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SENATE BILL NO. 1150

Offered January 14, 2009

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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.*

Patron—Howell

Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

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

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

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

79 § 23-9.2:9. Institutional crisis and emergency management plan; review required.

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

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

92 § 32.1-111.3. Statewide emergency medical care system.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

118 7. Conducting, promoting, and encouraging programs of education and training designed to upgrade
119 the knowledge and skills of health manpower involved in emergency medical services, including
120 expanding the availability of paramedic and advanced life support training throughout the

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

182 and representatives of emergency medical services providers. The program for monitoring and reporting
183 the results of emergency medical and trauma services data analysis shall be the sole means of
184 encouraging and promoting compliance with the trauma triage criteria.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

228 § 32.1-111.11. Regional emergency medical services councils.

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

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

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

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

244 *deploy assistance in the event of an emergency as defined in the emergency response plan when there*
 245 *are victims as defined in § 19.2-11.01, as well as current contact information for both.*

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

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

255 § 44-146.18. Department of Emergency Services continued as Department of Emergency
 256 Management; administration and operational control; coordinator and other personnel; powers and duties.

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

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

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

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

273 3. Submit to the Governor and to the General Assembly, no later than the first day of each regular
 274 session of the General Assembly, an annual executive summary and report on the status of emergency
 275 management response plans throughout the Commonwealth and other measures taken or recommended
 276 to prevent, respond to and recover from disasters, including acts of terrorism. This report shall be made
 277 available to the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents
 278 and reports. Information submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in subdivision 4 of
 279 § 2.2-3705.2 shall not be disclosed unless:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

304 12. Consult with the State Council of Higher Education in the development and revision of a model

305 institutional crisis and emergency management plan for the purpose of assisting public and private
306 two-year and four-year institutions of higher education in establishing, operating, and maintaining
307 emergency services and disaster preparedness activities and, as needed, in developing an institutional
308 crisis and emergency management plan pursuant to § 23-9.2.9;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

337 4. Establishing and maintaining liaison with affected political subdivisions;

338 5. Determining requirements for disaster relief and recovery assistance;

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

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

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

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

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

357 § 44-146.19. Powers and duties of political subdivisions.

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

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

366 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.