

February 19, 2009

S 255. AUTHORIZE EMERGENCY MGMT. CERTIFICATION PROG. Filed 2/19/09. *TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO ESTABLISH A VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT RECOVERY.*

Enacts a new Article 5 in GS Chapter 166A to direct the Division of Emergency Management (Division) to establish the Emergency Management Certification Program as a voluntary program to strengthen and enhance the professional competencies of emergency management personnel in state and local emergency management agencies. Requires that the Division establish standards and guidelines for administration of the program, including (1) minimal education and training standards that must be met to qualify for Type IV (entry), Type III (basic), Type II (intermediate), and Type I (advanced) emergency management certification; (2) levels of education or experience needed to qualify; (3) levels of education or equivalent experience for instructors who participate in programs or courses of instruction; (4) curricula, syllabi, and other educational materials; and (5) modes of delivery of educational and training programs. Authorizes the Division to consult and cooperate with other agencies and entities in developing the program. Requires the Division to study and make reports and recommendations to the Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety (CCPS) and other appropriate agencies and officials concerning compliance with federal guidance, training, educational, and technical assistance, and equipment needs of state and local emergency management agencies. Directs CCPS to establish and appoint the Emergency Management Training and Standards Advisory Board (Board) to provide oversight of the training and certification programs. Provides for Board composition, duties, and meeting times. Specifies that the Board is not a board as defined in the State Government Ethics Act. Requires that the Board issue documentation of certification to state applicants successfully completing the requirements for that level. Allows the Board to issue documentation to out-of-state individuals that have qualifications that are substantially equivalent to this state's requirements at the date of registration or certification. Requires renewal of certification within 5 years to maintain certification, with renewal of Type I certification subject to at least 24 hours of continuing education requirements as established by the Board. Provides that nonrenewal of any type of certification results in automatic expiration, which may be reinstated by the Board upon showing good cause. Prohibits reinstatement of certifications that have been expired for more than five years. Makes a conforming change to GS 166A-5(3)d.

Intro. by Snow.

GS 166A

May 5, 2009

S 255. AUTHORIZE EMERGENCY MGMT. CERTIFICATION PROG. Filed 2/19/09. Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Deletes language in proposed GS 166A-56 that would have excluded the Emergency Management Training and Standards Advisory Board (Board) from being defined as a *board* in accordance with the definition provided in GS 138A-3(1c), the State Government Ethics Act. Amends GS 166A-57 to prohibit the Board from issuing documentation of certification to a person in another state or territory if the state or territory does not allow reciprocity for individuals certified in North Carolina.