STATE OF NEW YORK

896--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sen. MARTINEZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs -- recommitted to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to the establishment of local comprehensive emergency management plans

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 5 and paragraph b of subdivision 7 of section 23 of the executive law, subdivision 5 as amended by chapter 385 of the laws of 2017, paragraph b of subdivision 7 as amended by section 4 of part B of chapter 56 of the laws of 2010, subparagraph 13 of paragraph b of subdivision 7 as amended by chapter 724 of the laws of 2022, are amended to read as follows:

5. In preparing such plans, cooperation, advice and assistance shall be sought from local government officials, regional and local planning agencies, police agencies, fire departments and fire companies, local emergency management agencies, commercial and volunteer ambulance services, health and social services officials, community action agencies, the chief administrator of the courts, organizations for the elderly and the handicapped, agencies and organizations that provide home health care services, agencies and organizations that provide hospice services, **local and municipal animal shelters, any duly incorporated society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, veterinary services, county animal response teams,** other interested groups and the general public. Such advice and assistance may be obtained through public hearings held on public notice, or through other appropriate and practical methods, through which such aforementioned groups may offer

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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their input for consideration on issues that support the effective preparation and execution of the plan. In addition, in the case of home care and hospice, such input may address procedures by which such providers may be granted essential access to care for such patients during an emergency.

b. Disaster response. Plans to coordinate the use of resources and manpower for service during and after disasters and to deliver services to aid citizens and reduce human suffering resulting from a disaster shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) coordination of resources, manpower and services, using recognized practices in incident management, utilizing existing organizations and lines of authority and centralized direction of requests for assistance;

(2) the location, procurement, construction, processing, transportation, storing, maintenance, renovation, distribution, disposal or use of materials, including those donated, and facilities and services which may be required in time of disaster;

(3) a system for warning populations who are or may be endangered;

(4) arrangements for activating municipal and volunteer forces, through normal chains of command so far as possible, and for continued communication and reporting;

(5) a specific plan for rapid and efficient communication and for the integration of local communication facilities during a disaster including the assignment of responsibilities and the establishment of communication priorities and liaison with municipal, private, state and federal communication facilities;

(6) **(i)** a plan for **the** coordination **of** evacuation procedures including the establishment of temporary housing and other necessary facilities; **and**

(ii) such plan shall include the identification of temporary housing and other necessary facilities designated as animal-friendly;

(7) criteria for establishing priorities with respect to the restoration of vital services and debris removal;

(8) plans for the continued effective operation of the civil and criminal justice systems;

(9) provisions for training local government personnel and volunteers in disaster response operations;

(10) providing information to the public **which shall:**

(i) consider the communication accommodation needs of persons with vision or hearing impairments; and

(ii) include information on which temporary housing and other necessary facilities are designated as animal-friendly;

(11) care for the injured and needy and identification and disposition of the dead;

(12) utilization and coordination of programs to assist victims of disasters, with particular attention to the needs of the poor, the elderly, individuals with disabilities and other groups which may be especially affected;

(13) control of ingress and egress to and from a disaster area, including but not limited to, exempting from travel bans those essential private and public personnel, as determined by the commission, who are summoned by their employers to assist in emergency services, such as utility and other workers who need to reach declared emergency areas in order to perform tasks related to the restoration and/or maintenance of energy and communications infrastructure;

(14) arrangements to administer state and federal disaster assistance;

(15) procedures under which the county, city, town, village or other political subdivision and emergency organization personnel and resources will be used in the event of a disaster;

(16) a system for obtaining and coordinating disaster information including the centralized assessment of local disaster effects and resultant needs;

(17) continued operation of governments of political subdivisions; [~~and~~]

(18) utilization and coordination of programs to assist individuals with household pets and service animals following a disaster, with particular attention to means of evacuation, shelter and transportation options[~~.~~]**; and**

(19) establishing partnerships with local and municipal animal shelters, a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals and veterinary services to assist in responding to emergencies involving animals.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.