

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 255\*

Short Title: Authorize Emergency Mgmt. Certification Prog. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Snow, Atwater, Goss, Nesbitt; and Swindell.

Referred to: State and Local Government.

February 23, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO  
3 ESTABLISH A VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION  
4 PROGRAM, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
5 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT RECOVERY.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 166A-5(3)d. reads as rewritten:

8 "d. Development and presentation of training ~~programs~~programs,  
9 including the Emergency Management Certification Program  
10 established under Article 5 of this Chapter, and public information  
11 programs to insure the furnishing of adequately trained personnel and  
12 an informed public in time of need."

13 **SECTION 2.** Chapter 166A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
14 Article to read:

15 "Article 5.

16 "Emergency Management Certification Program.

17 "**§ 166A-54. Emergency Management Certification Program authority; purpose.**

18 The Division of Emergency Management in the Department of Crime Control and Public  
19 Safety shall establish, as a voluntary program, an Emergency Management Certification  
20 Program as provided for in this Article. The purpose of the Program is to strengthen and  
21 enhance the professional competencies of emergency management personnel in State and local  
22 emergency management agencies.

23 "**§ 166A-55. Program standards and guidelines.**

24 (a) The Division shall establish standards and guidelines for administration of the  
25 Program, including:

- 26 (1) Minimum educational and training standards that must be met in order to  
27 qualify for Type IV (entry), Type III (basic), Type II (intermediate), and  
28 Type I (advanced) emergency management certification.  
29 (2) Levels of education or equivalent experience that may be met in order to  
30 qualify for the certifications provided for in subdivision (1) of this  
31 subsection.  
32 (3) Levels of education or equivalent experience for instructors who participate  
33 in programs or courses of instruction.  
34 (4) Curricula, syllabi, and other educational materials.  
35 (5) Mode(s) of delivery of educational and training programs.

36 (b) In developing the Program, the Division may consult and cooperate with political  
37 subdivisions, agencies of the State, other governmental agencies, universities, colleges,



1 community colleges, and other institutions, public or private, concerning the development of  
2 the program and a systematic career development plan, including conducting and stimulating  
3 research by public and private agencies designed to improve education and training in the  
4 administration of emergency management.

5 (c) The Division shall study and make reports and recommendations to the Secretary of  
6 Crime Control and Public Safety and other appropriate agencies and officials concerning  
7 compliance with federal guidance, training, educational, and technical assistance needs, and  
8 equipment needs of State and local emergency management agencies.

9 **"§ 166A-56. Emergency Management Training and Standards Advisory Board.**

10 (a) The Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety shall establish and appoint the  
11 Emergency Management Training and Standards Advisory Board to provide oversight of  
12 training and certification programs established pursuant to this Article.

13 (b) The composition of the Board shall include emergency management subject matter  
14 experts representative of the State, its political subdivisions, and private industry.

15 (c) The duties of the Board shall include:

16 (1) Oversight of the Emergency Management Certification Program.

17 (2) Review of applications for certification.

18 (3) Issuance of certifications at least semiannually.

19 (d) The Board shall meet at least semiannually and at other times at the discretion of the  
20 Secretary.

21 (e) The Board established pursuant to this section is not a board as defined in  
22 G.S. 138A-3(1c).

23 **"§ 166A-57. Issuance of certification; reciprocity; renewal.**

24 (a) The Emergency Management Training and Standards Advisory Board shall issue  
25 documentation of certification, in a form and manner prescribed by the Division, to each  
26 applicant within North Carolina demonstrating successful completion of the requirements for  
27 the level of certification sought by the applicant.

28 (b) The Board may issue documentation of certification to any person in another state  
29 or territory if the person's qualifications were, at the date of registration or certification,  
30 substantially equivalent to the requirements established pursuant to this Article.

31 (c) Every person certified pursuant to this Article who desires to maintain certification  
32 shall apply for renewal of certification within five years of the date of original certification or  
33 certification renewal.

34 (d) Renewal of Type I (advanced) certification is subject to completion of at least 24  
35 hours of continuing education requirements as established by the Board.

36 (e) A certification that is not renewed in accordance with this section automatically  
37 expires. The Board may approve reinstatement of an expired certification upon good cause  
38 shown by the applicant.

39 (f) Certifications that have expired for more than five years shall not be reinstated."

40 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.