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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- TRAINING OF ELECTED
OFFICIALS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTER EMERGENCIES

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Cortvriend, and Ruggiero

Date Introduced: February 27, 2019

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 30-15 of the General Laws entitled "Emergency Management" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **30-15-45. Duties and training of elected officials in preparation for disaster**
4 **emergencies.**

5 (a) All state elected officials holding office within the state shall be required to attend a
6 one-day biennial mandatory training seminar to ensure the ability of the state official(s) to
7 efficiently and cohesively address issues that arise related to:

8 (1) Preparing for a disaster emergency;

9 (2) Addressing issues related to the disaster emergency during the occurrence of a
10 disaster emergency; and

11 (3) Addressing issues that arise during recovery after a disaster emergency.

12 The training required pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted by individuals
13 licensed, trained and employed by the Rhode Island emergency management agency (RIEMA) in
14 coordination and with recommendations and consultation with the Federal Emergency
15 Management Agency (FEMA).

16 (b) All municipal elected officials shall be required to attend a one-day biennial
17 mandatory training seminar to ensure the ability of the official(s) to efficiently and cohesively
18 address issues that arise related to:

- 1 (1) Preparing for a disaster emergency;
2 (2) Addressing issues related to the disaster emergency during the occurrence of a
3 disaster emergency; and
4 (3) Addressing issues that arise during recovery after a disaster emergency.

5 The training required pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted by individuals
6 licensed, trained and employed by the Rhode Island emergency management agency (RIEMA) in
7 coordination and with recommendations and consultation with a trained member of the
8 municipality's emergency management department who shall oversee and collaborate in the
9 training of city/town council, school board, and any other officials elected in any municipality.

10 (c) The training required pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall be
11 consistent with the comprehensive emergency management plans (CEMP) and include, but not be
12 limited to, the following:

- 13 (1) General awareness of the process and definition of disaster emergency;
14 (2) An overview of types of events constituting disaster emergency;
15 (3) Explanation of the structure of decision-making protocol at the state and municipal
16 levels during a disaster emergency;
17 (4) Explanation of the role and identification of first responders;
18 (5) A review of the state and municipal emergency plans and how they may best
19 coordinate;
20 (6) A review of state and federal resources available to utilize in the event of a disaster
21 emergency, including FEMA;
22 (7) Explanation and review of communications plans before, during and after a disaster
23 emergency;
24 (8) Discussion of emergency transportation plans, food provision, and public safety plans
25 during and after a disaster emergency;
26 (9) Discussion of the role of the municipal and state police in all phases of a disaster
27 emergency;
28 (10) Identification of statewide emergency operations centers;
29 (11) A discussion of the evaluation protocol and implementation of disaster emergency
30 aftermath procedures and reporting; and
31 (12) Any other relevant issues which may arise.

32 (d) Mandatory training shall occur biennially and last no longer than one day.

33 (e) The director is empowered to enact rules and regulations necessary to carry out the
34 purposes of this section.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- TRAINING OF ELECTED
OFFICIALS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTER EMERGENCIES

- 1 This act would require state and municipal elected officials to attend a one-day biennial
- 2 training seminar in emergency management for disaster emergencies.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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