



Florida Emergency Preparedness Association

Legislative and Policy Update

Florida Regular Legislative Session 2018

2018 Governor's Hurricane Conference



Legislative and Policy Update

Welcome and Introductions

Mary Blakeney, FPEM

President, Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA)
Senior Manager, Palm Beach County Emergency Management

Todd Bonlarron

Assistant County Administrator
Palm Beach County

Eve Rainey, FPEM

Executive Director, Florida Emergency Preparedness Association



Quick Background on FEPA

Professional Association Serving Florida Since 1956

600+ Emergency Management Practitioners

Multi-Discipline, Local, Regional, State, Tribal, Private, Non-Profit,
Volunteer, Non-Governmental Agencies and Organizations

Section 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation

Co-Sponsor of GHC Since Conference's Inception

Mission and Focus Areas:

***Training, Education, Professional Development, Enhancement of the
Emergency Management Profession***



FEPA Policy Committee

- Monitor state and federal policy initiatives affecting emergency management
- Perform policy analysis and provide information for FEPA members
- Collaborate with allied agencies and organizations
- Serve as an information gathering/sharing platform for FEPA members



2018 Legislative Session

- Very Active Session for EM Issues
- Post Irma Policy Initiatives
- House Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness
- FEPA Legislative Monitoring
- FEPA Weekly Legislative Update



House Select Committee

- Established on September 19, 2018 by House Speaker Richard Corcoran
- Chaired by Representative Jeanette Nunez, Speaker Pro Tempore
- 21 Members – Bi-Partisan – Representing a cross-section of geographic areas of the state
- Seven Select Committee meetings spanning more than 20 hours, with more than 16 hours of presentations and discussions with experts
- Broad range of issues and topics – resulting in more than 200 recommendations to the Select Committee
- Final Report – Issued Jan 16, 2018 - 78 Policy Recommendations



Select Committee EM Related Recommendations

- Health Care Facility EM Planning Enhancements
- Emergency Power Requirements for Health Care Facilities
- Evacuation/Shelter Considerations
- Fuel Supplies and Movement
- Power Restoration and Prioritization
- Long Term Shelter and Housing challenges
- Considerations for Frail Populations



Local EM Participants/Presenters

Select Committee Very Receptive to Hearing from Local EM

- Marty Senterfitt – Monroe County EM
- Lee Mayfield – Lee County EM
- Curt Sommerhoff – Miami-Dade County EM
- Steven Lerner – Seminole County EM
- Sally Bishop – Pinellas County EM



FEPA Legislative Monitoring

- More than 70 bills of interest to FEPA Community During 2018 Regular Session
- 18 bills on Health Care Facility Emergency Power Requirements – varying approaches to a solution
- Diverse topics ranging from companion animals in shelters to sales tax exemptions
- Comprehensive proposals from Select Committee Recommendations



Legislation – Select Committee Recommendations That Did Not Pass both Chambers (passed the House)

- Move Statewide Special Needs Registry to DOH
- Increased requirements for health care facility planning
- Alternatives for special needs shelter staffing
- Requirements for local EM – special needs shelter registration, fuel planning, critical facility power restoration
- Additional planning for frail elderly
- Expanded Use of Shelter Retrofit CAT Fund \$\$\$ – Emergency Power, ADA Evaluation and Compliance
- Public Records Exemption – Shelter Registration and Damage Assessment Data



Legislation – Passed Both Chambers

- Sales Tax Holiday – Emergency Preparedness Supplies – June 1-17, 2018 - Chapter 2018-118, Laws of Florida
- Ratification of agency rules requiring NH and ALF Emergency Power Capability and Planning – ALF Rule - Chapter 2018-122, Laws of Florida
- NH Rule - Chapter 2018-123, Laws of Florida
- Public Records Exemption for Health Care Facility plans, blueprints, schematic drawings and diagrams - Chapter 2018-53, Laws of Florida
- Homeowners Insurance Policy Disclosures regarding flood insurance coverage - Chapter 2018-063, Laws of Florida



Legislation – Passed Both Chambers

- Worker's Compensation Benefits for First Responders – Recognizes PTSD as occupational disease for workers' compensation purposes – firefighters, paramedics, EMTs and law enforcement officers - Chapter 2018-124, Laws of Florida
- General Appropriations Act – FY 2018-19 Budget



Next Steps

- Agency implementation of legislation that passed
- Agency evaluation of proposals that failed – adjustments within existing authorities, stakeholder engagement
- FEPA Health Care Working Group – Emergency Power Plan Requirements – Technical Assistance
- Awareness, Outreach, Continued Collaboration on Policy Issues



How to Stay Involved, Informed

- Join FEPA!
 - Be part of the policy conversation
- Local Opportunities
 - Know your legislators
 - Know your organizations' legislative/governmental affairs staff
 - Know your local issues
 - Know how statewide issues affect your programs
 - Engage with your local committees, task forces, networks



Engagement

Palm Beach County Example:

- Annual Palm Beach County Days – EM Active Participant
- Post-Irma – EM involvement with Public Records Exemption proposals (damage assessment and shelter registration data)
- Opportunity to Meet House Select Committee Staff at Palm Beach County Days
- Palm Beach EM as a technical resource to substantive committee staff drafting proposals



Engagement

FEPA Association Example

- Post Irma Florida Health Care Association Summit on Emergency Power
- Post Irma FAC Summit on Emergency Management
- FEPA Health Care Working Group
 - Rule Analysis and Testimony
 - Annual Meeting Workshops – inclusion of AHCA representatives
 - Technical Assistance to AHCA on interpretive guidance/compliance assistance



Partnerships

- Florida Association of Counties
- Florida Small County Coalition
- Florida League of Cities
- Florida Joint Council on Emergency Services
- Florida Sheriffs Association
- FL VOAD
- International Association of Emergency Managers
- National Emergency Management Association



Questions/Discussion

Thank you for your participation!

Contact Information:

FEPA Website www.fepa.org

Mary Blakeney, President
president@fepa.org

Eve Rainey, Executive Director
erainey@fepa.org

