

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 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; providing a period for  
 6           initial implementation; providing an effective date.

7  
 8   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

9  
 10           Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
 11           252.38, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12           252.38 Emergency management powers of political  
 13           subdivisions.—Safeguarding the life and property of its citizens  
 14           is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each  
 15           political subdivision of the state.

16           (1) COUNTIES.—

17           (b) Each county emergency management agency created  
 18           and established pursuant to ss. 252.31-252.90 shall have a  
 19           director.

20           1. The director must meet the following minimum  
 21           training and education qualifications: ~~established in a job~~  
 22           ~~description approved by the county.~~

23           a. A bachelor's degree.

24           b. Six years of verifiable experience in emergency  
 25           services, emergency management, emergency planning, law

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

26 enforcement, or fire-fighting services, of which at least 3  
 27 years must be supervisory experience in emergency management,  
 28 responses, or operations for a county or municipality.

29 c. A master's degree in emergency preparedness or  
 30 management, business or public administration, communications,  
 31 finance, homeland security, public health, criminal justice,  
 32 meteorology, or environmental science may be substituted for 2  
 33 of the years of experience required in sub-sub-paragraph 1.b.  
 34 but not for the required years of supervisory experience.

35 d. Completion of the following National Incident  
 36 Management System courses, or equivalent courses established by  
 37 the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Emergency  
 38 Management Institute:

39 I. ICS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System;

40 II ICS-200: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action  
 41 Incidents;

42 III. IS-700: National Incident Management System, An  
 43 Introduction;

44 IV. IS-703: NIMS Resource Management; and

45 V. IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction.

46  
 47 A valid accreditation as a Certified Master Exercise  
 48 Practitioner by the Federal Emergency Management Agency,  
 49 Certified Emergency Manager, or Florida Professional Emergency  
 50 Manager will satisfy the requirements of this sub-sub-paragraph.

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

51        e. A valid driver license. If the license is not a Florida  
 52 driver license, the director must obtain a Florida driver  
 53 license within 30 days of being appointed as director.

54        2. The director shall be appointed by the board of county  
 55 commissioners or the chief administrative officer of the county,  
 56 as described in chapter 125 or the county charter, if  
 57 applicable, to serve at the pleasure of the appointing  
 58 authority, in conformance with applicable resolutions,  
 59 ordinances, and laws.

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

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

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

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

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

76

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