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## HOUSE BILL NO. 2612

Offered January 23, 2009

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-279.8, 23-9.2:9, 32.1-111.3, 32.1-111.11, 44-146.18, and 44-146.19 of the Code of Virginia, relating to ensuring victims' rights in emergency management plans.*

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Patron—Shannon

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Referred to Committee on Militia, Police and Public Safety

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 22.1-279.8, 23-9.2:9, 32.1-111.3, 32.1-111.11, 44-146.18 and 44-146.19 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 22.1-279.8. School safety audits and school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans required.

A. For the purposes of this section, unless the context requires otherwise:

"School crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan" means the essential procedures, operations, and assignments required to prevent, manage, and respond to a critical event or emergency, including natural disasters involving fire, flood, tornadoes, or other severe weather; loss or disruption of power, water, communications or shelter; bus or other accidents; medical emergencies, including cardiac arrest and other life-threatening medical emergencies; student or staff member deaths; explosions; bomb threats; gun, knife or other weapons threats; spills or exposures to hazardous substances; the presence of unauthorized persons or trespassers; the loss, disappearance or kidnapping of a student; hostage situations; violence on school property or at school activities; incidents involving acts of terrorism; and other incidents posing a serious threat of harm to students, personnel, or facilities. *The plan shall include a provision that the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be contacted immediately to deploy assistance in the event of an emergency as defined in the emergency response plan when there are victims as defined in § 19.2-11.01, as well as current contact information for both.*

"School safety audit" means a written assessment of the safety conditions in each public school to (i) identify and, if necessary, develop solutions for physical safety concerns, including building security issues and (ii) identify and evaluate any patterns of student safety concerns occurring on school property or at school-sponsored events. Solutions and responses shall include recommendations for structural adjustments, changes in school safety procedures, and revisions to the school board's standards for student conduct.

B. The Virginia Center for School Safety shall develop a list of items to be reviewed and evaluated in the school safety audits required by this section. Such items shall include those incidents reported to school authorities pursuant to § 22.1-279.3:1.

The Virginia Center for School Safety shall prescribe a standardized report format for school safety audits, additional reporting criteria, and procedures for report submission, which may include instructions for electronic submission.

Each local school board shall require all schools under its supervisory control to annually conduct school safety audits as defined in this section and consistent with such list.

The results of such school safety audits shall be made public within 90 days of completion. The local school board shall retain authority to withhold or limit the release of any security plans and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in subdivision 7 of § 2.2-3705.2. Each school shall maintain a copy of the school safety audit, which may exclude such security plans and vulnerability assessment components, within the office of the school principal and shall make a copy of such report available for review upon written request.

Each school shall submit a copy of its school safety audit to the relevant school division superintendent. The division superintendent shall collate and submit all such school safety audits, in the prescribed format and manner of submission, to the Virginia Center for School Safety.

C. The school board may establish a school safety audit committee to consist of representatives of parents, teachers, local law-enforcement agencies, judicial and public safety personnel, and the community at large. The school safety audit committee shall evaluate, in accordance with the directions of the local school board, the safety of each school and submit a plan for improving school safety at a public meeting of the local school board.

D. Each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan, consistent with the definition

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59 provided in this section. The Department of Education and the Virginia Center for School Safety shall  
60 provide technical assistance to the school divisions of the Commonwealth in the development of the  
61 school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans that describe the  
62 components of a medical emergency response plan developed in coordination with local emergency  
63 medical services providers, the training of school personnel and students to respond to a life-threatening  
64 emergency, and the equipment required for this emergency response. The local school board shall  
65 annually review the written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response  
66 plans. The local school board shall have the authority to withhold or limit the review of any security  
67 plans and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in subdivision 7 of § 2.2-3705.2.  
68 The local school division superintendent shall certify this review in writing to the Virginia Center on  
69 School Safety no later than August 31 of each year.

70 Upon consultation with local school boards, division superintendents, the Virginia Center for School  
71 Safety, and the Coordinator of Emergency Management, the Board of Education shall develop, and may  
72 revise as it deems necessary, a model school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency  
73 response plan for the purpose of assisting the public schools in Virginia in developing viable, effective  
74 crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans. Such model shall set forth  
75 recommended effective procedures and means by which parents can contact the relevant school or  
76 school division regarding the location and safety of their school children and by which school officials  
77 may contact parents, with parental approval, during a critical event or emergency.

78 § 23-9.2:9. Institutional crisis and emergency management plan; review required.

79 The board of visitors or other governing body of each public institution of higher education shall  
80 develop, adopt, and keep current a written crisis and emergency management plan. *The plan shall*  
81 *include a provision that the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries*  
82 *Compensation Fund shall be contacted immediately to deploy assistance in the event of an emergency as*  
83 *defined in the emergency response plan when there are victims as defined in § 19.2-11.01, as well as*  
84 *current contact information for both.*

85 Every four years, each institution shall conduct a comprehensive review and revision of its crisis and  
86 emergency management plan to ensure the plan remains current, and the revised plan shall be adopted  
87 formally by the board of visitors or other governing body. Such review shall also be certified in writing  
88 to the Department of Emergency Management. The institution shall coordinate with the local emergency  
89 management organization, as defined by § 44-146.16, to ensure integration into the local emergency  
90 operations plan.

91 § 32.1-111.3. Statewide emergency medical care system.

92 A. The Board of Health shall develop a comprehensive, coordinated, emergency medical care system  
93 in the Commonwealth and prepare a Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan which shall  
94 incorporate, but not be limited to, the plans prepared by the regional emergency medical services  
95 councils. The Board shall review, update, and publish the Plan triennially, making such revisions as may  
96 be necessary to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Commonwealth's emergency medical  
97 care system. Publishing through electronic means and posting on the Department website shall satisfy  
98 the publication requirement. The objectives of such Plan and the system shall include, but not be limited  
99 to, the following:

100 1. Establishing a comprehensive statewide emergency medical care system, incorporating facilities,  
101 transportation, manpower, communications, and other components as integral parts of a unified system  
102 that will serve to improve the delivery of emergency medical services and thereby decrease morbidity,  
103 hospitalization, disability, and mortality;

104 2. Reducing the time period between the identification of an acutely ill or injured patient and the  
105 definitive treatment;

106 3. Increasing the accessibility of high quality emergency medical services to all citizens of Virginia;

107 4. Promoting continuing improvement in system components including ground, water and air  
108 transportation, communications, hospital emergency departments and other emergency medical care  
109 facilities, consumer health information and education, and health manpower and manpower training;

110 5. Ensuring performance improvement of the Emergency Medical Services system and emergency  
111 medical care delivered on scene, in transit, in hospital emergency departments and within the hospital  
112 environment;

113 6. Working with professional medical organizations, hospitals, and other public and private agencies  
114 in developing approaches whereby the many persons who are presently using the existing emergency  
115 department for routine, nonurgent, primary medical care will be served more appropriately and  
116 economically;

117 7. Conducting, promoting, and encouraging programs of education and training designed to upgrade  
118 the knowledge and skills of health manpower involved in emergency medical services, including  
119 expanding the availability of paramedic and advanced life support training throughout the  
120 Commonwealth with particular emphasis on regions underserved by personnel having such skills and

training;

8. Consulting with and reviewing, with agencies and organizations, the development of applications to governmental or other sources for grants or other funding to support emergency medical services programs;

9. Establishing a statewide air medical evacuation system which shall be developed by the Department of Health in coordination with the Department of State Police and other appropriate state agencies;

10. Establishing and maintaining a process for designation of appropriate hospitals as trauma centers and specialty care centers based on an applicable national evaluation system;

11. Maintaining a comprehensive emergency medical services patient care data collection and performance improvement system pursuant to Article 3.1 (§ 32.1-116.1 et seq.) of this chapter;

12. Collecting data and information and preparing reports for the sole purpose of the designation and verification of trauma centers and other specialty care centers pursuant to this section. All data and information collected shall remain confidential and shall be exempt from the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.);

13. Establishing and maintaining a process for crisis intervention and peer support services for emergency medical services and public safety personnel, including statewide availability and accreditation of critical incident stress management teams;

14. Establishing a statewide emergency medical services for children program to provide coordination and support for emergency pediatric care, availability of pediatric emergency medical care equipment, and pediatric training of medical care providers;

15. Establishing and supporting a statewide system of health and medical emergency response teams, including emergency medical services disaster task forces, coordination teams, disaster medical assistance teams, and other support teams that shall assist local emergency medical services at their request during mass casualty, disaster, or whenever local resources are overwhelmed;

16. Establishing and maintaining a program to improve dispatching of emergency medical services including establishment of and support for emergency medical dispatch training, accreditation of 911 dispatch centers, and public safety answering points; and

17. Identifying and establishing best practices for managing and operating agencies, improving and managing emergency medical response times, and disseminating such information to the appropriate persons and entities; and

18. *Ensuring that the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be contacted immediately to deploy assistance in the event there are victims as defined in § 19.2-11.01.*

B. The Board of Health shall also develop and maintain as a component of the Emergency Medical Services Plan a statewide prehospital and interhospital Trauma Triage Plan designed to promote rapid access for pediatric and adult trauma patients to appropriate, organized trauma care through the publication and regular updating of information on resources for trauma care and generally accepted criteria for trauma triage and appropriate transfer. The Trauma Triage Plan shall include:

1. A strategy for maintaining the statewide Trauma Triage Plan through formal regional trauma triage plans that incorporate each region's geographic variations and trauma care capabilities and resources, including hospitals designated as trauma centers pursuant to subsection A of this section. The regional trauma triage plans shall be reviewed triennially.

2. A uniform set of proposed criteria for prehospital and interhospital triage and transport of trauma patients developed by the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, in consultation with the Virginia Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, the Virginia College of Emergency Physicians, the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, and prehospital care providers. The Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board may revise such criteria from time to time to incorporate accepted changes in medical practice or to respond to needs indicated by analyses of data on patient outcomes. Such criteria shall be used as a guide and resource for health care providers and are not intended to establish, in and of themselves, standards of care or to abrogate the requirements of § 8.01-581.20. A decision by a health care provider to deviate from the criteria shall not constitute negligence per se.

3. A performance improvement program for monitoring the quality of care, consistent with other components of the Emergency Medical Services Plan. The program shall provide for collection and analysis of data on emergency medical and trauma services from existing validated sources, including but not limited to the emergency medical services patient care information system, pursuant to Article 3.1 (§ 32.1-116.1 et seq.) of this chapter, the Patient Level Data System, and mortality data. The Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board shall review and analyze such data on a quarterly basis and report its findings to the Commissioner. The Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board may execute these duties through a committee composed of persons having expertise in critical care issues and representatives of emergency medical services providers. The program for monitoring and reporting

182 the results of emergency medical and trauma services data analysis shall be the sole means of  
183 encouraging and promoting compliance with the trauma triage criteria.

184 The Commissioner shall report aggregate findings of the analysis annually to each regional  
185 emergency medical services council. The report shall be available to the public and shall identify,  
186 minimally, as defined in the statewide plan, the frequency of (i) incorrect triage in comparison to the  
187 total number of trauma patients delivered to a hospital prior to pronouncement of death and (ii) incorrect  
188 interfacility transfer for each region.

189 The Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board or its designee shall ensure that each hospital or  
190 emergency medical services director is informed of any incorrect interfacility transfer or triage, as  
191 defined in the statewide plan, specific to the provider and shall give the provider an opportunity to  
192 correct any facts on which such determination is based, if the provider asserts that such facts are  
193 inaccurate. The findings of the report shall be used to improve the Trauma Triage Plan, including triage,  
194 and transport and trauma center designation criteria.

195 The Commissioner shall ensure the confidentiality of patient information, in accordance with  
196 § 32.1-116.2. Such data or information in the possession of or transmitted to the Commissioner, the  
197 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, any committee acting on behalf of the Emergency  
198 Medical Services Advisory Board, any hospital or prehospital care provider, any regional emergency  
199 medical services council, licensed emergency medical services agency, or group or committee  
200 established to monitor the quality of care pursuant to this subdivision, or any other person shall be  
201 privileged and shall not be disclosed or obtained by legal discovery proceedings, unless a circuit court,  
202 after a hearing and for good cause shown arising from extraordinary circumstances, orders disclosure of  
203 such data.

204 C. The Board of Health shall also develop and maintain as a component of the Emergency Medical  
205 Services Plan a statewide prehospital and interhospital Stroke Triage Plan designed to promote rapid  
206 access for stroke patients to appropriate, organized stroke care through the publication and regular  
207 updating of information on resources for stroke care and generally accepted criteria for stroke triage and  
208 appropriate transfer. The Stroke Triage Plan shall include:

209 1. A strategy for maintaining the statewide Stroke Triage Plan through formal regional stroke triage  
210 plans that incorporate each region's geographic variations and stroke care capabilities and resources,  
211 including hospitals designated as "primary stroke centers" through certification by the Joint Commission  
212 or a comparable process consistent with the recommendations of the Brain Attack Coalition. The  
213 regional stroke triage plans shall be reviewed triennially.

214 2. A uniform set of proposed criteria for prehospital and interhospital triage and transport of stroke  
215 patients developed by the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, in consultation with the  
216 American Stroke Association, the Virginia College of Emergency Physicians, the Virginia Hospital and  
217 Healthcare Association, and prehospital care providers. The Board of Health may revise such criteria  
218 from time to time to incorporate accepted changes in medical practice or to respond to needs indicated  
219 by analyses of data on patient outcomes. Such criteria shall be used as a guide and resource for health  
220 care providers and are not intended to establish, in and of themselves, standards of care or to abrogate  
221 the requirements of § 8.01-581.20. A decision by a health care provider to deviate from the criteria shall  
222 not constitute negligence per se.

223 D. Whenever any state-owned aircraft, vehicle, or other form of conveyance is utilized under the  
224 provisions of this section, an appropriate amount not to exceed the actual costs of operation may be  
225 charged by the agency having administrative control of such aircraft, vehicle or other form of  
226 conveyance.

227 § 32.1-111.11. Regional emergency medical services councils.

228 The Board shall designate regional emergency medical services councils which shall be authorized to  
229 receive and disburse public funds. Each council shall be charged with the development and  
230 implementation of an efficient and effective regional emergency medical services delivery system.

231 The Board shall review those agencies that were the designated regional emergency medical services  
232 councils. The Board shall, in accordance with the standards established in its regulations, review and  
233 may renew or deny applications for such designations every three years. In its discretion, the Board may  
234 establish conditions for renewal of such designations or may solicit applications for designation as a  
235 regional emergency medical services council.

236 Each council shall include, if available, representatives of the participating local governments, fire  
237 protection agencies, law-enforcement agencies, emergency medical services agencies, hospitals, licensed  
238 practicing physicians, emergency care nurses, mental health professionals, emergency medical technicians  
239 and other appropriate allied health professionals.

240 Each council shall adopt and revise as necessary a regional emergency medical services plan in  
241 cooperation with the Board. *The plan shall include a provision that the Department of Criminal Justice*  
242 *Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be contacted immediately to*  
243 *deploy assistance in the event of an emergency as defined in the emergency response plan when there*

are victims as defined in § 19.2-11.01, as well as current contact information for both.

The designated councils shall be required to match state funds with local funds obtained from private or public sources in the proportion specified in the regulations of the Board. Moneys received directly or indirectly from the Commonwealth shall not be used as matching funds. A local governing body may choose to appropriate funds for the purpose of providing matching grant funds for any council. However, this section shall not be construed to place any obligation on any local governing body to appropriate funds to any council.

The Board shall promulgate, in cooperation with the State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, regulations to implement this section, which shall include, but not be limited to, requirements to ensure accountability for public funds, criteria for matching funds, and performance standards.

§ 44-146.18. Department of Emergency Services continued as Department of Emergency Management; administration and operational control; coordinator and other personnel; powers and duties.

A. The State Office of Emergency Services is continued and shall hereafter be known as the Department of Emergency Management. Wherever the words "State Department of Emergency Services" are used in any law of the Commonwealth, they shall mean the Department of Emergency Management. During a declared emergency this Department shall revert to the operational control of the Governor. The Department shall have a coordinator who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor and also serve as State Emergency Planning Director. The Department shall employ the professional, technical, secretarial, and clerical employees necessary for the performance of its functions.

B. The State Department of Emergency Management shall in the administration of emergency services and disaster preparedness programs:

1. In coordination with political subdivisions and state agencies, ensure that the Commonwealth has up-to-date assessments and preparedness plans to prevent, respond to and recover from all disasters including acts of terrorism;

2. Conduct a statewide emergency management assessment in cooperation with political subdivisions, private industry and other public and private entities deemed vital to preparedness, public safety and security. The assessment shall include a review of emergency response plans, which include the variety of hazards, natural and man-made. The assessment shall be updated annually;

3. Submit to the Governor and to the General Assembly, no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly, an annual executive summary and report on the status of emergency management response plans throughout the Commonwealth and other measures taken or recommended to prevent, respond to and recover from disasters, including acts of terrorism. This report shall be made available to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports. Information submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in subdivision 4 of § 2.2-3705.2 shall not be disclosed unless:

a. It is requested by law-enforcement authorities in furtherance of an official investigation or the prosecution of a criminal act;

b. The agency holding the record is served with a proper judicial order; or

c. The agency holding the record has obtained written consent to release the information from the State Department of Emergency Management;

4. Promulgate plans and programs that are conducive to adequate disaster mitigation preparedness, response and recovery programs;

5. Prepare and maintain a State Emergency Operations Plan for disaster response and recovery operations that assigns primary and support responsibilities for basic emergency services functions to state agencies, organizations and personnel as appropriate;

6. Coordinate and administer disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery plans and programs with the proponent federal, state and local government agencies and related groups;

7. Provide guidance and assistance to state agencies and units of local government in developing and maintaining emergency management and continuity of operations (COOP) programs, plans and systems;

8. Make necessary recommendations to agencies of the federal, state, or local governments on preventive and preparedness measures designed to eliminate or reduce disasters and their impact;

9. Determine requirements of the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions for those necessities needed in the event of a declared emergency which are not otherwise readily available;

10. Assist state agencies and political subdivisions in establishing and operating training programs and programs of public information and education regarding emergency services and disaster preparedness activities;

11. Consult with the Board of Education regarding the development and revision of a model school crisis and emergency management plan for the purpose of assisting public schools in establishing, operating, and maintaining emergency services and disaster preparedness activities;

12. Consult with the State Council of Higher Education in the development and revision of a model institutional crisis and emergency management plan for the purpose of assisting public and private

two-year and four-year institutions of higher education in establishing, operating, and maintaining emergency services and disaster preparedness activities and, as needed, in developing an institutional crisis and emergency management plan pursuant to § 23-9.2:9;

13. Develop standards, provide guidance and encourage the maintenance of local and state agency emergency operations plans, *which shall include the requirement for a provision that the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund be contacted immediately to deploy assistance in the event of an emergency as defined in the emergency response plan when there are victims as defined in § 19.2-11.01, as well as current contact information for both;*

14. Prepare, maintain, coordinate or implement emergency resource management plans and programs with federal, state and local government agencies and related groups, and make such surveys of industries, resources, and facilities within the Commonwealth, both public and private, as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

15. Coordinate with the federal government and any public or private agency or entity in achieving any purpose of this chapter and in implementing programs for disaster prevention, mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery;

16. Establish guidelines pursuant to § 44-146.28, and administer payments to eligible applicants as authorized by the Governor;

17. Coordinate and be responsible for the receipt, evaluation, and dissemination of emergency services intelligence pertaining to all probable hazards affecting the Commonwealth;

18. Coordinate intelligence activities relating to terrorism with the Department of State Police; and

19. Develop an emergency response plan to address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals in the event of a disaster and assist and coordinate with local agencies in developing an emergency response plan for household pets and service animals.

C. The State Department of Emergency Management shall during a period of impending emergency or declared emergency be responsible for:

1. The receipt, evaluation, and dissemination of intelligence pertaining to an impending or actual disaster;

2. Providing facilities from which state agencies and supporting organizations may conduct emergency operations;

3. Providing an adequate communications and warning system capable of notifying all political subdivisions in the Commonwealth of an impending disaster within a reasonable time;

4. Establishing and maintaining liaison with affected political subdivisions;

5. Determining requirements for disaster relief and recovery assistance;

6. Coordinating disaster response actions of federal, state and volunteer relief agencies;

7. Coordinating and providing guidance and assistance to affected political subdivisions to ensure orderly and timely response to and recovery from disaster effects.

D. The State Department of Emergency Management shall be provided the necessary facilities and equipment needed to perform its normal day-to-day activities and coordinate disaster-related activities of the various federal, state, and other agencies during a state of emergency declaration by the Governor or following a major disaster declaration by the President.

E. The State Department of Emergency Management is authorized to enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to performance of any of its duties stated in this section or otherwise assigned to it by law, including contracts with the United States, other states, agencies and government subdivisions of the Commonwealth, and other appropriate public and private entities.

F. The State Department of Emergency Management shall encourage private industries whose goods and services are deemed vital to the public good to provide annually updated preparedness assessments to the local coordinator of emergency management on or before April 1 of each year, to facilitate overall Commonwealth preparedness. For the purposes of this section, "private industry" means companies, private hospitals, and other businesses or organizations deemed by the State Coordinator of Emergency Management to be essential to the public safety and well-being of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

§ 44-146.19. Powers and duties of political subdivisions.

A. Each political subdivision within the Commonwealth shall be within the jurisdiction of and served by the Department of Emergency Management and be responsible for local disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Each political subdivision shall maintain in accordance with state disaster preparedness plans and programs an agency of emergency management which, except as otherwise provided under this chapter, has jurisdiction over and services the entire political subdivision.

B. Each political subdivision shall have a director of emergency management who, after the term of the person presently serving in this capacity has expired and in the absence of an executive order by the Governor, shall be the following:

1. In the case of a city, the mayor or city manager, who shall appoint a coordinator of emergency management with consent of council;

2. In the case of a county, a member of the board of supervisors selected by the board or the chief administrative officer for the county, who shall appoint a coordinator of emergency management with the consent of the governing body;

3. A coordinator of emergency management shall be appointed by the council of any town to ensure integration of its organization into the county emergency management organization;

4. In the case of the Town of Chincoteague and of towns with a population in excess of 5,000 having an emergency management organization separate from that of the county, the mayor or town manager shall appoint a coordinator of emergency services with consent of council;

5. In Smyth County and in York County, the chief administrative officer for the county shall appoint a director of emergency management, with the consent of the governing body, who shall appoint a coordinator of emergency management with the consent of the governing body.

C. Whenever the Governor has declared a state of emergency, each political subdivision within the disaster area may, under the supervision and control of the Governor or his designated representative, control, restrict, allocate or regulate the use, sale, production and distribution of food, fuel, clothing and other commodities, materials, goods, services and resource systems which fall only within the boundaries of that jurisdiction and which do not impact systems affecting adjoining or other political subdivisions, enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such threatened or actual disaster, protect the health and safety of persons and property and provide emergency assistance to the victims of such disaster. In exercising the powers vested under this section, under the supervision and control of the Governor, the political subdivision may proceed without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law (except mandatory constitutional requirements) pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, incurring of obligations, employment of temporary workers, rental of equipment, purchase of supplies and materials, levying of taxes, and appropriation and expenditure of public funds.

D. The director of each local organization for emergency management may, in collaboration with (i) other public and private agencies within the Commonwealth or (ii) other states or localities within other states, develop or cause to be developed mutual aid arrangements for reciprocal assistance in case of a disaster too great to be dealt with unassisted. Such arrangements shall be consistent with state plans and programs and it shall be the duty of each local organization for emergency management to render assistance in accordance with the provisions of such mutual aid arrangements.

E. Each local and interjurisdictional agency shall prepare and keep current a local or interjurisdictional emergency operations plan for its area. The plan shall include, but not be limited to, responsibilities of all local agencies and shall establish a chain of command, *and a provision that the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be contacted immediately to deploy assistance in the event of an emergency as defined in the emergency response plan when there are victims as defined in § 19.2-11.01, as well as current contact information for both.* Every four years, each local and interjurisdictional agency shall conduct a comprehensive review and revision of its emergency operations plan to ensure that the plan remains current, and the revised plan shall be formally adopted by the locality's governing body. In the case of an interjurisdictional agency, the plan shall be formally adopted by the governing body of each of the localities encompassed by the agency. Each political subdivision having a nuclear power station or other nuclear facility within 10 miles of its boundaries shall, if so directed by the Department of Emergency Management, prepare and keep current an appropriate emergency plan for its area for response to nuclear accidents at such station or facility.

F. All political subdivisions shall provide an annually updated emergency management assessment to the State Coordinator of Emergency Management on or before July 1 of each year.

G. By July 1, 2005, all localities with a population greater than 50,000 shall establish an alert and warning plan for the dissemination of adequate and timely warning to the public in the event of an emergency or threatened disaster. The governing body of the locality, in consultation with its local emergency management organization, shall amend its local emergency operations plan that may include rules for the operation of its alert and warning system, to include sirens, Emergency Alert System (EAS), NOAA Weather Radios, or other personal notification systems, amateur radio operators, or any combination thereof.

H. Localities that have established an agency of emergency management shall have authority to require the review of, and suggest amendments to, the emergency plans of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult day care centers, and child day care centers that are located within the locality.