

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
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SENATE DRS15198-MDz-109 (02/09)

Short Title: Various Emergency Management Changes. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Brunstetter.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STATUTES; AND TO ESTABLISH THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 166A-6 reads as rewritten:

"§ 166A-6. State of disaster.

(a) The existence of a state of disaster may be proclaimed by the Governor, or by a resolution of the General Assembly if either of these finds that a disaster threatens or exists.

(a1) If a state of disaster is proclaimed, the Secretary shall provide the Governor and the General Assembly with a preliminary damage assessment as soon as the assessment is available. Upon receipt of the preliminary damage assessment, the Governor shall issue a proclamation defining the area subject to the state of disaster and proclaiming the disaster as a Type I, Type II, or Type III disaster. In determining whether the disaster shall be proclaimed as a Type I, Type II, or Type III disaster, the Governor shall follow the standards set forth below.

(1) A Type I disaster may be declared if all of the following criteria are met:

- a. A local state of emergency has been declared pursuant to G.S. 166A-8, and a written copy of the declaration has been forwarded to the Governor;
- b. The preliminary damage assessment meets or exceeds the criteria established for the Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program pursuant to 13 C.F.R. Part 123 or meets or exceeds the State infrastructure criteria set out in G.S. 166A-6.01(b)(2)a.; and
- c. A major disaster declaration by the President of the United States pursuant to the Stafford Act has not been declared.

A Type I disaster declaration may be made by the Governor prior to, and independently of, any action taken by the Small Business Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or any other federal agency. A Type I disaster declaration shall expire ~~30 days~~ 60 days after its issuance unless renewed by the Governor or the General Assembly. Such renewals may be made in increments of 30 days each, not to exceed a total of 120 days from the date of first issuance. The Joint Legislative Commission on



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1 Governmental Operations shall be notified prior to the issuance of any  
2 renewal of a Type I disaster declaration.

3 (2) A Type II disaster may be declared if the President of the United States has  
4 issued a major disaster declaration pursuant to the Stafford Act. The  
5 Governor may request federal disaster assistance under the Stafford Act  
6 without making a Type II disaster declaration. A Type II disaster declaration  
7 shall expire ~~six months~~ 12 months after its issuance unless renewed by the  
8 Governor or the General Assembly. Such renewals may be made in  
9 increments of three months ~~each, not to each.~~ A Type II disaster declaration  
10 and any renewals of that declaration shall not exceed a total of 12 months  
11 from the date of first issuance, 24 months. The Joint Legislative Commission  
12 on Governmental Operations shall be notified prior to the issuance of any  
13 renewal of a Type II disaster declaration.

14 (3) A Type III disaster may be declared if the President of the United States has  
15 issued a major disaster declaration under the Stafford Act and:  
16 a. The preliminary damage assessment indicates that the extent of  
17 damage is reasonably expected to meet the threshold established for  
18 an increased federal share of disaster assistance under applicable  
19 federal law and regulations; or  
20 b. The preliminary damage assessment prompts the Governor to call a  
21 special session of the General Assembly to establish programs to  
22 meet the unmet needs of individuals or political subdivisions affected  
23 by the disaster.

24 A Type III disaster declaration shall expire ~~12 months~~ 24 months after its  
25 issuance unless renewed by the General Assembly.

26 (a2) Any state of disaster declared before July 1, 2001, shall terminate by a proclamation  
27 of the Governor or resolution of the General Assembly. A proclamation or resolution declaring  
28 or terminating a state of disaster shall be disseminated promptly by means calculated to bring  
29 its contents to the attention of the general public and, unless the circumstances attendant upon  
30 the disaster prevent or impede, promptly filed with the Secretary of Public Safety, the Secretary  
31 of State and the clerks of superior court in the area to which it applies.

32 (a3) Expiration of a Type II or III disaster declaration shall not affect the State's  
33 obligations under federal-State agreements entered into prior to the expiration of the disaster  
34 declaration.

35 ...."

36 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 166A-15 reads as rewritten:

37 "**§ 166A-15. No private liability.**

38 Any person, firm or ~~corporation~~ corporation, together with any successors in interest, if  
39 any, owning or controlling real or personal property who, voluntarily or involuntarily,  
40 knowingly or unknowingly, with or without compensation, grants a license or privilege or  
41 otherwise permits or allows the designation or use of the whole or any part or parts of such real  
42 or personal property for the purpose of ~~sheltering, protecting, safeguarding or aiding in any way~~  
43 ~~persons shall, together with his successors in interest, if any, activities or functions relating to~~  
44 emergency management as provided for in this Chapter or elsewhere in the General Statutes  
45 shall not be civilly liable for the death of or injury to any person or the loss of or damage to the  
46 property of any persons where such death, injury, loss or damage resulted from, through or  
47 because of the use of the said real or personal property for any of the above purposes.  
48 provided that the use of said property is subject to the order or control of or pursuant to a  
49 request of the State government or any political subdivision thereof."

50 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 166A-4 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(11) State Emergency Response Team. – The representative group of State agency personnel designated to carry out the emergency management support functions identified in the Plan. The State Emergency Response Team leader shall be the Director of the Division, who shall have authority to manage the Team pursuant to G.S. 166A-5(3)a., as delegated by the Governor. The Team shall consist of the following State agencies:

- a. Department of Public Safety.
- b. Department of Transportation.
- c. Department of Health and Human Services.
- d. Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
- e. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- f. Any other agency identified in the North Carolina Emergency Operations Plan."

**SECTION 4.** G.S. 166A-5(3)a. reads as rewritten:

"(3) Functions of State Emergency Management. – The functions of the State emergency management program include:

- a. Coordination of the activities of all agencies for emergency management within the State, including planning, organizing, staffing, equipping, training, testing, and the activation ~~of~~ and management of the State Emergency Response Team and emergency management programs."

**SECTION 5.** G.S. 166A-5(3) is amended by adding a new sub-subdivision to read:

"(3) Functions of State Emergency Management. – The functions of the State emergency management program include:

- ...
- b1. Coordination with the State Health Director to amend or revise the North Carolina Emergency Operations Plan regarding public health matters. At a minimum, the revisions to the Plan shall provide for the following:
  - 1. The epidemiologic investigation of a known or suspected threat caused by nuclear, biological, or chemical agents.
- ...
- b3. Coordination with the Commissioner of Agriculture, or the Commissioner's designee, to amend or revise the North Carolina Emergency Operations Plan regarding agricultural matters. At a minimum, the revisions to the Plan shall provide for the following:
  - 1. The examination and testing of animals that may have been exposed to a nuclear, biological, or chemical agent.
  - 2. The appropriate conditions for quarantine and isolation of animals in order to prevent further transmission of disease.
- ...."

**SECTION 6.** Chapter 120 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new

Article to read:

"Article 12Q.

"Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee.

**"§ 120-70.150. Creation and membership of Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee.**

The Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee is established. The Committee consists of 12 members as follows:

- (1) Six members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

1           (2) Six members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of  
2           the House of Representatives.

3           Terms on the Committee are for two years and begin on the convening of the General  
4           Assembly in each odd-numbered year, except the terms of the initial members, which begin on  
5           appointment and end on the day of the convening of the 2013 General Assembly. Members  
6           may complete a term of service on the Committee even if they do not seek reelection or are not  
7           reelected to the General Assembly, but resignation or removal from service in the General  
8           Assembly constitutes resignation or removal from service on the Committee.

9           A member continues to serve until a successor is appointed. A vacancy shall be filled by the  
10          officer who made the original appointment.

11          **"§ 120-70.151. Purpose and powers of Committee.**

12          (a) The Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee shall examine,  
13          on a continuing basis, issues related to emergency management in North Carolina in order to  
14          make ongoing recommendations to the General Assembly on ways to promote effective  
15          emergency preparedness, management, response, and recovery. The Committee may examine:

16               (1) Whether the State building code sufficiently addresses issues related to  
17               commercial and residential construction in hurricane and flood prone areas.

18               (2) The public health infrastructure in place to respond to natural and nonnatural  
19               disasters.

20               (3) Hurricane preparedness, evacuation, and response.

21               (4) Energy security issues.

22               (5) Terrorism preparedness and response, including bioterrorism.

23               (6) Flood and natural disaster preparation and response.

24               (7) Any other topic the Committee believes is related to its purpose.

25          (b) The Committee may make interim reports to the General Assembly on matters for  
26          which it may report to a regular session of the General Assembly. A report to the General  
27          Assembly may contain any legislation needed to implement a recommendation of the  
28          Committee.

29          **"§ 120-70.152. Organization of Committee.**

30          (a) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
31          Representatives shall each designate a cochair of the Joint Legislative Emergency Management  
32          Oversight Committee. The Committee shall meet upon the joint call of the cochairs.

33          (b) A quorum of the Committee is seven members. Only recommendations, including  
34          proposed legislation, receiving at least six affirmative votes may be included in a Committee  
35          report to the General Assembly. While in the discharge of its official duties, the Committee has  
36          the powers of a joint committee under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4.

37          (c) The cochairs of the Committee may call upon other knowledgeable persons or  
38          experts to assist the Committee in its work.

39          (d) Members of the Committee shall receive subsistence and travel expenses as  
40          provided in G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate. The Committee may contract for  
41          consultants or hire employees in accordance with G.S. 120-32.02. The Legislative Services  
42          Commission, through the Legislative Services Officer, shall assign professional staff to assist  
43          the Committee in its work. Upon the direction of the Legislative Services Commission, the  
44          Supervisors of Clerks of the Senate and of the House of Representatives shall assign clerical  
45          staff to the Committee. The expenses for clerical employees shall be borne by the Committee.

46          (e) In appointing members to the Committee, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate  
47          and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall take into consideration the goal of  
48          having members appointed to the Committee who have knowledge and experience relating to  
49          areas that are most impacted by disasters and emergencies."

50          **SECTION 7.** This act is effective when it becomes law.