



Bill Draft 2017E3-MCa-1G: Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:
Introduced by:
Analysis of: 2017E3-MCa-1G

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OVERVIEW: *The Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act creates the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund (the Fund) and appropriates \$56.5 million dollars to the Fund. Regarding Elections, the act extends certain deadlines related to voter registration, allows local election boards to alter the location of one-stop sites and Election Day voting places if the same have been damaged as a result of Hurricane Florence, directs voter education related to the same, and appropriates \$400,000 to the Bipartisan State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement to carry out these purposes. The act also expresses the intent of the General Assembly to prevent adverse public health impacts related to the emergence of large populations of floodwater mosquitoes, and waives certain DMV fees in counties designated by the Governor.*

SECTION 1.1. designates the act as the "Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act."

SECTION 2.1. outlines the legislative findings regarding the damage caused by Hurricane Florence.

SECTION 3.1. creates the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund as a special fund to provide necessary and appropriate relief and assistance from the effects of Hurricane Florence. The Fund is administered by the Office of State Budget and Management or by another agency designated by the Governor. All State and federal funds appropriated for Hurricane Florence relief must be budgeted and accounted for in the Fund.

SECTION 4.1. transfers \$56.5 million dollars from the Saving Reserve to the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund, appropriates the funds within the Fund, and allocates them as follows:

- \$6.5 million dollars to the Department of Public Instruction to supplement or replace lost compensation of school lunch employees due to school closures resulting from Hurricane Florence.
- \$50 million dollars to provide the State match and also for costs and programs authorized under G.S. 166A-19.42. This section currently applies to 28 counties, but could expand if more counties are designated under a major disaster declaration by the President under the Stafford Act.

SECTION 4.3. – 4.4. provides appropriations are for maximum amounts and saving should be effected where possible and appropriates any federal funds received on or after September 13, 2018, as a result of Hurricane Florence.

SECTION 5.1 – 5.2. expresses the intent of the General Assembly that the State should strive to acquire goods and services from historically underutilized business vendors and that the General Assembly will continue to review the sufficiency of funding to meet disaster recovery needs.

SECTION 5.3. Elections Relief

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Section 5.3(a) makes the following changes to elections laws, effective for the November 2018 election, for counties that have been designated under a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States under the Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288) as a result of Hurricane Florence as of October 2, 2018:

- Extends the deadline for applications for voter registration to be submitted from 5:00 P.M. on October 12, 2018 to 5:00 P.M. on October 15, 2018. For any application for voter registration submitted by facsimile or transmission of a scanned document, a permanent copy of the completed and signed form must be delivered to the county board of elections no later than October 20, 2018.
- Allows a county board of elections to unanimously vote to provide for a substitution of a one-stop site, if that one-stop site was damaged by Hurricane Florence.
- Allows a county board of elections to alter voting places for Election Day, if the change is to substitute a voting place that was damaged by Hurricane Florence. Notice of any changes in voting places for Election Day must be provided in the most expedient manner possible, which may include public service announcements, print, radio, television, online, and social media.

Section 5.3(c) and Section 5.3(d) require county boards of elections and the Bipartisan State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement to educate the public, particularly those impacted or displaced by Hurricane Florence, about voting in the November 2018 election.

- County boards of elections must include information on registration and voting on its Web site, if applicable, and on any published notices of elections.
- The Bipartisan State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement must (i) include information on registration and voting on its Web site, (ii) distribute information to State agencies, shelters, groups, and organizations serving persons impacted or displaced, (iii) coordinate with State and federal agencies to notify displaced individuals about voting options, (iv) disseminate information on registration and voting, including any county-specific information, and (v) assist county boards with substituting one-stop sites and voting places for the November 2018 election.

Section 5.3(e) appropriates \$400,000 to the Bipartisan State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement to implement these requirements.

SECTION 5.4. Mosquito Vector Population Control expresses the General Assembly's intent to prevent adverse public health impacts related to the emergence of large populations of floodwater mosquitoes, and encourages the Division of Public Health within the Department of Health and Human Services to continue working with local health departments to expedite mosquito control efforts (including mosquito abatement activities, integrated mosquito management activities, education regarding mosquito bite avoidance, and the purchase and distribution of materials for personal prevention measures) in counties that are or become part of a disaster declaration by the President of the United States under the Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288) as a result of Hurricane Florence.

SECTION 5.5.(a)-(c) Division of Motor Vehicle fees authorizes the governor to waive the Division of Motor Vehicle fees for (i) a duplicate drivers license, (ii) duplicate commercial drivers license, (iii) duplicate special identification card, (iv) a special identification card issued to a person for the first time, (v) an application for a duplicate or corrected certificate of title, (vi) a replacement registration plate, (vii) an application for a duplicate registration card, and (viii) late payment of a motor vehicle registration renewal fee. This waiver is for residents of counties impacted by Hurricane Florence, as determined by the governor. Any fee assessed and collected by the Division which is waived under this section is refundable and the Division shall post notice of the availability of the refund on its website. This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to fees assessed or collected on or after September 13, 2018. This section expires December 31, 2018..

Draft

Page 3

SECTION 5.6. Waiver of Homeowners Recovery Fee authorizes the governor to waive the \$10 fee charged by city and county building inspectors to fund the Homeowners Recovery Fund. This fee is charged on building permits for the construction or alteration of single-family residential dwelling units. This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to fees assessed or collected on or after September 13, 2018 within counties impacted by Hurricane Florence. This section expires December 31, 2018..

SECTION 5.7. directs the Governor to ensure the funds are expended in manner that does not adversely affect any person's eligibility for federal funds that are made available and avoid expending State funds when federal funds are available.

SECTION 6.1. Unless otherwise provided, the act is effective when it becomes law.