directors to meet specified qualifications; requiring such directors to meet such qualifications by a specified date; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 252.38, Florida Statutes, 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.—

(b)1. Each county emergency management agency created and established pursuant to ss. 252.31-252.90 shall have a director. The director must meet the following minimum training and education qualifications:

a. Fifty hours of training in business or public administration, business or public management, or emergency management or preparedness. A bachelor's degree may be substituted for this training requirement.

b. Four years of verifiable experience in comprehensive emergency management services that includes improving preparedness for emergency and disaster protection, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery, with direct supervisory responsibility for responding to at least 1 emergency or disaster.

(I) A master's degree in emergency preparedness or management, business or public administration, communications, finance, homeland security, public health, criminal justice, meteorology, or environmental science may be substituted for 2 of the years of experience required in this sub-subparagraph but not for the required supervisory experience.

(II) A valid accreditation as a Certified Master Exercise Practitioner through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Certified Emergency Manager through the International Association of Emergency Managers, or Florida Professional Emergency Manager through the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association may be substituted for the requirements of this sub-subparagraph. A certification used as a substitution for the requirements of this sub-subparagraph must be currently maintained in good standing at all times until the actual time and experience requirements satisfying this sub-subparagraph are met by the appointee.

c. Completion of 150 hours in comprehensive emergency management training provided through or approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency or its successor, including completion of the following National Incident Management System courses, or equivalent courses established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Emergency Management Institute:

(I) ICS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System;

(II) ICS-200: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents;

(III) ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents;

(IV) ICS-400: Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff;

(V) IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction;
and

(VI) IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction.

All training required by this sub-subparagraph must have been completed no earlier than the 10 years preceding the date of appointment, regardless of whether it is an initial appointment or reappointment.

d. A valid driver license. If the license is not a Florida driver license, the director must obtain a Florida driver license within 30 days after being appointed as director.

~~2. established in a job description approved by the county.~~ The director shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners or the chief administrative officer of the county, as described in chapter 125 or the county charter, if applicable, to serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority, in conformance with applicable resolutions, ordinances, and laws.

3. A county constitutional officer, or an employee of a county constitutional officer, may be appointed as director following prior notification to the division.

4. Each board of county commissioners shall promptly inform the division of the appointment of the director and other personnel.

5. Each director has direct responsibility for the organization, administration, and operation of the county emergency management agency. The director shall coordinate emergency management activities, services, and programs within the county and shall serve as liaison to the division and other local emergency management agencies and organizations.

Section 2. A county emergency management director who does not satisfy the training or certification requirements of section 1 of this act as of July 1, 2024, shall have until June 30, 2026, to complete such requirements.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor May 16, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 16, 2024.