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CS/CS/HB 1567, Engrossed 1

2024 Legislature

1  
 2 An act relating to qualifications for county emergency  
 3 management directors; amending s. 252.38, F.S.;  
 4 requiring county emergency management directors to  
 5 meet specified qualifications; requiring such  
 6 directors to meet such qualifications by a specified  
 7 date; providing an effective date.  
 8

9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
 10

11 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
 12 252.38, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13 252.38 Emergency management powers of political  
 14 subdivisions.—Safeguarding the life and property of its citizens  
 15 is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each  
 16 political subdivision of the state.

17 (1) COUNTIES.—

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

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

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

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

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

49 c. Completion of 150 hours in comprehensive emergency  
 50 management training provided through or approved by the Federal

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51 Emergency Management Agency or its successor, including  
 52 completion of the following National Incident Management System  
 53 courses, or equivalent courses established by the Federal  
 54 Emergency Management Agency through the Emergency Management  
 55 Institute:  
 56 (I) ICS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System;  
 57 (II) ICS-200: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action  
 58 Incidents;  
 59 (III) ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents;  
 60 (IV) ICS-400: Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff;  
 61 (V) IS-700: National Incident Management System, An  
 62 Introduction; and  
 63 (VI) IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction.  
 64  
 65 All training required by this sub-subparagraph must have been  
 66 completed no earlier than the 10 years preceding the date of  
 67 appointment, regardless of whether it is an initial appointment  
 68 or reappointment.  
 69 d. A valid driver license. If the license is not a Florida  
 70 driver license, the director must obtain a Florida driver  
 71 license within 30 days after being appointed as director.  
 72 2. established in a job description approved by the  
 73 ~~county.~~ The director shall be appointed by the board of county  
 74 commissioners or the chief administrative officer of the county,  
 75 as described in chapter 125 or the county charter, if

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76 applicable, to serve at the pleasure of the appointing  
 77 authority, in conformance with applicable resolutions,  
 78 ordinances, and laws.

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

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

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

91 Section 2. A county emergency management director who does  
 92 not satisfy the training or certification requirements of  
 93 section 1 of this act as of July 1, 2024, shall have until June  
 94 30, 2026, to complete such requirements.

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