

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 18-253 (Emergency Management – Hurricane Florence)

WHEREAS, at 7:15 a.m. on September 14, 2018, Hurricane Florence made landfall near Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, and is expected to impact other eastern states; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Hurricane Florence's landfall, many residents of, and visitors to, the affected areas have evacuated their homes or places of lodging and may seek temporary refuge in Florida; and

WHEREAS, disaster recovery resources maintained by the State of Florida may be needed to support the federal response to this disaster; and

WHEREAS, the States of North Carolina and South Carolina have requested aid from the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has a strong tradition of supporting other States and Territories during times of need through the use of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Hurricane Florence, many residents of the affected areas may be unable to return to their homes or may be without power and essential supplies; and

WHEREAS, multiple local, state, and federal agencies and other organizations are engaged in relief efforts throughout the affected region; and

WHEREAS, this Order will assist efforts to provide services to individuals who have evacuated to Florida as a result of Hurricane Florence;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution and by the Florida Emergency Management Act, as amended, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1. Because of the foregoing conditions, I declare that a state of emergency exists in every county in the State of Florida.

Section 2. I designate the Director of the Division of Emergency Management as the State Coordinating Officer for the duration of this emergency and direct him to execute the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and other response, recovery, and mitigation plans necessary to cope with the emergency. Pursuant to section 252.36(1)(a), Florida Statutes, I delegate to the State Coordinating Officer the authority to exercise those powers delineated in sections 252.36(5)–(10), Florida Statutes, which he shall exercise as needed to meet this emergency, subject to the limitations of section 252.33, Florida Statutes. In exercising the powers delegated by this Order, the State Coordinating Officer shall confer with the Governor to the fullest extent practicable. The State Coordinating Officer shall also have the authority to:

A. Invoke and administer the Emergency Management Assistance Compact ("EMAC") (sections 252.921-.933, Florida Statutes) and other compacts and agreements existing between the State of Florida and other states, and the further authority to

coordinate the allocation of resources from such other states that are made available to Florida under such compacts and agreements so as best to meet this emergency.

B. Seek direct assistance and enter into agreements with any and all agencies of the United States Government as may be needed to meet the emergency.

C. Direct all state, regional and local governmental agencies, including law enforcement agencies, to identify personnel needed from those agencies to assist in meeting the needs created by this emergency, and to place all such personnel under the direct command and coordination of the State Coordinating Officer to meet this emergency.

D. Designate Deputy State Coordinating Officers.

E. Suspend the effect of any statute, rule, or order that would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay any mitigation, response, or recovery action necessary to cope with this emergency.

F. Enter orders as may be needed to implement any of the foregoing powers; however, the requirements of sections 252.46 and 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, do not apply to any such orders issued by the State Coordinating Officer.

Section 3. I order the Adjutant General to activate the Florida National Guard, as needed, to deal with this emergency.

Section 4. I find that the special duties and responsibilities resting upon some State, regional, and local agencies and other governmental bodies in responding to the emergency may require them to waive or deviate from the statutes, rules, ordinances, and orders they administer. Therefore, I issue the following authorizations:

A. Pursuant to section 252.36(1)(a), Florida Statutes, the Executive Office of the Governor may waive all statutes and rules affecting budgeting to the extent necessary to provide budget authority for state agencies to cope with this emergency. The requirements of sections 252.46 and 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, do not apply to any such waiver issued by the Executive Office of the Governor.

B. All agencies whose employees are certified by the American Red Cross as disaster service volunteers within the meaning of Section 110.120(3), Florida Statutes, may release any such employees for such service as requested by the Red Cross to meet this emergency.

Section 5. I find that the demands placed upon the funds appropriated to the agencies of the State of Florida and to local agencies are unreasonably great and may be inadequate to pay the costs of coping with this disaster. In accordance with section 252.37(2), Florida Statutes, I direct that sufficient funds be made available, as needed, by transferring and expending moneys appropriated for other purposes, moneys from unappropriated surplus funds, or from the Budget Stabilization Fund.

Section 6. Medical professionals and workers, social workers, and counselors with good and valid professional licenses issued by states other than the State of Florida may render such services in Florida during this emergency for persons affected by this emergency, if the professional is an evacuee from Hurricane Florence, or if the person receiving such services is an evacuee from Hurricane Florence.

Section 7. Notwithstanding any statute or regulation to the contrary, no suspension of statute or regulation and no prohibition on public or private activity that would take

effect under the Emergency Management Act shall become effective unless expressly invoked by this order or by order of the State Coordinating Officer.

Section 8. All actions taken by the Director of the Division of Emergency Management with respect to this emergency before the issuance of this Executive Order are ratified.

This Executive Order shall expire sixty days from this date unless extended.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 14th day of September, 2018.



RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA