A bill to be entitled
An act relating to disaster response and preparedness;
amending s. 252.34, F.S.; defining the term "comfort animal"; amending s. 252.35, F.S.; modifying
requirements for the state comprehensive emergency management plan and statewide public awareness programs administered by the Division of Emergency Management; requiring the division to provide certain guidance to entities to ensure the receipt of maximum allowable reimbursements from the Federal Government for disaster-related expenditures; amending s. 252.355, F.S.; authorizing any individual to bring a service animal or comfort animal to a special needs shelter; creating s. 252.3551, F.S.; requiring the division to establish and maintain a registry with homeless shelters and service providers for specified purposes; amending s. 252.3568, F.S.; revising requirements for the development of strategies regarding the sheltering of persons with service animals or comfort animals; requiring the division to develop informational materials regarding the acceptance of pets, service animals, and comfort animals at shelters; amending s. 252.38, F.S.; requiring that, upon the request of the director of a local emergency management agency, Florida College...
26 System institutions and state universities participate
27 in emergency management activities through the
28 provision of facilities and personnel; requiring
29 Florida College System institutions and state
30 universities that provide transportation assistance in
31 an emergency evacuation to coordinate the use of
32 vehicles and personnel with local emergency management
33 agencies; amending s. 252.385, F.S.; updating
34 references to community colleges; amending s. 1008.34,
35 F.S., and reenacting and amending subsection (1);
36 defining the term "eligible student"; excluding from
37 the calculation of certain components of a school's
38 grade the performance of certain students who have
39 recently arrived from a United States territory where
40 an emergency has been declared due to a natural
41 disaster; amending s. 1011.60, F.S.; providing an
42 exception to the prohibition against a school
43 district's payment of salary to an employee in advance
44 of rendering of services; amending ss. 163.360,
45 474.2125, and 627.659, F.S.; conforming cross-
46 references; providing an effective date.
47
48 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
49
50 Section 1. Present subsections (2) through (10) of section

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
252.34, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3) through (11), respectively, and a new subsection (2) is added to that section, to read:

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

(2) "Comfort animal" means an animal, other than a pet or a service animal, which provides emotional support to help improve the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive condition of an individual.

Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (i) of subsection (2) of section 252.35, Florida Statutes, are amended, present paragraph (y) of that subsection is redesignated as paragraph (z), and a new paragraph (y) is added to that subsection, to read:

252.35  Emergency management powers; Division of Emergency Management.—

(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 shall be integrated into and coordinated with the emergency management plans and programs of the Federal Government. The division must adopt the plan as a rule in accordance with chapter 120. The plan shall 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 agencies and organizations with emergency management responsibilities in preparing and maintaining the plan. The state comprehensive emergency management plan shall 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 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, people with mental illness, and homeless individuals.

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 monitoring mutual aid agreements; 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; ensure the existence of a comprehensive
statewide plan for the safe transfer of persons with special
needs, persons with mental illness, and homeless individuals;
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
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 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

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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.

The complete state comprehensive emergency management plan shall be submitted to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor on February 1 of every even-numbered year.

(i) Institute statewide public awareness programs. This shall include an intensive public educational campaign on emergency preparedness issues, including, but not limited to, the personal responsibility of individual citizens to be self-sufficient for up to 72 hours following a natural or manmade disaster. The public educational campaign shall include relevant information on statewide disaster plans, evacuation routes, fuel suppliers, and shelters. Information on shelters must address the different types of shelters available, such as special needs shelters and shelters that accept individuals with service animals, comfort animals, or pets. All educational materials must be available in alternative formats and mediums to ensure that they are available to persons with disabilities.

(y) Provide guidance regarding procedures and required documentation to any entity entitled to receive reimbursements for disaster-related expenditures from the Federal Emergency
Management Agency in order to ensure that such entities receive the maximum allowable reimbursements.

Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 252.355, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(3) An individual with special needs must be allowed to bring his or her service animal into a special needs shelter in accordance with s. 413.08 or to bring his or her comfort animal.

Section 4. Section 252.3551, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

252.3551 Registry for homeless shelters and service providers.—The division, in coordination with each local emergency management agency in the state, shall establish and maintain a registry with each homeless shelter and homeless service provider in the state. The purpose of the registry is to help determine the number of homeless individuals that may need assistance or shelter during an evacuation.

Section 5. Section 252.3568, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

252.3568 Emergency sheltering of persons with pets.—

(1) In accordance with s. 252.35, the division shall address strategies for the evacuation of persons with pets in the shelter component of the state comprehensive emergency

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management plan and shall include the requirement for similar strategies in its standards and requirements for local comprehensive emergency management plans. The strategies must include procedures for the sheltering of persons who have service animals or comfort animals. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall assist the division in determining strategies regarding this activity.

(2) The division shall inform the public regarding policies governing the acceptance of pets, service animals, and comfort animals at shelters by developing informational materials that may be distributed at veterinary offices, public or private animal shelters, humane organizations, and any other appropriate locations.

Section 6. Paragraph (d) 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.—

(d) During a declared state or local emergency and upon the request of the director of a local emergency management agency, the district school board or school boards, Florida College System institutions, and state universities in the affected area shall participate in emergency management by
providing facilities and necessary personnel to staff such facilities. Each school board, Florida College System institution, and state university providing transportation assistance in an emergency evacuation shall coordinate the use of its vehicles and personnel with the local emergency management agency.

Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 252.385, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

252.385 Public shelter space.—

(2)(a) The division shall administer a program to survey existing schools, state universities, Florida College System institutions 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, Florida College System institution community college boards of trustees, and the Department of Education are responsible for coordinating and implementing the survey of public schools, state universities, and Florida College System institutions community colleges with the division or the local emergency management agency.
(4)(a) Public facilities, including schools, postsecondary education facilities, and other facilities owned or leased by the state or local governments, but excluding hospitals, hospice care facilities, assisted living facilities, and 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. The local emergency management agency shall coordinate with these entities to ensure that designated facilities are ready to activate prior to a specific hurricane or disaster. Such agencies shall coordinate with the appropriate school board, state university, Florida College System institution, community college, state agency, or local governing board when requesting the use of such facilities as public hurricane evacuation shelters.

Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 1008.34, Florida Statutes, is reenacted and amended, and subsection (3) of that section is amended, to read:

1008.34 School grading system; school report cards; district grade.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of the statewide, standardized assessment program and school grading system, the following terms are defined:

(a) "Achievement level," "student achievement," or "achievement" describes the level of content mastery a student has acquired in a particular subject as measured by a statewide,
standardized assessment administered pursuant to s. 1008.22(3)(a) and (b). There are five achievement levels. Level 1 is the lowest achievement level, level 5 is the highest achievement level, and level 3 indicates satisfactory performance. A student passes an assessment if the student achieves a level 3, level 4, or level 5. For purposes of the Florida Alternate Assessment administered pursuant to s. 1008.22(3)(c), the state board shall provide, in rule, the number of achievement levels and identify the achievement levels that are considered passing.

(b) "Eligible student" means a student who is present for both Survey Period 2 and Survey Period 3 of the full-time equivalent student membership surveys, not including a student who is a recent arrival to the school district from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any other territory of the United States where an emergency has been declared due to a natural disaster.

(c) "Learning Gains," "annual learning gains," or "student learning gains" means the degree of student learning growth occurring from one school year to the next as required by state board rule for purposes of calculating school grades under this section.

(d) "Student performance," "student academic performance," or "academic performance" includes, but is not limited to, student learning growth, achievement levels, and
Learning Gains on statewide, standardized assessments administered pursuant to s. 1008.22.

(3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL GRADES.—

(b)1. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a school's grade shall be based on the following components, each worth 100 points:

   a. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide, standardized assessments in English Language Arts under s. 1008.22(3).

   b. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide, standardized assessments in mathematics under s. 1008.22(3).

   c. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide, standardized assessments in science under s. 1008.22(3).

   d. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide, standardized assessments in social studies under s. 1008.22(3).

   e. The percentage of eligible students who make Learning Gains in English Language Arts as measured by statewide, standardized assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3).

   f. The percentage of eligible students who make Learning Gains in mathematics as measured by statewide, standardized assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3).

   g. The percentage of eligible students in the lowest 25 percent in English Language Arts, as identified by prior year performance on statewide, standardized assessments, who make Learning Gains as measured by statewide, standardized English
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Language Arts assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3).

h. The percentage of eligible students in the lowest 25 percent in mathematics, as identified by prior year performance on statewide, standardized assessments, who make Learning Gains as measured by statewide, standardized Mathematics assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3).

i. For schools comprised of middle grades 6 through 8 or grades 7 and 8, the percentage of eligible students passing high school level statewide, standardized end-of-course assessments or attaining national industry certifications identified in the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

In calculating Learning Gains for the components listed in sub-subparagraphs e.–h., the State Board of Education shall require that learning growth toward achievement levels 3, 4, and 5 is demonstrated by students who scored below each of those levels in the prior year. In calculating the components in sub-subparagraphs a.–d., the state board shall include the performance of English language learners only if they have been enrolled in a school in the United States for more than 2 years, but may not include students who are recent arrivals to the school district from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any other territory of the United States where an emergency has been declared due to a natural
disaster.

2. For a school comprised of grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, or grades 10, 11, and 12, the school's grade shall also be based on the following components, each worth 100 points:

   a. The 4-year high school graduation rate of the school as defined by state board rule.

   b. The percentage of students who were eligible to earn college and career credit through College Board Advanced Placement examinations, International Baccalaureate examinations, dual enrollment courses, or Advanced International Certificate of Education examinations; or who, at any time during high school, earned national industry certification identified in the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List, pursuant to rules adopted by the state board.

Section 9. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 1011.60, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1011.60 Minimum requirements of the Florida Education Finance Program.—Each district which participates in the state appropriations for the Florida Education Finance Program shall provide evidence of its effort to maintain an adequate school program throughout the district and shall meet at least the following requirements:

   (3) EMPLOYMENT POLICIES.—Adopt rules relating to the appointment, promotion, transfer, suspension, and dismissal of personnel.
(c) A salary payment may not be paid to any employee in advance of service being rendered; however in the event that a district, or a school within that district, closes or is ordered to close due to a natural disaster or other emergency, an employee may be paid for such days so long as such time is made up at a later date in the school year.

Section 10. 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(5), 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 11. 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

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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(5) OR S. 252.34(4), 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(5) OR S. 252.34(4).

AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF 30 DAYS, A NEW LICENSE IS REQUIRED.

SECTION 12. 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(7) OR S. 252.34(6), 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 13. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT JULY 1, 2018.