



SELECT COMMITTEE ON
**HURRICANE RESPONSE
& PREPAREDNESS**

Final Report

January 16, 2018

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Hurricane Response and Preparedness
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Hurricane Irma

Floridians are no strangers to hurricanes. From 2000 to the present, 79 tropical or subtropical cyclones affected Florida, including Hurricanes Charley (2004), Ivan (2004), Jeanne (2004), Dennis (2005), and Wilma (2005). In each instance, Floridians took action to defend their families and communities and to assist with recovery in the aftermath. However, in September 2017, Hurricane Irma posed an unprecedented threat to our state and a dramatic test of our preparedness and ability to respond to extreme weather events. It is incumbent upon us to learn from that experience and improve our ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the inevitable storms we will face in the future.

For days we watched this massive and mighty hurricane crawl across the Atlantic before it devastated our communities and state. In the days prior, we watched as Hurricane Harvey battered Texas. To our dismay, the power and scope of that storm would be dwarfed in comparison with Hurricane Irma's. This was the first time on record that two category 4 hurricanes made landfall in the United States of America during the same hurricane season.

Hurricane Irma was a record setting hurricane before it even hit the State of Florida. The Hurricane exceeded the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale (scale based on a hurricane's sustained wind speed) with top sustained winds surpassing 150mph. The hurricane

maintained 185mph winds for 37 hours in total, the longest period at this speed for any cyclone on record worldwide. In a measure of how powerful a hurricane is by velocity and duration, the U.S National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration labeled Hurricane Irma the second most powerful storm. This measurement is called the Accumulated Cyclone Energy (ACE), and Hurricane Irma scored 66.8, which is six times more powerful than Hurricane Harvey's score of 11.1. Hurricane Irma was so powerful that it generated more energy than 17 entire Atlantic hurricane seasons in this area (since 1966). This storm's power and scope was matched only by its duration and sustainability. Hurricane Irma spent 8.5 days as a major hurricane (second most sustained major hurricane in the satellite era (starting in 1966)) and spent a 3.25 day lifetime as a category 5 (most sustained category 5 storm). Even in the face of this nightmarish scenario, our state and local communities held strong.

On September 4, Florida Governor Rick Scott declared a state of emergency for Florida and placed 100 members of the Florida National Guard on duty to assist in preparations. All 7,000 troops were ordered to be on duty by September 8. State and local emergency management officials advised residents to stock their hurricane kits. Governor Scott suspended tolls on all toll roads in the state starting at 5:00 p.m. on September 5. All state offices in Florida were closed on September



8. Schools and colleges were closed in 44 of the state's 67 counties, before Governor Scott ordered all state colleges, universities, schools, and offices to be closed from September 8 to 11.

At 9:10 a.m. on September 10, Hurricane Irma made landfall at Cudjoe Key as a Category 4 storm, becoming the first major hurricane to make landfall in Florida since Wilma in 2005. Later that afternoon, Hurricane Irma made landfall in Florida for a second time, now on Marco Island as a Category 3 storm. (A timeline of Hurricane Irma is presented in Appendix 1.)

As Hurricane Irma moved across the state, hurricane strength winds extended at least 80 miles, and tropical storm force winds extended over 400 miles from the center of the storm. At least 32 of Florida's rivers and creeks flooded, and 18 tornadoes were confirmed across the peninsula.

Fifty-four of Florida's 67 counties issued evacuation orders to a record 6.8 million people. Nearly 700 shelters were opened throughout the state, housing a record breaking peak population of 191,764 people. On September 11, as the storm

made its way through Florida, over 6.7 million customers lost power – over 64% of customers in the state. Due mainly to the widespread loss of power, cell phone service was also significantly impacted after battery backup power for cell phone towers ran out and backup generators ran out of fuel. According to an impact report by the Federal Communications Commission, on September 12, 89 of 108 (82%) cell phone towers were non-functioning in Monroe County, 154 of 212 (73%) were non-functioning in Collier County, 36 of 46 (78%) were non-functioning in Hendry County, and an additional six counties had 41-60% of cell phone towers not functioning, including Lee County and Miami-Dade County.

The State Emergency Response Team (SERT) began operations by initiating coordination calls with the National Hurricane Center and county emergency management officials on September 4, a week before landfall. On September 5, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was activated to a Level One, the highest level of activation, and sustained its 24-hour operations until September 21 of that same month. The SEOC remained

at Level One for a total of 35 consecutive days.

In the SERT's common operating platform, EM Constellation, a total of 6,546 missions have been entered to date – 2,000 more than Hurricane Charley and almost 5,000 more than last year's Hurricane Matthew. The SERT distributed over 6.7 million meals and 10.7 million liters of water, as well as over 71,000 tarps and 13,000 cots.

All of Florida's 67 counties were declared under a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Out of these, 47 counties were declared for all categories of Public Assistance, while 48 counties were declared for Individual Assistance.

A record 6.5 million people were evacuated, all while the SEOC and local emergency management officials adjusted to 10 different scenarios over the course of Irma's track. To facilitate evacuation, the Florida Department of Transportation

implemented procedures allowing the use of the left shoulder as a lane for moving traffic on northbound Interstate 75 from Wildwood to the Georgia state line beginning September 8 and on eastbound Interstate 4 from Tampa to State Road 429 near Celebration for a few hours on September 9.

This was a new technique introduced by the Department of Transportation at the start of the 2017 hurricane season.

Despite these efforts, this massive evacuation caused traffic congestion on northbound Interstate 95, Florida's Turnpike, and Interstate 75. The size of Irma and the uncertainty surrounding the storm's projected path led evacuees from both coasts to head north. In the week leading up to Irma's landfall, petroleum supplies became limited throughout Florida, especially along evacuation routes. Although Hurricane Irma was not the deadliest hurricane to strike Florida, it was



one of the most fatal in recent times. Relying on information from county medical examiners, the Division of Emergency Management currently estimates 84 deaths attributable to the storm. The deaths of residents of the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills were particularly shocking. The facility was evacuated September 13 when eight elderly residents died in quick succession after the facility lost power to its central air conditioning and the facility overheated. The medical examiner ruled 12 deaths to be homicides due to heat exposure.

On September 13, the Agency for Health Care Administration issued an Immediate Moratorium on Admissions and on September 20 issued an Emergency Suspension Order to Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills. The Hollywood Police Department and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement are conducting a criminal investigation.

Even now Hurricane Irma's full damage to our state's economy and industries is still being assessed, but initial estimates are concerning. In addition to emergency response costs, initial recovery costs were incurred for debris removal, temporary housing, food assistance, and other expenses. Although many of these costs are covered at least in part by federal assistance, state and local governments must bear some of the burden.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) stated as of December 14, federal agencies had provided more than \$2.49 billion to help cover Hurricane Irma-related losses. As of November 14, state agencies had reported \$680.2 million in public assistance costs. The majority of these costs will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management

Administration (FEMA). Reimbursements for preparation and response efforts will be processed faster than reimbursements for recovery efforts such as longer-term infrastructure projects. Additionally, the State will be responsible for 25% of "other needs assistance" payments, which include assistance in areas such as disaster medical, funeral costs, and critical commodities. The program cost is estimated to be \$274 million, with a state share of at least \$68 million. This cost could continue to rise. As of November 16, counties had reported costs in excess of \$1 billion. The state share of these costs is estimated to be \$115 million so far. These costs are expected to continue to rise.

The State is actively pursuing a 90/10 cost share storm designation from FEMA, and FEMA guidelines allow for this designation at a cumulative \$2.7 billion threshold. With the inclusion of municipalities, non-profits, debris, and permanent work, Florida total damages are expected to surpass this threshold. As the costs continue to rise, there will be some offset from the elevated cost share program.

On September 14, Governor Scott activated the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program to provide short-term interest-free loans to small businesses impacted by Hurricane Irma. Up to \$10 million was allocated for the program.

On October 6, the Governor activated a \$25 million Florida Citrus Emergency Loan Program to provide interest-free loans to citrus growers impacted by Hurricane

Irma. According to the Florida Small Business Development Center, the U.S. Small Business Administration has closed \$150.3 million in disaster assistance loans to Florida small businesses.

More long-term damage resulting from Hurricane Irma includes, but is not limited to, the loss of affordable housing in the Florida Keys and other heavily impacted areas, damage to wastewater and potable water infrastructure, and severe erosion of large stretches of Florida's coastline. The present estimate of Hurricane Irma's impact on our state's agriculture industry is \$2.5 billion in total estimated losses. The insurance industry is facing \$6.55 billion in property damage claims.

This past hurricane season fully tested our state's abilities, and we adapted. We weathered Hurricane Irma and continue to work together to restore the lives, homes, enterprises, and communities of Florida's residents. Although much is left to be done for Florida's citizens and communities to recover from Hurricane Irma, now more than ever we must also work to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season, which begins June 1, 2018.





Hurricane Maria

Just ten days after Hurricane Irma made initial landfall in Florida, another devastating hurricane affected the state. Although Hurricane Maria did not hit Florida, its impacts, particularly to Puerto Rico, have significantly affected the state. The storm made landfall on Puerto Rico Wednesday, September 20. Much of the island, which was still recovering from Hurricane Irma two weeks prior, was devastated. To assist efforts to provide services and commodities to individuals still residing on the island and to assist efforts to provide services to the individuals who have traveled to Florida to escape the devastation, Governor Scott declared a state of emergency on October 2. Although the numbers are fluid, most recent estimates indicate more than 300,000 people have come to Florida from Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria. Governor Scott sent aid and personnel to help Puerto Rico with recovery efforts, and set up resource centers at the Miami and Orlando airports. Florida school districts have enrolled more than 11,200 displaced students from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. On January 4, 2018, Governor Scott issued a detailed update on state action to assist Puerto Rico.



Creation of Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives Richard Corcoran created the Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness on September 19, 2017. Speaker Corcoran directed the committee to gather information, solicit ideas for improvement, and make recommendations to the executive branch and suggest legislative options to address hurricane preparedness and response for consideration during the 2018 Legislative Session. The Speaker appointed to the committee a diverse and bi-partisan group of representatives from across Florida and named Speaker *pro tempore* Jeanette Nuñez as chair.

In creating the committee, Speaker Corcoran thanked Governor Scott for his leadership in preparing Floridians for Hurricane Irma and, in its aftermath, responding to the storm, noting that with any event of this magnitude, lessons can be learned. In his charge to the committee, the Speaker stated his belief that the House of Representatives must move quickly to assess the state's recent experience and pinpoint tangible, meaningful ways to improve Florida's hurricane preparedness and response capabilities. Acknowledging the Governor's broad emergency powers to address the immediate crisis, the Speaker declared the Legislature has a constitutional role to ensure that our state's laws, processes, and infrastructure are prepared for another storm with this potential for destruction.

To assist the committee in its work, the Speaker provided the members a list of initial issues and questions to serve as a starting point. The full list is presented in Appendix 2. The topics included:

- Avoiding and Mitigating Future Storm Damage
- Public Safety
- Evacuation
- Critical Worker and Employee Protections
- Medical Facilities
- Medical Care
- Shelters
- Utilities
- School Closures
- Necessities
- Reconstruction
- Tax Relief
- Insurance and Banking



Summary of Recommendations

The path of Hurricane Irma, from south to north, and covering the entire length of the state, is not the common path taken by storms making landfall in Florida. Typically, hurricanes cross Florida from the east or the west. The storm's path and its sheer size would have strained Florida's ability to deal with its many impacts despite the preparation efforts of our emergency management systems and local communities. Fortunately, despite the devastation that resulted, Florida avoided even greater levels of devastation that could have resulted, had the path of the storm veered slightly.

The members of the Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness believe that as Florida proceeds with recovery from Hurricane Irma and provides assistance to the people of Puerto Rico recovering from Hurricane Maria, it is imperative that state policy makers take advantage of the lessons learned from our recent experiences.

Following nearly 20 hours of committee hearings, the members came away from their analysis into emergency management policy with a clear understanding that no one group can identify all the actions required to improve Florida's hurricane preparedness and response capabilities, certainly not in the course of the few months available to them. Acknowledging this limitation, the members nevertheless identified several fundamental issues clearly requiring action. Relying on their own experiences, conversations with their constituents and local emergency management officials, and over 16 hours of presentations and discussions with experts from numerous fields, the committee agreed to a list of proposed recommendations for consideration and further development by the standing substantive and fiscal committees of the House.

The fundamental themes identified by the committee as clearly requiring action include:

- Vulnerable Populations Residing in Health Care and Residential Facilities
- Shelters and Vulnerable Populations
- Evacuations
- Hardening and Restoring Florida's Electric Grid
- Restoring our Communities
- Mitigating Future Damage

A complete list of the recommendations adopted by the committee is presented in Appendix 3. The fundamental themes addressed by the recommendations, as well as some of the primary recommendations, are summarized in the following pages:



Vulnerable Populations Residing in Health Care and Residential Facilities

Nothing like the unprecedented events that led to the deaths of the residents at Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills occurred at other facilities in Florida. Nevertheless, the committee found that while nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other facilities responsible for vulnerable populations generally did what was necessary to prevent such disasters, improvements are necessary to ensure the health and safety of Florida's most vulnerable populations living in facilities. The committee adopted several recommendations to ensure the protection of vulnerable citizens living in facilities during events like Hurricane Irma.

These recommendations include:

- Require nursing homes to provide for adequate emergency power necessary to protect their residents from unsafe temperatures, and place additional requirements on assisted living facilities, taking into account differences in populations and capitalization.
- Require improvements to the quality of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMP) required of facilities and ensure through oversight and enforcement they are capable of and prepared to implement these plans to protect the life and safety of the residents whose wellbeing they are responsible for ensuring.
- Require facilities to share provisions of their CEMPs with residents, a resident's designated family member, legal representative or guardian.



Shelters and Vulnerable Populations

Hurricane Irma placed incredible strains on Florida's shelter capacity and our communities' abilities to manage the large number of people seeking shelter. The uncertainty regarding the path of the storm and its size created unprecedented challenges. Nearly 700 shelters were opened throughout the state, housing a record breaking peak population of 191,764 people. Occurring so soon after Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas, Hurricane Irma surpassed the ability of the American Red Cross and others to manage Florida's shelters.

Florida's capacity to shelter people with special needs was particularly challenged. To utilize the lessons learned from these experiences, the committee adopted several recommendations, including:

- Provide more state assistance with shelter management training at the local level.
- Consider focusing efforts to address the adequacy of shelter availability on a county rather than regional basis.
- Consider making more information regarding shelters and which ones accept pets available several days before a storm.
- Direct the Division of Emergency Management to create a comprehensive volunteer database to allow it to deploy volunteers quickly following disasters to assist with shelters and to perform other emergency relief functions.
- Expand the Volunteer Leave Law to include organizations in addition to the American Red Cross that are active in disaster response and recovery.
- Provide an exemption for information revealing the identity of persons registering for emergency sheltering with a local emergency management agency.
- Provide matching funds necessary to draw a 75-percent match in federal funds through a Victims of Crime Act grant through the Office of the Attorney General to install generators at Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers.

Recommendations specific to special needs shelters, included:

- Create a statewide special needs shelter registration system with standardized information, while continuing to allow counties to set shelter eligibility/exclusions to reflect the capacity of their special needs shelters.
- Require all counties to post the eligibility criteria and registration process - including a link to the statewide registration form - on their websites.
- Require each county and local health department to develop a resource and staffing plan for the hurricane season on an annual basis.
- Require hospitals to shelter people excluded from shelters for medical reasons.
- Require licensed or contracted entities that provide home health or home and community based services to work with clients to develop individual emergency plans.
- Authorize state employees with clinical roles (nurses, certified behavior analysts, etc.) to work in shelters.

- Consider the need to fund generators for hardened public shelters to create more emergency shelter capacity that can be adapted to meet the needs of vulnerable populations.
- Expand the use of the Division of Emergency Management’s Shelter Retrofit funds provided by the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund to include local projects to enhance emergency power generation and surveys to evaluate and resolve ADA compliance and provide for functional and access needs.







Evacuations

Although Florida successfully evacuated a record 6.5 million people in response to Hurricane Irma, the experience clearly demonstrated improvements can and should be made to better prepare for future storm events.

Some of the recommended improvements include:

- Consider establishing strategically located petroleum distribution centers to alleviate storm-related impacts on fuel supply and distribution throughout the state.
- Provide Floridians a real-time, web-based evacuation route/destination resource tool to assist them in making informed decisions relating to the selection of evacuation routes and destinations.
- Extend the Suncoast Parkway to the Georgia state line to provide another north-south evacuation option.
- Consider other infrastructure enhancements to facilitate evacuation, such as purchasing and deploying emergency generators at critical highway-railroad crossings, improving key ramps on limited access facilities, incorporating passenger rail service into evacuation, providing generators and alternative energy sources at key interstate interchanges, utilizing rail transport to meet fuel demands, and improving technological systems to improve communication in the fuel distribution process.
- Conduct exercises using contraflow lanes on portions of highways determined to be appropriate for such methods during future evacuations.
- Emphasize the effectiveness of shorter evacuation options in community education efforts for emergency preparedness.



Hardening and Restoring Florida's Electric Grid

The committee heard testimony from the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the electric utilities on the steps taken following the widespread hurricane damage to the state's electric grid during the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons. Despite these efforts, as noted in the introduction, Hurricane Irma left over 6.7 million customers without power, with significant consequences across our communities. Significant loss of power was inevitable given the strength, size, and path of the storm. Nevertheless, the committee believes more can and should be done to harden our electric grid to mitigate future damage. The committee also received testimony indicating there is not consistent communication and cooperation among local emergency management officials and electric utilities statewide in relation to the identification and restoration of critical facilities.

To address these concerns, the committee adopted several recommendations for further development, including:

- Direct the PSC to prepare a study of the efficacy and costs of all technically feasible storm hardening measures for the electric power grid, and consider establishing a state grant program to assist in funding some storm hardening projects.
- Consider repealing the statutory exception to statewide standards for vegetation management within power line rights-of-way.
- Improve communication and cooperation between electric utilities and local emergency management officials, and during power restoration, emphasize restoration of facilities identified by the local emergency management officials as critical to the public health, safety, welfare, and security. Such facilities may include: emergency management and law enforcement facilities; health care facilities; shelters; critical utility, transportation, communications, government, and military infrastructure; and providers of essential goods and services.



Restoring Our Communities

As briefly discussed in the introduction, Hurricane Irma affected all commerce and business enterprises in Florida. Long-term damage resulting from the storm includes the loss of affordable housing in the Florida Keys and other heavily impacted areas, damage to wastewater and potable water infrastructure, and severe erosion of large stretches of Florida's coastline. As always, agriculture was particularly vulnerable to the storm, and in addition to the \$2.5 billion in total estimated agricultural losses, the storm threatened the continued viability of some sectors of the agricultural economy. The committee adopted several recommendations to address these long-term damages, including:

- Create within the Division of Emergency Management a real-time tracking system for all FEMA public assistance program grant requests for aid or reimbursement.
- Create a temporary program to provide funding for affordable housing recovery efforts to address the impact of hurricanes Irma and Maria on affordable housing stocks, particularly in the Florida Keys and other severely damaged areas and counties affected by Puerto Rican evacuees from Hurricane Maria.
- Identify ways to lower the cost of affordable housing development and incentivize more units at affordable rents.
- Provide targeted state matching funds associated with Hurricane Irma for beach recovery.
- Consider exemptions from sales and use tax and other tax relief to address long-term economic impacts of Irma to the agricultural sector.
- Assist efforts to secure post disaster supplemental funding from the U.S. Congress for Florida agriculture.
- Solicit federal funding for unreimbursed operating cost for facilities, social services, and counseling services, and considering providing additional funding to school districts that incurred additional costs due to the influx of additional students from hurricane Maria.



Mitigating Future Damages

As Florida's local governments and communities work with their federal and state partners on restoring what Hurricane Irma damaged, the committee believes it is imperative that we look to the future to take steps to mitigate damage from future storms. To do so, the committee recommends:

- Produce a complete and accurate 3D map of the state for use in numerous emergency management and infrastructure planning applications.
- Invest in plans that cost-effectively mitigate flood risks to developed areas, including protection of greenways and blueways that act as flow ways or provide temporary storage during high water events.
- Identify areas where rebuilding after a disaster may be high-risk and consider options for not rebuilding in those areas, including the purchase of these properties and using them to create additional open space and natural buffers.
- Identify additional mechanisms and incentives to harden existing homes against disaster.
- Consider long range plans to migrate damage to critical infrastructure, like water and sewer treatment plants out of flood plains or have them hardened to prevent damage during a flood event. Establish policies to discourage investment in new facilities in flood plains unless they are hardened to avoid damage from floods.
- Establish in the Department of Environmental Protection a statewide voluntary program for domestic wastewater collection system assessment, investment, rehabilitation, and electric power outage mitigation planning.
- Consider state funding for the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) as well as providing funding for an organized forensic review of agricultural storm damage and identification of next steps for recovery efforts.



Work Plan of the Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness

Following her appointment as Chair of the Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness, on September 21 Speaker *pro tempore* Nuñez reached out to the members of the committee to congratulate them on their appointment and to announce the committee's inaugural meeting would be on October 12. Noting the short timeline facing the committee due to the legislative session convening in January, Chair Nuñez also urged each member to meet with their local emergency management officials prior to the initial meeting to gather information to assist the committee in assessing Florida's experience with Hurricane Irma.

Prior to the committee's inaugural meeting, committee members did engage their local emergency management officials to learn about their experiences with Hurricane Irma and to discuss lessons learned and the restoration needs of their communities. Chair Nuñez joined other members of the committee in visits with emergency management officials in Miami-Dade, Monroe, St. Johns, Flagler, Lee, and Collier Counties.

To facilitate the work of the committee in gathering information necessary to assess Florida's experience with Hurricane Irma and developing options to improve Florida's future preparedness and response capabilities, Chair Nuñez directed staff to begin developing a work plan. The final work plan, which is presented in Appendix 4, was based upon the initial list of issues and questions provided to the committee and the members' discussions with local and state emergency management officials. The committee's first five meetings were devoted to the following topics:

- Florida's Emergency Management System, Hurricane Irma Response and Recovery, and Florida's Property Insurance Market
- Emergency Management Communications, Evacuation, Fuel Supplies, and Utilities
- Shelters, Special Needs Shelters, Vulnerable Populations, Health Care Facilities, Health Practitioners
- Waterways, Sewer, Storm water and Flooding, Beaches, and Housing
- Education, Debris Removal, Agriculture, and FEMA Reimbursement and State Expenditures

Although the five meetings are summarized below, Appendix 4 provides a complete list of all presentations provided to the committee.

Thursday, October 12, 2017: Initial Meeting, 2 hours

Prior to the inaugural meeting, Chair Nuñez directed staff to provide members a packet of background information on Florida's emergency management system and related statutes, including the 2016 draft of Florida's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

In her opening remarks to the committee, Chair Nuñez suggested to the members that as they tackle the many issues and questions before them, the committee should focus its attention on identifying measures that will serve to fulfill the fundamental objective of Florida's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, which is:

“To reduce the possible consequences of the emergency by preventing loss of life and injuries, reducing damage to infrastructure, buildings and homes, and accelerating the resumption of normal daily life activities”

Chair Nuñez shared with the committee her plan to explore key hurricane preparedness and response issues through a series of presentations over the course of the first five meetings, and challenged the members to keep in mind their shared purpose: to gather information, solicit ideas for improvement, and make recommendations. The purpose of these meetings would be to inform the members and generate ideas to develop into informed recommendations for consideration at a future meeting.

As a starting place, the initial meeting was devoted to developing a shared understanding of Florida's comprehensive emergency management system. The committee received presentations on Florida's Emergency Management System and updates on Hurricane Irma response and recovery from Florida's Division on Emergency Management (DEM). To gain an understanding of the critical role of local government in Florida's emergency management system and to hear their perspective on the state's preparedness and response to Hurricane Irma, the Select Committee heard presentations from local emergency management officials from three Florida Counties (Lee, Monroe, and St. Johns Counties). Finally, the committee received an update from Insurance Commissioner David Altmaier on the status of Florida's property insurance market.

Thursday, October 26: Issues Related to Emergency Management Communications, Evacuation, Fuel Supplies, and Utilities, 4 hours

The second meeting focused on key aspects of Florida's emergency management system, including presentations from the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) on emergency management public information and communications systems, processes and operations during Hurricane Irma. The committee also discussed the state's evacuation plans and

options during a statewide emergency. The DEM Interim Director explained the division's role in planning and modeling for future mandatory and voluntary evacuations. The Florida Department of Transportation Secretary briefed the Committee on the department's role in creating evacuation, reentry, and implementation plans during a statewide emergency. Representatives from local government emergency management offices also briefed the committee on their roles and perspectives.

The committee then received briefings on the state's petroleum supply and distribution systems. The briefings included a presentation from DEM on the division's role in coordinating petroleum distribution during a state of emergency, as well as presentations from several organizations and entities involved in the supply and distribution of petroleum.

The second meeting also addressed the central issue of electric utility service, including preparations to prevent loss of power and efforts to restore power due to the impacts of storms, particularly Hurricane Irma. The committee heard from the three investor-owned electric utilities primarily affected by Hurricane Irma, as well as from representatives of the municipal utilities and the electric cooperatives.

Thursday, November 9: Shelters, Special Needs Shelters, Vulnerable Populations, Health Care Facilities, Health Practitioners, 4 hours

The third meeting was devoted to issues fundamental to life, health, and safety, including issues related to:

- **Shelters,**
- **Vulnerable populations,**
- **Health care facilities, and**
- **Health care practitioners.**

The committee first addressed issues related to shelters and special needs shelters. The committee heard presentations from the DEM Interim Director, the Surgeon General, two representatives from county school systems, two representatives from local government emergency management offices, and a representative from Florida International University.

Next, the committee addressed the needs of vulnerable populations not in health care facilities. The Florida Department of Elder Affairs Deputy Secretary explained the department's role in emergency management and as the contract manager for Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). A representative from the Orlando area AAA explained the role of AAAs in meeting the needs of Florida's elderly and disabled residents during hurricanes.

The committee next heard presentations regarding health care facilities and hurricane events, beginning with a briefing from Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration on the agency's emergency preparedness and response activities, particularly as they relate to health care facilities, and an update on the agency's emergency power rule for nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The committee also heard from local government emergency management officials, Memorial Healthcare System, and the Director of the University of South Florida's Center on Aging.

Finally, the Surgeon General explained how the department helps mobilize health care professionals to serve patients before and after a storm.

In addition to these formal presentations, the committee also received public testimony from representatives from several interested parties.

Monday, November 13: Waterways, Sewer, Stormwater and Flooding, Beaches, and Housing, 3 hours

At its fourth meeting, the committee held panel discussions on the following topics:

- **Waterway Debris Removal and Derelict Vessels**
- **Sanitary Sewer Systems, Stormwater, and Flooding**
- **Beaches**
- **Housing**

Representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission discussed with the members issues and concerns related to waterway debris and abandoned vessels. A panel consisting of representatives from DEP, the St. Johns River Water Management District, two local wastewater utilities, and two local entities responsible for stormwater management discussed with the members a wide variety of issues associated with storm events and their effects on sanitary sewer systems, stormwater management, and flooding. A representative from DEP and from the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association updated the committee on the status of Florida's beaches, including the impacts from Hurricane Irma, and provided estimates of the federal and state resources required to address these impacts. Finally, the committee discussed Irma's impacts to housing and temporary and long-term ways to address these impacts with representatives from the DEM, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, and Airbnb.

Thursday, November 16: Education, Debris Removal, Agriculture, and FEMA Reimbursement and State Expenditures, 3 hours

At its fifth and final meeting devoted to specific hurricane related issues, the committee heard the following presentations:

- An update on hurricane-related education issues from the Department of Education
- An explanation of the role of the Department of Transportation with debris removal from the department
- A panel discussion on Hurricane Irma's impacts to agriculture from a representative of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Citrus Mutual, the Florida Cattleman's Association, and the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association
- An update on FEMA programs and reimbursements from the DEM
- An update on hurricane-related state expenditures from the Governor's budget director

Monday, December 4: Workshop on Proposed Select Committee Recommendations, 1 hour

At the conclusion of the committee's meeting on November 16, Chair Nuñez announced that the next step in the process would be for the members to utilize all they have learned from their communities and during the committee's sixteen hours of presentations and discussions to develop possible options for the committee to consider as recommendations to the full House.

To make this task more manageable and to focus the committee's efforts, the chair grouped the many issues explored into several categories. The categories were:

- **Evacuation**
- **Energy**
- **Shelters and Vulnerable Populations**
- **Health Care Facilities and Medical Care**
- **Agriculture**
- **Future Hurricane Expenditures and Tax Relief**
- **Housing**
- **Beaches, Sanitary Sewers, Stormwater, Flooding, and Debris Removal**
- **Education**

In a subsequent email to the members, Chair Nuñez provided the members the list of nine issue categories. To ensure the committee addressed all issue areas, three members were assigned to each category and asked to work with staff during the following two weeks

to develop possible recommendations for the specific issue categories assigned to them. Members were free to contribute suggested recommendation in other areas as well.

Members were asked to submit their recommendations to staff by Thursday, November 30, to allow time for all members to review the possible recommendations prior to the committee's December 4 workshop,

The issue categories and member assignments were:

- **Evacuation** – Reps. Asencio, Grant, and Raschein
- **Energy** – Reps. Davis, Eagle, and Trumbull
- **Shelters and Vulnerable Populations** – Reps. Burgess, Byrd, and Shaw
- **Health Care Facilities and Medical Care** – Reps. Rodrigues, Sprowls, and Stark
- **Agriculture** – Reps. Albritton, Jacobs, and Porter
- **Future Hurricane Expenditures and Tax Relief** – Reps. M. Grant, Moskowitz, and Renner
- **Housing** – Reps. B. Cortes, Davis, and Raschein
- **Beaches, Sanitary Sewers, Stormwater, Flooding, and Debris Removal** – Reps. Eagle, Jacobs, and Stevenson
- **Education** – Reps. Asencio, B. Cortes, and Porter

On November 21, at the direction of Chair Nuñez, staff emailed the committee members a table summarizing the recommendations and suggestions shared with the committee during its committee meetings and in writing. The recommendations, which were published on the committee's webpage, were grouped into the categories previously established by the Chair and were provided as a resource to assist the members in developing their proposed recommendations. This table is presented in Appendix 5.

On December 1, staff emailed committee members a table entitled "Preliminary Member Recommendations," which presented the 141 preliminary member recommendations submitted to staff (See Appendix 6). The table was published on the committee's webpage as well. Staff shared with executive agencies recommendations affecting their jurisdiction and requested their comments and suggestions. Comments and suggestions also were solicited from the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA), which is a statewide association of emergency managers.

At the December 4 committee meeting, the committee held a workshop to discuss the preliminary member recommendations. During the workshop, Chair Nuñez went through the member recommendations and provided members the opportunity to elaborate on their recommendations and to ask questions about other recommendations. In addition, time was provided for public testimony.

At the conclusion of the workshop, Chair Nuñez explained she would follow the general process commonly used by committee chairs to develop proposed committee bills to develop a draft report with recommendations for the select committee to consider in January. The Chair also invited members to submit additional recommendations as well as revisions to their preliminary recommendations no later than Friday, December 15.

In a follow-up email, Chair Nuñez solicited the following information from the committee members:

- Any recommendations they had that were not included in the list of preliminary member recommendations.
- Any revisions to the recommendations the members previously submitted
- Any specific comments the members wished to share regarding any of the recommendations included in the list of preliminary member recommendations .

Members submitted 20 additional recommendations and 36 revised recommendations by the December 15 deadline. Staff emailed a table presenting the new and revised member recommendations to the members and published the table on the committee's webpage (See Appendix 7). Staff shared with executive agencies the revised and new recommendations affecting their jurisdiction and requested their comments and suggestions. Comments and suggestions also were solicited from FEPA.

Tuesday, January 16: Consideration of the Select Committee's Final Report

In preparation for the committee's consideration of a final report, on January 9 Chair Nuñez emailed members a list with 77 recommendations she proposed for inclusion in the final report and requested members provide any comments or suggestions by close of business on January 10. In submitting her suggested recommendations, the Chair informed the members that the exclusion of a recommendation from the list of suggested recommendations should not be viewed as indicating a lack of support for it, and stated her intent was to propose recommendations providing clear direction, addressing statewide issues central to the charge of the committee, and reflecting the views of the committee as a body. The recommendations were distilled from the published list of recommendations received by the committee during its hearings and in writing, from member recommendations, and from comments and suggestion provided by executive agencies and others.

Following receipt of the members' comments and suggestions, Chair Nuñez made revisions to the recommendations and directed staff to include them in the draft final report submitted to members prior to the committee's meeting on Tuesday, January 16. At the January 16 committee meeting, the committee took up the draft report for questions, discussion, and public testimony and voted to approve the report as its Final Report.



Appendices

Appendix 1: Hurricane Irma Timeline

Dates from Aug. 30 by 11 a.m. - Sept. 10 by 6 p.m.

Aug. 30 by 11 a.m.

Tropical Storm Irma begins as a low-pressure system in the eastern Atlantic with winds of 48 mph. Heading into drier air might have tempered its intensification.

Aug. 31 between 5 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Hurricane Irma intensified into a hurricane with a small and clearing eye and winds up to 98 mph when it was about 650 miles west of the Cabo Verde Islands and 1,845 miles east of the Leeward Islands.

From Sept. 1 through Sept. 4

Hurricane Irma's strength fluctuates as it crosses the tropical mid-Atlantic, with 110 mph winds growing by the end of this passage to 145 mph. Hurricane warnings are issued for the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico by 11 p.m. on Sept. 4.

Sept. 5 at 7:45 a.m.

Irma is labeled an "extremely dangerous" Category 5 storm with maximum winds of 175 mph and stronger gusts.

By 11 a.m., the Bahamas issued a hurricane watch for Turks and Caicos Islands for the "potentially catastrophic" storm. The north coast of Haiti also had a hurricane watch.

Sept. 6 by 2 a.m.

Hurricane Irma's eye passes over Barbuda. Watches and warnings are placed across the Caribbean.

Sept. 6 by 8 a.m.

Irma's eye passes over St. Martin, and the northern eyewall pounds Anguilla.

Sept. 6 by 1 p.m.

Buck Island in the U.S. Virgin Islands reports 110 mph wind gust.

Sept. 6 by 2 p.m.

The "extremely dangerous" core of Irma passes over the northernmost Virgin Islands

Sept. 6 by 8 p.m.

Irma's eye passes just north of Puerto Rico at 16 mph as a Category 5 storm with 185 mph winds.

Sept 7 by 4 a.m.

Irma passes north of the Dominican Republic, heading toward the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Sept. 7 by 2 p.m.

Irma's eye moves between the north coast of Hispaniola and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Sept. 7 by 8 p.m.

Irma pummels the Turks and Caicos Islands with sustained winds of 175 mph.

Sept. 7 by 11 a.m.

Hurricane surge and storm warnings are issued for Florida and the Keys.

Sept. 8 by 2 a.m.

Irma's eye passes just north of Great Inagua Island.

Sept. 8 by 5 a.m.

Irma moves over the southern Bahamas as an "extremely dangerous" Category 4 storm with 155 mph winds.

Sept. 8 by 8 p.m.

Irma's southwestern eyewall moves over the north coast of Cuba.

Sept. 8 by 11 p.m.

Irma makes landfall on Cuba's Camaguey archipelago as a Category 5 hurricane with sustained winds of 160 mph.

Sept. 9 by 5 a.m.

As Irma passes over Cuba, it weakens again to a Category 4 hurricane with 155 mph winds. By 2 p.m., Irma lingers at 7 mph over Cuba, with sustained winds dropping to 125 mph, major hurricane-force winds were projected for the Florida Keys by the next dawn.

Sept. 10 at 9:10 a.m.

Hurricane Irma makes landfall at Cudjoe Key in the lower Florida Keys as a Category 4 storm with 130 mph sustained winds. A 106 mph gust was reported at National Key Deer Refuge in Big Pine Key. The storm headed north-by-northwest at 8 mph.

Sept. 10 by 2 p.m.

Irma weakens to Category 3 storm with 120 mph winds. But a life-threatening surge of 10 to 15 feet of water was forecast, with residents of Naples and Marco Island told to move away from the water.

Sept. 10 at 3:35 p.m.

Irma makes landfall again in Florida on Marco Island as a Category 3 storm with 115 mph wind. A 130 mph wind gust was reported by the Marco Island Police Department.

Sept. 10 by 6 p.m.

Irma winds down to a Category 2 storm with sustained winds of 110 mph. But a gust of 142 mph was reported at Naples Municipal Airport. A tide gauge measured a water 2.2 feet above mean higher high water, which represented a 7-foot increase in the previous hour and a half, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sept. 10. By 9:10 am

Irma made landfall at Cudjoe Key in the Florida Keys at 9:10 a.m. ET on Sunday, marking the first time in recorded history that two Category 4 storms have made landfall in the US in the same year.

Sept. 10. By 3:35 pm

After pummeling the Keys, the storm made landfall on the state's peninsula in Marco Island at 3:35 p.m. ET. The police department there reported a 130-mph wind gust. Irma has since been moving north up Florida's Gulf Coast.

Sep. 11, 2017, 4:54 PM

Tropical Storm Irma, which hit Florida as a major hurricane on Sunday, has finally crossed the state line and is now slamming Georgia with powerful winds.

Appendix 2 Disaster Response and Preparedness Issues for Select Committee

Policy Issues for Consideration by the Select Committee

Avoiding and Mitigating Future Storm Damage

1. Evaluate the performance of Florida's building code and determine if any changes to the code or code adoption processes are warranted.
2. Develop policies to limit electrical outages during a storm, including policies to encourage cost-effective infrastructure hardening, auxiliary power at key interstate interchanges, and, where appropriate, underground utilities.
3. Evaluate alternative approaches to avoid or reduce flooding, including methods to remove excess water when traditional storm water systems are overwhelmed.
4. Enhanced funding for beach restoration and nourishment to protect property and people.

Public Safety

1. Evaluate access to emergency management information, and identify ways to improve statewide information regarding all roads in Florida, shelter availability and location, government closures, food distribution, gasoline availability, etc.
2. Review the use of emergency ordinances and curfews and the roles of state, local and federal authorities, and consider policy changes to ensure consistency and cooperation.
3. Enhance penalties for looting and other crimes committed during evacuations and declared emergencies.

Evacuation

1. Consider alternative approaches to ensure adequate supplies of gasoline are available to meet demand during a disaster, including the merits of establishing a Florida petroleum reserve.
2. Consider directing the Division of Emergency Management to establish a system of providing food, water and other necessities on major roadways at rest stops and weigh stations.
3. Consider placing permanent generators at rest stops or repositioning generators at key rest areas.
4. Consider utilizing closed weigh and agriculture stations as comfort stations or locations for drivers to pull off the road when running low on gas.
5. Evaluate the benefits of improving the shoulders of key roads on southbound lanes to facilitate reentry after an evacuation. Northbound shoulders are evacuation ready whereas southbound shoulders are not reentry ready.

Critical Workers and Employee Protections

1. Develop strategies to assist and support essential personnel including health professionals and other caregivers to continue working during evacuations and other declared emergencies.
2. Evaluate the need for support for private employers and their employees during evacuation and declared emergencies.

Medical Facilities

1. Evaluate the adequacy of emergency management planning by nursing homes, hospices, assisted living facilities, and group homes, and consider policies to improve such planning.
2. Assess and strengthen current regulations for health care and residential facilities to have generators and maintain service capabilities.
3. Evaluate whether curfew orders allow critical medical personnel to travel to and from work, and consider other strategies for maintaining essential staffing while allowing some regulatory flexibility during evacuations.

Medical Care

1. Consider expanding access to telehealth (within and outside of Florida) as a means of ensuring adequate access to health services.
2. Evaluate the adequacy of public information addressing refills and temporary supplies of prescription drugs, and consider requiring pharmacies to use their patient communication systems to provide information.
3. Consider financial supports for essential health care providers, including mental health providers, to ease hurricane-related cash flow problems and support continuous access to care.

Shelters

1. Determine the adequacy of current shelters, and consider providing additional funding for schools and universities to provide hurricane shelter facilities.
2. Evaluate the adequacy of special needs shelters, and consider establishing tiers of facilities to handle the most fragile, using nursing homes, rehabilitation center and hospital beds.
3. For those in government-funded health care programs, consider:
 - a. Requiring Medicaid plans to use care managers to determine whether individuals need help and find them a place to shelter.
 - b. Requiring coverage for facility admissions when no other qualified shelter is available.
 - c. Requiring Medicaid plans to have emergency operation plans, documenting how they will provide these services, and proving contract relationships with facilities.
4. Determine the adequacy of communications about and the availability of pet shelters, and consider means to improve communication and the merits of requiring a standard population-based minimum number of pet shelters or ratio of pet and non-pet shelters.

Utilities

1. Evaluate existing processes used to prioritize the restoration of electric service, and consider policies to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable are addressed, including individuals in facilities and at home.
2. Determine if avoidable impediments hampered the movement of utility trucks and other emergency response vehicles, and consider providing a right of way and escorts as necessary to reach affected locations.

School Closures

1. Consider allowing school districts to deduct hurricane days from required days of instruction.
2. Consider providing additional school readiness funding for care when schools are closed.
3. Consider authorizing and funding the school readiness program to temporarily serve additional families in areas where schools are closed for extended periods.

Necessities

1. Consider providing for one-time increase in benefits to enable restocking by those who lose all food at home during a disaster.
2. Consider prioritizing the expenditure of affordable housing funds on replacing and repairing affordable housing lost or damaged during a disaster.

Reconstruction

1. To facilitate reconstruction, develop policy options to expedite permitting processes, and consider extending existing permit deadlines and reducing or waiving permit fees.
2. Consider reforms to construction law that will expedite reconstruction, including changes to construction licensing regulations. Also consider changes to the construction lien law to protect homeowners from double paying for construction if the construction is paid directly by the homeowner.
3. Consider enhancing CareerSource Florida programs to train and place employees in skilled construction trades.
4. Consider modifying the 811 (call before you dig) system to better address facility location in extraordinary circumstances.

Tax Relief

1. Consider exempting displaced Florida residents and recovery workers from tourist development taxes and other taxes currently assessed on hotel stays.
2. Consider creating a temporary tax holiday (exemption or credit) for all construction supplies following declared disasters.
3. Consider providing an additional disaster preparedness tax holiday tied to hurricane watch/warning.
4. Consider allowing agricultural lands that sit fallow or otherwise become non-income producing following a disaster, to continue to be classified as agricultural and maintain a minimal property tax assessment for a specific time period.

Insurance and Banking

1. Examine insurance solvency by reviewing reserve and reinsurance levels for the Hurricane Catastrophe Fund (CAT fund), Citizens Property Insurance, and insurance carriers in Florida.
2. Examine Florida property insurance claims exposure by region and coverage.
3. Review access to sufficient insurance adjusters and alternatives to ensure rapid adjusting of claims.
4. Review potential alternatives to help policyholders finance insurance deductibles over longer time periods.
5. Consider requiring all property and casualty insurance companies licensed in Florida to report any instances of suspected price gouging by independent adjusters and to report any suspected violations of Florida's insurance codes, including activity by unlicensed adjusters.
6. Consider authorizing the Commissioner of the OFR to permit banks and credit unions to change their main office locations or establish additional branches in declared disaster areas for a specified period of time.

Appendix 3: Final Recommendations of the Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness

	Evacuations Draft Recommendation	Comments
<p>1</p>	<p>On October 12, 2017, Governor Scott ordered the Department of Transportation to conduct a comprehensive evaluation on ways to expedite evacuation routes on I-75 from Wildwood to the Florida-Georgia border, and report its findings in January 2018. The Legislature should review findings of the final report and address the policy recommendations as it deems appropriate.</p>	
<p>2</p>	<p>Mutual aid agreements with municipal, county and, when necessary, federal law enforcement personnel should be utilized to aid in increased law enforcement presence, traffic control, crowd control, and law enforcement response and support of evacuation needs.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>The Division of Emergency Management, in consultation with the Department of Transportation and the appropriate local emergency management agencies, should develop and implement a real-time, web-based evacuation route/destination resource tool to assist the public in making informed decisions relating to the selection of evacuation routes and destinations.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Extend the Suncoast Parkway to the Georgia state line to provide another north-south evacuation option.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Fund a statewide statistically valid behavioral analysis for use by the state, regions and local governments in planning for and undertaking evacuations.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>The Department of Transportation should consider improvements to key ramps on limited access facilities in developing its work plan.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>The Department of Transportation should conduct exercises using contraflow lanes on portions of highways it determines such operations could facilitate evacuation during a future evacuation.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>In community education efforts for emergency preparedness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasize the effectiveness of shorter evacuation options • Note the opportunity for people in non-evacuation zones to share their suitably constructed and prepared homes with family and friends in need of shelter • Encourage communities as part of their preparation to help neighbors with their preparation including the installation of hurricane shutters. 	
<p>9</p>	<p>As additional passenger rail service becomes available, Florida should incorporate its use to help evacuate citizens.</p>	

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	Energy: Electric Utilities and Petroleum Policy Recommendation	Comments
10	On October 26, 2017, Governor Scott ordered the Department of Transportation to examine options to increase fuel capacity during emergencies such as hurricanes, and report its findings in January 2018. The Legislature should review the findings of the final report and address the associated policy recommendations as it deems appropriate.	
11	The Department of Transportation should contract for an independent evaluation of the feasibility of establishing strategically located petroleum distribution centers to alleviate storm-related impacts on fuel supply and distribution throughout the state.	
12	The Department of Transportation should utilize generators at key interstate interchanges and study the use of alternative energy sources for signalized intersections.	
13	Each county should use the Homeland Security product “Guidance for Developing a Fuel Contingency Plan” to create a better county fuel plan.	
14	During a state of emergency declared by the Governor, when a dealer exhausts the dealer’s supply of the lowest grade motor fuel, authorize the dealer to sell any remaining supply of higher grade motor fuel at the same price per gallon or liter as the price the dealer charged for a gallon or liter of the lowest grade motor fuel.	
15	Consider optimizing the use of rail transport, before, during and after a Hurricane event, to facilitate delivery of automotive and diesel fuel to effected areas in the state, utilizing rail tankers and mobile fuel transfer systems moved in tandem with the tankers via rail flatbed.	
16	State and local emergency operation centers should activate a dedicated emergency private sector hotline for drivers distributing fuel and other emergency cargo to use as needed in communicating with emergency management officials during a major disaster. Appropriate hotline numbers should be made available at Florida seaports to all drivers departing with critical emergency goods and supplies. Consider providing incentives (fuel tax reduction, etc.) to drivers and transportation companies that install common protocol GPS tracking devices, which could be activated as needed during major disasters. The tracking devices will allow for real-time reporting of vehicles’ statuses to state and local emergency management officials.	
17	Consider requesting a change in dates for the crossover of seasonal fuel to alleviate the low point in fuel inventory in tanks that occurs during hurricane season.	

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<p>18</p>	<p>Implement a process to ensure greater communication and cooperation between electric utilities and local emergency management officials to provide for the efficient restoration of power and to ensure electric utilities, based on their assessments of system damages, restore electric service to all customers in the most efficient manner. Emphasis should be placed on facilities identified by the local emergency management officials as critical to the public health, safety, welfare, and security. Such facilities may include: emergency management and law enforcement facilities; health care facilities; shelters; critical utility, transportation, communications, government, and military infrastructure; and providers of essential goods and services.</p>	
<p>19</p>	<p>Direct the Public Service Commission (PSC) to prepare a study of the efficacy and costs of all technically feasible storm hardening measures for the electric power grid. The study, at a minimum, should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take into account all available post-storm forensic data, • Identify specific storm hardening measures that are likely to be most effective at reducing the number, frequency, and duration of storm-related power outages in certain regions of the state or certain types of geographic regions, • Evaluate the cost-effectiveness of each measure, • Evaluate funding mechanisms for storm hardening projects and provide recommendations concerning the use of specific funding mechanisms, including processes for approval of funding for projects. <p>Following completion of the study, establish a state grant program to be administered by the PSC under which local governments, in conjunction with utilities, may apply for grants to partially fund specific storm hardening projects, with such applications evaluated based on the expected cost-effectiveness of the project and the extent of projected benefits to customers.</p>	
<p>20</p>	<p>Consider repealing the statutory exception to statewide standards for vegetation management within power line rights-of-way for local governments that adopt plans that differ from the statutory standards.</p>	
<p>21</p>	<p>Create under the Florida Department of Transportation a category of direct appropriations for the purpose of purchasing and deploying emergency generators at highway-railroad crossings at Principal Arterial, Minor Arterial, and Major Collector roads as defined by the department for powering highway-railroad crossing gates, signals and traffic safety warning</p>	

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	devices to protect the public from railroad traffic operating on Florida Strategic Intermodal System rail corridors.	
	Shelters and Vulnerable Populations Policy Recommendation	Comments
22	Consider focusing efforts to address the adequacy of shelter availability on a county rather than regional basis.	
23	To the extent practical, make information regarding shelters available several days before a storm. In addition, make information regarding which shelters will accept pets available to the public sooner.	
24	Evaluate the merits and challenges of establishing shelter assignment system(s) for evacuees by zones. The goal would be to ensure evacuees know where their primary shelters are located. The system(s) should be flexible and allow secondary shelter relocations.	
25	Make state owned facilities that are capable of being quickly adapted available as shelters.	
26	Make recruitment of health care practitioners, faculty and/or medical and nursing students from state colleges and universities part of the targeted recruitment of practitioners to serve in shelters	
27	Provide an exemption for individual assessment data provided by individuals to emergency management agencies for the purpose of damage assessment. Provide an exemption for information revealing the identity of persons registering for emergency sheltering with a local emergency management agency.	
28	Provide matching funds necessary to draw a 75-percent match in federal funds through a Victims of Crime Act grant through the Office of the Attorney General to install generators at Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers.	
29	Provide more state assistance with shelter management training at the local level.	
30	Consider the need to fund generators for hardened public shelters to create more emergency shelter capacity that can be adapted to meet the needs of vulnerable populations.	
31	Create a single statewide special needs shelter registration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require all counties to use it. • Get county input on the data collected for the registration form, so no additional local process is needed – maybe convene a work group. • Maintain registrations in a single statewide database accessible to all county EOCs and the state EOC. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all counties to post the eligibility criteria and registration process – including a link to the statewide registration form – on their websites. Counties would continue to set shelter eligibility/exclusions to suit local capacity. Require hospitals to shelter people excluded from shelters for medical reasons. This assumes a statewide special needs shelter registration process, so hospitals can estimate the number of people who will shelter. Require counties to review each shelter registration to pre-determine a need for hospital sheltering, identify the appropriate sheltering hospital, and communicate that to the registrant. Require counties to establish MOUs with qualifying hospitals to shelter people, and share registrant data with them. 	
32	<p>To address special needs shelter registration and staffing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require each county and local health department to develop a resource and staffing plan for the hurricane season on an annual basis. Require licensed or contracted entities that provide home health or home and community based services (home health agencies, nurse registries, APD group homes and support coordinators, and Medicaid MCOs) to work with clients to develop individual emergency plans, updated annually, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evacuation shelter selection; documented shelter registration; and a plan for staffing the client in the shelter. Require such licensees/contractors to staff clients or groups of clients in shelters. Require APD to determine and communicate before storm impact whether DD requirements will be waived for staffing in shelters (or other settings, such as group homes taking in other clients temporarily). Authorize state employees with clinical roles (nurses, certified behavior analysts, etc.) to work in shelters. 	
33		
34	<p>Health Care Facilities and Medical Care Policy Recommendation</p> <p>Exempt from sales and use tax the purchase of any equipment that uses natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas to generate emergency electric energy at nursing homes and</p>	<p>Comments</p>

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	<p>assisted living facilities. Limit the exemption to a maximum of \$30,000 for the purchase of equipment for any one facility.</p>
35	<p>Amend statutes to allow the Governor’s executive order declaring a state of emergency to give greater flexibility to the Department of Health to allow providers from other states to assist in storm response and recovery, either in person or through telehealth. This would reduce the need for the Governor to issue a supplemental executive order during the storm or recovery efforts.</p>
36	<p>Amend s. 465.0275, F.S., to clarify that residents of other states who may be in Florida for their medical care during a storm also are covered under the prescription refill authorization.</p>
37	<p>Nursing homes should be required to provide for adequate emergency power necessary to protect their residents from unsafe temperatures. Additional requirements should be placed on assisted living facilities, taking into account differences in populations and capitalization.</p>
38	<p>Require facilities to share certain provisions of its emergency management plan with residents, a resident’s designated family member, legal representative or guardian. Post the information to AHCA’s consumer information website for health care facilities. Information to be provided may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An overview of the facility’s emergency management plan. 2. Whether the facility is located in an evacuation zone. 3. Whether the facility intends to shelter in place or relocate to another location such as a related facility. 4. Whether the facility has the requisite emergency power source. 5. Process for sharing information with residents, a resident’s designated family member, legal representative or guardian, if the emergency plan is activated. 6. A working phone number for the facility for use by the resident’s designated family member, legal representative or guardian to make contact post-disaster. <p>The information required could be standardized and facilities would be required to update and maintain its information timely.</p>
39	<p>To address review and approval of facility Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMP):</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require counties to submit an annual report to AHCA/DOEA on approval requests, approved Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans and timelines. Require facilities to submit plans to the county for approval within 90 days after licensure, and notify AHCA/DOEA when plans are submitted and when approved. Require APD approval of all its clients' plans (including those not in group homes). 	
40	<p>To address the quality of facility Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require more specific elements to be covered in emergency plans, including specific plans for hardening and contact information, and which staff is obligated to take what actions on what pre-storm and post-storm timelines. Require facilities to conduct annual staff training within 2 months prior to hurricane season on the policies and procedures for implementing the emergency plan, and conduct facility-wide evacuation drills at least annually. Increase licensure inspection quality to assess compliance and the ability to implement plans, and discipline for compliance failures. Apply these standards to developmental disability group homes, too. 	
41	<p>To address facility staffing during emergencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require emergency plans to specifically address how the facility will maintain staffing, including accommodating staff families during evacuation, etc. Create a list of essential personnel with authority to move about during curfews and obligate state and local curfew orders to exempt them. 	
42	<p>To improve the ESF-8 data reporting system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the reporting system in statute. Require AHCA to create the system, in consultation with DOH, DOEA, APD and any other relevant party; transfer funds from DOH to AHCA. Add generator information (whether the facility has a generator, fuel type, burn rate, etc.) in Florida Health Stat (the ESF-8 facility reporting system) for nursing homes, hospitals, ALFs, hospices. 	
43	<p>Exempt from sales and use tax exemption diesel fuel and propane purchased by a health care facility during a declared disaster.</p>	
44	<p>Evaluate the merits of creating an at risk registry to identify and assist in the evacuation of vulnerable individuals and patients from patient care facilities, like nursing homes and</p>	

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	ALFs. The registry is to be under the purview of the Florida Department of Health, or designate agency	
	Agriculture	
	Policy Recommendation	Comments
45	Consider exemptions from sales and use tax and other tax relief to address long-term economic impacts of Irma to the agricultural sector.	
46	Appropriate funds for storm and recovery related research for commercial crops grown in Florida.	
47	Continue to fund the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (FDACS) Best Management Practices (BMP) program and consider providing supplemental funding for other FDACS programs directly tied to agriculture production fees.	
48	Consider funding the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) as well as providing funding for an organized forensic review of agricultural storm damage and identification of next steps for recovery efforts.	
49	Assist with efforts to secure post disaster supplemental funding from the U.S. Congress for Florida agriculture.	
	Future Hurricane Expenditures and Tax Relief	
	Policy Recommendation	Comments
50	Create a reserve fund to receive regular revenue deposits to build reserves to help pay costs associated with future hurricane strikes in Florida. Monies used from the fund would be replenished over a period of years.	
51	Consider providing for ad valorem property tax abatement for homesteaded property rendered uninhabitable by Hurricanes Mathew, Hermine, or Irma.	
52	During a state of emergency, prohibit governmental entities from holding public meetings regarding budgets.	
53	Create a disaster preparedness sales tax holiday.	
	Housing	
	Policy Recommendation	Comments
54	Create a temporary program to provide funding for affordable housing recovery efforts to address the impact of hurricanes Irma and Maria on affordable housing stocks.	

Appendix 3: Final Recommendations of the Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness

	<p>Fund the program through appropriations from the Local Government Housing Trust Fund and the State Housing Trust Fund to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation for purposes of providing funds to eligible entities for affordable housing recovery efforts and assisting with building and rehabilitating affordable rental housing. The program would have two components: one based on the current State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program and one based on the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program.</p> <p>Funding for each program should be targeted to counties based on a damage funding formula that takes into consideration FEMA/other (e.g., insurance) data showing the extent and intensity of damage and proportion of households impacted by Hurricane Irma, as well as counties impacted by Puerto Rican evacuees from Hurricane Maria impacts.</p>	
55	<p>Consider ways to lower the cost of affordable housing development and incentivize more units at affordable rents.</p>	
56	<p>Identify incentives for local communities to purchase and redevelop trailer parks destroyed in a storm into affordable housing that meets current building codes.</p>	
57	<p>Direct the Department of Economic Opportunity to expedite emergency comprehensive plan approvals with local governments and the Department.</p>	
58	<p>Identify additional mechanisms and incentives to harden existing homes against disaster.</p>	
59	<p>Beaches, Sanitary Sewers, Stormwater, Flooding, and Debris Removal Policy Recommendation</p> <p>Establish in the Department of Environmental Protection a statewide voluntary program for domestic wastewater collection system assessment, investment, rehabilitation, and electric power outage mitigation planning. The program would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide regulatory incentives for utilities to implement the program. • Allow financially disadvantaged utilities to apply for grant funds to implement the program. • Allow certified utilities to demonstrate they are making the right investments to protect the public health and environment. 	<p>Comments</p>
60	<p>Local governments should review current policies and consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibiting tree trimming and discontinuing non-containerized yard waste collection service 72 hours prior to hurricanes. 	

Appendix 3: Final Recommendations of the Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discontinuing collection service 48 hours prior to hurricane/tropical storm. This would allow time to get solid waste management employees off the street so they can prepare for the storm and make sure materials in trucks have time to dispose of items and landfills have time to process. Prioritizing services post storm, i.e. suspend recycling and yard waste to remove municipal solid waste as quickly as possible. Suspending bulk pick up for a period of time after storm. Requiring roll off containers to be covered prior to storms. 	
61	Create a way for law enforcement to recognize solid waste management workers as “second responders” with special signage; making sure they are in uniform with safety vest	
62	Identify areas where rebuilding after a disaster may be high-risk and consider options for not rebuilding in those areas, including the purchase of these properties and using them to create additional open space and natural buffers.	
63	Fund Grants through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for vulnerability analysis to develop cost feasible mitigation strategies that could be implemented incrementally for vulnerable development areas in partnership with the federal government.	
64	Invest in plans that cost effectively mitigate flood risks to developed areas, including protection of greenways and blueways that act as flow ways or provide temporary storage during high water events.	
65	<p>Provide priority in the distribution of state matching funds associated with Hurricane Irma for beach recovery to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Severely impacted beach management projects that leverage substantial federal cost sharing and/or local match; and Consistent with the statewide Beach Management Program and Strategic Plan, feasibility studies, design and construction of new projects or other erosion control alternatives for critically-eroded segments of beach that are not part of an existing solution. 	
66	Consider long range plans to migrate critical infrastructure, like water and sewer treatment plants out of flood plains or have them hardened to prevent damage during a flood event. Establish policies to discourage investment in new facilities in flood plains unless they are hardened to avoid damage from floods.	
67	Produce a complete and accurate 3D map of the state for use in numerous emergency management and infrastructure planning applications.	

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	<u>Education</u>		
	Policy Recommendation		Comments
68	Solicit federal funding for unreimbursed operating cost for facilities, social services, counseling services.		
69	Consider providing additional funding to school districts that incurred additional costs due to the influx of additional students from hurricane Maria.		
70	Consider providing financial assistance to schools systems for the purchase of generators for schools that serve as shelters.		
	<u>Miscellaneous</u>		
	Policy Recommendation		Comments
71	Provide financial assistance to those counties with inadequate emergency operation centers that are most vulnerable to damage and that require modernization or replacement.		
72	Direct the Division of Emergency Management to create a comprehensive volunteer database so that they can deploy volunteers quickly following disasters.		
73	Consider expanding the Volunteer Leave Law (s. 110.120, F.S.) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include organizations in addition to the American Red Cross that are active in disaster response and recovery, • Provide administrative leave for annual training, • Extend the number of days they can volunteer. 		
74	Support and encourage the Federal Governments Integrated Public Alert and Warning System's (IPAWS) (https://www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system) enhancement that is underway jointly by FEMA and the FCC.		
75	Create within the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) a real-time tracking system for all FEMA public assistance program grant requests for aid or reimbursement. The system should provide easy, online access for the public, but, at minimum, provide detailed information for an entity making application for assistance or reimbursement and provide the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on the proper form for submission of an application for assistance • Date the application was received and any claim number assigned 		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any deficiencies in the form of the application that need correction before processing • The current person/agency where the application is pending for review or approval and date it was received by that reviewer/approving authority • A good faith estimated completion date on which action will be taken by the current reviewer/approving authority • An “approval flow chart” listing the next review/approval steps and the respective agencies responsible • Date of approval (obligation of funds) and projected date for receipt of payment • Immediate notification to an applicant for any requests for additional information. <p>The program should also include sufficient data analytics to assess and report average wait times for all applications at each stage of the review/approval process by each agency so delays can be identified and corrected. If possible, the data analytics should also assist the reviewer/approver to identify any potentially fraudulent or inflated claims, as well as potential deficiencies in applications that may create delays for review/approval. Finally, data analytics should provide DEM with information to assist it and other governmental agencies to improve their own processes in hurricane recovery, as it relates to expense reimbursement and disaster assistance.</p>	
76	Amend current law relating to the system of communications and warning established as part of the state comprehensive emergency management plan to require that a qualified interpreter is included in any televised broadcast of a developing weather emergency.	
77	Consider expanding the use of the Division of Emergency Management’s Shelter Retrofit* funds provided by the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund to include local projects to enhance emergency power generation and surveys to evaluate and resolve ADA compliance and provide for functional and access needs.	
78	Provide incentives, such as civil immunity, for parking garage owners to make their garages available to the public during a hurricane.	

Appendix 4:

Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness Work Plan

To reduce the possible consequences of hurricane events by preventing loss of life and injuries, reducing damage to infrastructure, buildings and homes, and accelerating the resumption of normal daily life activities.

Timeline

Meeting #1: Thursday, October 12, 2017: Initial Meeting, 2 hours

- Acting Director Wesley Maul, Division of Emergency Management
 - Overview of Florida's Emergency Management System
 - Update on Hurricane Irma Response
 - Update on Hurricane Irma Recovery
- Local Government Emergency Management Directors
 - Lee County
 - Lee Mayfield, Emergency Management Director
 - Roger Desjarlais, County Manager
 - Christine Brady, Assistant County Manager
 - Monroe County
 - Martin Senterfitt, Emergency Management Director
 - Roman Gastesi, County Administrator
 - St. Johns County
 - Michael D. Wanchick, County Administrator
- Commissioner David Altmaier, Office of Insurance Regulation Update

Meeting #2: Thursday, October 26: Issues Related to Emergency Management Communications, Evacuation, Fuel Supplies, and Utilities, 4 hours

- Emergency Management Communication Systems and Processes, Acting Director Wesley Maul, Division of Emergency Management
- Emergency Management Public Information, Acting Director Wesley Maul, Division of Emergency Management
- Evacuation Issues
 - Planning and Modeling, Acting Director Wesley Maul, Division of Emergency Management
 - How Evacuations are Executed - State & Local Evacuation Orders, Acting Director Wesley Maul, Division of Emergency Management
 - Florida Department of Transportation – Role Related to Preparing for and Executing Evacuations, Secretary Mike Dew

- Local Emergency Management Perspective
- David Casto, Director of Sumter County Emergency Management
- Curtis Sommerhoff, Director of Miami-Dade Emergency Management
- Petroleum & Diesel Supplies and Distribution
 - Role as Lead Agency for ESF-12 Fuels and Observations Regarding IRMA Experience, Acting Director Wesley Maul, Division of Emergency Management
 - Florida Petroleum Council, Dave Mica, Executive
 - Florida Ports, *Michael Rubin, Vice President, Governmental Affairs, Florida Ports Council*
 - Florida Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, Ned Bowman, Executive Director
 - RaceTrack, Max McBrayer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Supply Officer
- Electricity
 - Public Service Commission, Mark Futrell, Deputy Executive Director
 - Investor Owned Utilities
 - *Florida Power and Light, Bryan Olnick, Vice President, Distribution and Operations*
 - *TECO, Gerry Chasse, Vice President for Electric Delivery*
 - *Duke Energy, Jason Cutliffe, Director, Power Quality & Reliability Engineering*
 - Municipal Utilities, Amy Zubaly, Executive Director, Florida Municipal Electric Association
 - Electric Cooperatives, Mike Bjorklund, Executive Vice President and General Manager, Florida Electric Cooperatives Association
- Public Comment

Meeting #3: Thursday, November 9: Shelters, Special Needs Shelters, Vulnerable Populations, Health Care Facilities, Health Practitioners, 4 hours

- Shelters
 - Presentation on Hurricane Shelter Survey and Retrofit Program, Wes Maul, Interim Director, Division of Emergency Management
 - Department of Health Role, State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health, Dr. Celeste Philip
 - School Representatives Presentation on Role in Providing and Operating Shelters
 - Kurt Browning, Pasco County Superintendent of Schools
 - Rafael Villalobos, Principal of John A. Ferguson Senior High, Miami-Dade County
 - Local Emergency Management Directors
 - Sally Bishop, Director, Pinellas County Emergency Management

- Steven Lerner, Senior Planner with the Seminole County Office of Emergency Management
 - Florida International University Shelter Experience, Amy B. Aiken, Director, Department of Emergency Management
- Vulnerable Populations
 - Richard Prudom, Deputy Secretary and Chief of Staff, Department of Elder Affairs
 - Randy Hunt, President & CEO of Senior Resource Alliance (Orlando AAA)
 - Deborah Linton, CEO, The Arc of Florida
 - Joe DiDomenico, CEO of the Disability Achievement Center
- Health Care Facilities
 - Molly McKinstry, Deputy Secretary, Agency for Health Care Administration
 - Local Emergency Management Directors
 - Sally Bishop, Director, Pinellas County Emergency Management
 - Steven Lerner, Senior Planner with the Seminole County Office of Emergency Management
 - Memorial Healthcare System
 - Aurelio Fernandez, Chief Executive Officer, Memorial Healthcare System
 - David Dungan, Director, Emergency Preparedness, Memorial Healthcare System
 - Dr. Kathryn Hyer, Director of the USF Center on Aging
 - Doreen Barker, Associate State Director of Advocacy, AARP
 - Bob Asztalos, Chief Lobbyist, Florida Health Care Association
 - Steve Bahmer, President/CEO, LeadingAge
 - Susan Anderson, Vice President of Public Policy, Florida Argentum
- Health Care Professionals, State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health, Dr. Celeste Philip

Meeting #4: Monday, November 13: Waterways, Sewer, Stormwater and Flooding, Beaches, and Housing, 3 hours

- Presentations and Panel Question and Answers on Waterway Debris Removal and Derelict Vessels
 - David A. Clark, Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation, Department of Environmental Protection
 - Major Robert Rowe, Boating and Waterways Section Leader, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Presentations and Panel Question and Answers on Sanitary Sewer Systems, Stormwater, and Flooding
 - John J. Truitt, Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs, Department of Environmental Protection

- Brian Wheeler, Executive Director, TOHO Water Authority
- Lisa Wilson-Davis, Utility Services Program Policy Coordinator, City of Boca Raton
- Ann Shortelle, Executive Director, St. Johns River Water Management District
- Kelli Hammer Levy, MS, CPM, Environmental Management Division Director, Pinellas County
- Jim Hunt, PE, CFM, Deputy Public Works Director and City Engineer City of Orlando
- Beaches
 - Alex Reed, Deputy Director, Division of Water Resource Management, Department of Environmental Protection
 - Deborah Flack, President, Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association
- Housing
 - Wes Maul, Interim Director, Division of Emergency Management
 - Trey Price, Executive Director, Florida Housing Finance Corporation
 - Kenny Montilla, Mobilization Coordinator for Airbnb

Meeting #5: Thursday, November 16: Education, Debris Removal, Agriculture, and FEMA Reimbursement and State Expenditures, 3 hours

- Education Update
 - Linda Champion, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Operations, Department of Education
- Debris Removal
 - Secretary Dew, Department of Transportation
- Irma Impact to Agriculture
 - Grace Lovett, Legislative Affairs Director, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
 - Mike Sparks, Executive Vice President/CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual
 - Jim Handley, President of the Florida Cattleman's Association
 - Ben Bulusky, CEO of the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association
- Update on Hurricane Expenditures
 - Acting Director Wesley Maul, Division of Emergency Management
 - Cynthia Kelly, Director, Governor's Office of Policy and Budget

Meeting #6: December 4, 1 hour

- Discussion of Proposed Select Committee Recommendations

Meeting #7: January 8, 3 hours

- Consideration of Final Select Committee Recommendations

Appendix 5: Summary of Recommendations Presented to the Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness

Evacuation	
Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Policy Recommendation
1	Consider placing permanent generators at rest stops or repositioning generators at key rest areas.
2	Consider directing the Division of Emergency Management to establish a system of providing food, water and other necessities on major roadways at rest stops and weigh stations.
3	Consider utilizing closed weigh and agriculture stations as comfort stations or locations for drivers to pull off the road when running low on gas. Evaluate the benefits of improving the shoulders of key roads on southbound lanes to facilitate reentry after an evacuation. Northbound shoulders are evacuation ready whereas southbound shoulders are not reentry ready.
4	Michael D. Wanchick, St. Johns County Administrator Consider providing for penalties for nursing homes that fail to evacuate.
5	David Casto, Director of Sumter County Emergency Management Improve early communication with and involvement of local officials in the Department of Transportation's pre-event planning.
6	Kathryn Hyer, PhD, MPP, Director of the USF Center on Aging Strongly suggest considering nuanced "partial evacuation" of sickest patients in nursing homes most likely to evacuate (dialysis).
7	Sally Bishop, Director, Pinellas County Emergency Management If citizens' evacuation plans were approached from a whole community angle, with all agencies who provide home and community based services such as transportation, feeding and medical care working to ensure they have helped the client develop a viable plan, and then being prepared themselves to deliver their services during an emergency to assist implementing and supporting those citizens plans to the fullest extent possible, this would greatly assist in ensuring the safety of the clients and assisting government with the critical 'every day' support services and staff needed for the client's care - during an emergency.
8	Finding those opportunities within State mandated or controlled processes such as drivers' licenses, automobile tags, voting or Medicare covered services that would become the starting point for emergency plan development by requiring the citizen to 'register' the basics of their emergency plan. The State should consider alternative strategies such as reverse traffic on southbound traffic lanes or the use of shoulders during a mandatory evacuation that impacts Monroe and Miami-Dade County.
9	Miami-Dade County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava
	Policy Recommendation
10	Energy: Electric Utilities and Petroleum Develop policies to limit electrical outages during a storm, including policies to encourage cost-effective infrastructure hardening, auxiliary power at key interstate interchanges, and, where appropriate, underground utilities.

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11	Consider alternative approaches to ensure adequate supplies of gasoline are available to meet demand during a disaster, including the merits of establishing a Florida petroleum reserve.
12	Evaluate existing processes used to prioritize the restoration of electric service, and consider policies to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable are addressed, including individuals in facilities and at home.
13	Determine if avoidable impediments hampered the movement of utility trucks and other emergency response vehicles, and consider providing a right of way and escorts as necessary to reach affected locations.
14	Consider modifying the 811 (call before you dig) system to better address facility location in extraordinary circumstances.
15	Recommend reexamining price control legislation as it relates to petroleum products.
16	Recommend local county/city continuity of operations and resumption of business plans include a hardening of critical infrastructure at their seaport – especially ports with fuel distribution terminals. This critical infrastructure should include a review and hardening of power, water and telecommunication functions. Further, if state or federal emergency response funds are necessary, we recommend allocated funding for identified “hardening projects” in continuity of operations and resumption of business plans. We further recommend state and local emergency response plans include protocols for prioritizing the restoration of water, electrical and telecommunication functions at seaports with fuel distribution terminals.
17	Recommend the creation of a state maritime heavy weather protocol plan with staffing by the Florida Ports Council (FPC) at the state emergency operations center during the declaration of an emergency by the Governor involving Florida seaports.
18	Recommend the purchase of additional survey vessels for the U.S. Army Corps and/or NOAA to deploy around the country. We also recommend funds be allocated to seaports with critical fuel and other cargo distribution facilities to purchase a fully equipped survey vessel and provide for training of personnel to conduct the surveys. A fully equipped survey vessel will cost approximately \$260,000.
19	Recommend that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission work with the U.S. Coast Guard to determine if the mooring prohibitions contained in Chapter 327 are adequate to prevent disabled vessels from blocking navigable waterways after a hurricane. We also recommend enforcement capabilities of anchoring and mooring prohibitions contained in Chapter 327 be increased. Local and state law enforcement agencies with waterside authority must have the ability to help remove unlawfully moored vessels once the COTP has set condition Whiskey (72 hours prior to gale force winds) at the seaport.

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20		Recommend a review and development of communication protocols by state and local emergency response centers to provide a method to communicate with drivers distributing fuel and other emergency cargo from our seaports.
21		Gauges vital for emergency situations will cost approximately \$117,000 for equipment installation and \$27,000 in recurring annual maintenance costs. The federal government should determine what coastal areas of Florida are not adequately covered and fund the installation and recurring maintenance of these sensor systems, including the addition of PORTS systems in other large Florida seaports.
22	Ned Bowman, Executive Director of the Florida Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association (FPMA)	Increased law enforcement and perhaps National Guard presence can protect facilities where fuel and other necessary resources are sold.
23		Often during a storm, cell towers and servers are affected. The most efficient means of communication is by text. Enhanced methods for “text blasts” should be evaluated.
24		Identifying and continuously updating lists of facilities with emergency generators requiring fuel should be maintained so that FPMA can direct its members to ensure that these facilities have an adequate fuel supply. It is essential to know the type of fuel needed and the generator burn rate to ensure proper deliveries.
25		Priority should be given to ports and distribution centers in restoring power so that fuel distribution can begin as soon as possible.
26		Develop a strategy for increasing the number of loading racks at terminals.
27		Develop a strategy to construct petroleum distribution centers to avoid “bottle necks.” Suggested locations include Clewiston, Ocala/Gainesville/Turnpike, Lake City and Chiefland.
28	Kathryn Hyer, Phd, MPP, Director of the USF Center on Aging	Emergency Management should prioritize nursing homes and large assisted livings for power restoration. AL must register as licensed facilities.
29	Doreen Barker, Associate State Director of Advocacy, AARP	Supports a tiered electric power restoration strategy that prioritizes nursing homes and assisted living facilities the same as hospitals.
30	Deborah Linton, CEO, The Arc of Florida	Group homes have to be on the priority list along with other services for power restoration. Many group homes serve individuals who are medically fragile and it is necessary to have the power restored for their health and safety. Lack of power is the number 1 issue listed as the major safety issue after the storm. (94% of the respondents stated that their facilities would have been safe to return to or stay in if they had had power.)
31	Kevin J. Byrne, State Legislative Liaison, FL State Association of Letter Carriers	Mandate that a consumer purchasing a generator must also purchase a CO detector.

Appendix 5: Summary of Recommendations Presented to the Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness

32		Require that manufacturers of generators sold in Florida include a CO detector with the generator.
33		Have the state issue a rebate in the form of a voucher upon receipt of proof of purchase of a CO detector along with a generator.
34		Have the manufacturer of a generator issue a rebate in the form of a voucher upon receipt of proof of purchase of a CO detector along with a generator.
35		State agency requirements and deadlines that would likely be impacted by power outages, storm damage, curfews, and travel restrictions should be identified so that they may be addressed by the Governor's Executive Order.
36	Representative Rommel	Every county should determine how much fuel it needs to operate generators needed for critical infrastructure and first responders for the first 72 hours following the event. Counties should either build and maintain fuel depots, or create agreements with current fuel depots. If current depots need additional land to build larger storage facilities, counties could donate land leases, have depots built (maybe split cost), and allow facilities to use the depots when the county is not in a state of emergency. Counties should require that a minimum amount of fuel be maintained at all fuel depots during high threat times. Once a state of emergency has been declared, the county would take over distribution of the fuel, and then reimburse the depot for fuel used.
37		The state and counties need to evaluate how they spend money on landscaping of center medians, sidewalks, etc. As a State, if we come up with standards that protect the public and the State's infrastructure, but counties still want to plant trees that are known to cause harm or are not properly maintained because residents like the lushness, those counties risk losing any State reimbursement, post-storm.
38		A plan should be developed that provides for the cellular companies to push information through texting and/or amber type alerts. Frequent radio updates would also be helpful.
39	Miami-Dade County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava	There must be better coordination between federal, state and local officials to get gas down to South Florida prior to a hurricane and after a storm.
40	Duval County Schools	Prioritizing Schools serving as shelters for restoration of electricity, Fuel and water
		<u>Policy Recommendation</u>
41	<u>Shelters and Vulnerable Populations</u> Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Determine the adequacy of current shelters, and consider providing additional funding for schools and universities to provide hurricane shelter facilities.
42		Evaluate the adequacy of special needs shelters, and consider establishing tiers of facilities to handle the most fragile, using nursing homes, rehabilitation center and hospital beds.
43		For those in government-funded health care programs, consider:

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requiring Medicaid plans to use care managers to determine whether individuals need help and find them a place to shelter. Requiring coverage for facility admissions when no other qualified shelter is available. Requiring Medicaid plans to have emergency operation plans, documenting how they will provide these services, and proving contract relationships with facilities. (Meeting #3)
44		Determine the adequacy of communications about and the availability of pet shelters, and consider means to improve communication and the merits of requiring a standard population-based minimum number of pet shelters or ratio of pet and non-pet shelters.
45	State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health, Dr. Celeste Philip	The Department of Health does not employ all nurses necessary to adequately staff special needs shelters. Any entity receiving state funding should participate as partners. Require other state and federally funded health care entities to provide shelter staffing.
46	Sally Bishop, Director, Pinellas County Emergency Management	Require government-funded contract service providers at the local level to assist clients with preparation as well as be prepared to respond with their staff and other support resources in coordination with Emergency Management departments (local and State).
47		Encourage state funded universities and colleges to build with sheltering in mind via the design and permitting process. Whether they have shelter facilities or not, they may have medical programs with the human resources most needed for shelter staffing.
48		Pursue opportunities with Charter Schools that accept public funding to serve as additional shelters. If the funding is provided ahead of new construction, there exists the ability to ensure they are built to public school standards for shelter.
49		The Department of Health should develop contracts, coordinate with other State agencies delivering community based contract services that receive any government funding, and develop community business support. Having the regulatory and financial tools to bring the community based and wrap around services into emergency operations would go a long way to meeting the challenges.
50		The use of government-funded health care programs to help educate and develop preparedness plans with clients, across all agencies providing client services either through contract or direct services, would ensure wrap around service providers and their clients are educated and prepared. The Florida Division of Emergency Management is currently assigned public information & education for emergencies in statute.
51		Providing coverage for healthcare facility admissions, when no other qualified shelter is available, would provide a valuable tool for the Department of Health and local emergency management in the provision of shelter for medically complex evacuees. Asking healthcare facilities to ‘shelter’ evacuees with issues surpassing a special needs shelter capability, rather than be able to admit them, leaves a large grey area where liability issues loom large and serve as a deterrent to facilities willing and able to participate.

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52	Transportation companies that provide ‘sunny day’ transportation to the community for various reasons, especially through government funded programs, are another wrap around service to be considered in regulation or finances to ensure adequate resources are available.
53	Home health organizations and suppliers who receive government funds should be required to offer staffing and equipment to the Department of Health and local governments for use in shelters.
54	Another source of shelter staffing could be nursing schools receiving state financial contributions. Usually after the first semester, nursing students meet the rules to take the certified nursing assistant examination allowing them to provide basic and custodial care.
55	If state funded colleges and universities with nursing programs could be enhanced with appropriate facilities to serve as shelters, it would provide another possible resource for sheltering and caring for special needs citizens. The nursing programs have required lab and clinic hours and this community need could be incorporated into those requirements, with students providing care under the direction of their nursing instructors.
56	If citizens’ evacuation plans were approached from a whole community angle, with all agencies who provide home and community based services such as transportation, feeding and medical care working to ensure they have helped the client develop a viable plan, and then being prepared themselves to deliver their services during an emergency to assist implementing and supporting those citizens plans to the fullest extent possible, this would greatly assist in ensuring the safety of the clients and assisting government with the critical ‘every day’ support services and staff needed for the client’s care - during an emergency.
57	Explore making state mandated or controlled processes such as drivers’ licenses, automobile tags, voting or Medicare covered services the starting point for emergency plan development by requiring the citizen to ‘register’ the basics of their emergency plan.
58	The Special Needs Registration Program is an expensive tool not used by choice by a large number of counties. Registration is the simple first step in a complex program, involving many agencies, and delivered 67 different ways based on a county’s resources and capabilities. The State program is not used by larger counties who have developed their program over the 30+ years the special needs statute requirement has existed. The state program actually causes us extra work to take the initial information from that system and fully register citizens in ours. In the approximately 2 years it has been in existence, our large, densely populated county has received 38 registrations.
59	Recommend creating a public records exemption for shelter data and damage assessment data.
60	Steven Lerner, Senior Planner, Seminole County Office of Emergency Management

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61		Increase state funding for school retrofit program and for generators, including use of CAT mitigation funds.
62	Michael D. Wanchick, St. Johns County Administrator	Recommend the state provide more assistance with training at the local level.
63		Assisted living facilities dropped patients off at shelters without records and without providing assistance. Facility comprehensive emergency management plans are not enforced.
64	Randy Hunt, President & CEO of Senior Resource Alliance	We need to strengthen the relationship and communication between the area agencies on aging (AAAs), local EOCs, FEMA, and United Way, on the needs of the “home-bound elderly” before and after a storm.
65		We need to ensure operable communications technology exists between AAAs and service providers through access to satellite phones or other technology to coordinate post storm response.
66		We need a statewide, standardized telephony system/contact center technology and capability to transfer the Elder Help Line to DOEA or to a hardened, state facility to ensure continuity of help line operations.
67		AAAs need immediate access to an emergency/reserve fund to purchase meals, oxygen, medication, incontinence supplies for seniors impacted by the storm.
68		Current state Disaster Preparation and Response Policy Manuals, including roles and responsibilities for AAAs and providers serving seniors are outdated and should be reviewed and updated. For example, AAA staff are not first responders and are not trained social workers or medical staff – we cannot provide direct care in a special needs shelter or provide door to door assistance following a disaster.
69		Align AAA disaster responsibilities with AAA organizational capabilities. One-half of AAA staffing resources are funded by Medicaid administrative funds – these staff were prohibited (ineligible for reimbursement) from performing any disaster-related recovery activity by Federal CMS despite AHCA’s request to do so. This would have put 114 AAA staff on the front lines of recovery activity.
70		Create a master list of Key Personnel allowed to return to a disaster area post-storm. Include AAA staff on the list, like Information & Referral Hotline counselors, who could work in local EOCs and Recovery Centers immediately. Allow our staff priority return privileges and our expert I&R Specialists can immediately begin taking calls and requests for assistance.
71	Mark Barry, The Arc Nature Coast, Executive Director	Centralized sheltering should be pursued instead of hardening individual group homes.
72	Deborah Linton, CEO, The Arc of Florida	Special needs shelters need to open sooner and we need more of them. It is extremely stressful to have the individuals served in these programs stuck in hours and hours of traffic trying to get to a shelter once everyone else is evacuating.

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73	<p>Florida needs more congregate special needs shelters. While many of the local school districts have stepped in to shelter individuals, our experience has also been that the school districts are under pressure to hurry to re-open schools after a storm. One of our shelters ended up taking some of those displaced by the closing of the county school special needs shelter, as we could keep our shelters open longer. Our Adult Day Training facilities could be hardened or strategically located to become special needs shelters.</p>
74	<p>All state agencies should be reviewed for employees who might be deployed during a storm. Special needs shelters could use more nurses and Certified Behavior Analysts to work alongside us in the local shelters.</p>
75	<p>Group homes have to be on the priority list along with other services for power restoration. Many group homes serve individuals who are medically fragile and it is necessary to have the power restored for their health and safety. Lack of power is the number 1 issue listed as the major safety issue after the storm. (94% of the respondents stated that their facilities would have been safe to return to or stay in if they had had power.)</p>
76	<p>During the preparation period, the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) should go ahead and waive certain standards, such as staffing ratios. If providers have to wait to see what will or won't be paid from state funders, planning and preparation becomes much more difficult.</p>
77	<p>State agencies such as APD and social workers (waiver support coordinators) should streamline their contacts with provider agencies who actually shelter individuals during storms. We are unable to make multiple calls which are meant to “just check” on people. One point of contact, not multiple, is necessary for those on the frontlines.</p>
78	<p>Staff working in APD licensed facilities need clearance by local emergency management to get to their work destinations during curfews and other travel-restricted times. This is necessary to protect the people we serve.</p>
79	<p>While portable generators are required for APD licensed facilities, they do not power air conditioning. Florida will have to come up with a plan to fund generators that can power air conditioners as well as appliances. This will be an expensive endeavor.</p>
80	<p>Support Coordination Association of Florida Recommendation: SCAF believes that the existing tool and format APD Disaster Plan should be amended to be more practical in chaotic extreme events and, further, that it be required that the Disaster Plan be included in the Support Plan of all iBudget Waiver consumers. This is an essential informational tool that will be used for sharing consumer plans and safety supports with support systems during extreme events. SCAF stands ready to assist key players in the development of an upgraded Disaster Plan.</p>

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81		The Arc of Florida would be supportive of an effort to establish a short-term special needs task force to review the implementation of varying emergency management issues amongst the differing populations.
82	Joe DiDomenico, CEO of the Disability Achievement Center	Recommend creation of a task force to examine elements of the State Comprehensive Emergency Plan related to special needs populations and to recommend improvements to the plan moving forward.
83	Dr. Brenda Pierce, Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living	Recommend creation of a task force to examine elements of the State Comprehensive Emergency Plan related to special needs populations and to recommend improvements to the plan moving forward.
84	Representative Rommel	Information regarding shelters needs to be made available several days before the storm so proper arrangements can be made by those who will be seeking shelter. In addition, information regarding which shelters will accept pets needs to be made public sooner. Many people who need/should seek the safety of a shelter will not do so if they must leave their pets(s) behind.
85	Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities	Due to the significant needs of individuals with developmental disabilities, specific shelters should be established that are designed to serve the unique needs of APD consumers and others with similar developmental disabilities.
86		Education should be provided to operators of general population and special needs shelters on accommodations needed for individuals with disabilities. Conversely, APD and the other state agencies who serve vulnerable populations should receive guidance and information from ESF 8 (Health and Medical: Department of Health) and ESF 6 (Mass Care: Department of Business and Professional Regulations) organizations about shelters. This information could then be shared with the consumers of each agency.
87	Alzheimer’s Community Care	Those with special needs should be grouped together in every shelter and sectioned off.
88		Air conditioning must be provided in every special needs shelter.
89		Training for EMTs, as well as all shelter personnel, on behavioral management techniques on the needs of caregivers and patients coping with the high anxiety that is relevant in situations such as a hurricane.
90	Florida Association of District School Superintendents	Require the state comprehensive emergency management plan to include specific planning for people with mental illness and homeless individuals. The plan must provide for the safe transfer of persons with special needs, people with mental illness and homeless individuals after a disaster.
91		Statewide public awareness programs must include information on shelters and indicate the types of shelters available such as special need shelters and shelters that will accept pets. The requirements for sheltering individuals with service animals should be expanded to include comfort pets.
92		Require the Division of Emergency Management, in coordination with each local emergency management agency, to maintain a registry with each homeless shelter and homeless service provider

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	to determine the approximate number of homeless individuals that could need assistance during evacuations and sheltering and any additional needs that may be necessary.
93	Authorize persons with a comfort animal to also be allowed to bring his or her animal to a shelter serving persons with special needs. A “comfort animal” could be defined as an animal, other than a pet or a service animal, which provides emotional support to help improve the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive conditions of an individual.
94	Require the Division of Emergency Management to develop information and inform the public regarding the sheltering of pets, service animals and comfort animals at shelters. Provides that materials may be distributed at veterinary offices, animal shelters, humane organizations and other appropriate locations.
95	Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Associate Superintendent, Miami-Dade County Public Schools Ensure that at least one person staffing the shelter has emergency medical training. At our shelters, one woman went into labor, many individuals were need of medical treatment, and a gentleman had cardiac arrest.
96	Provide emergency radios or other communication emergency communication devices, including the potential use of satellite phones for voice/data and emergency voice over I.P. systems for schools during the storm recovery period.
97	Provide generators for schools that serve as shelters.
98	Expand the number of available shelters by identifying additional sites that include charter schools, community colleges, and universities.
99	Duval County Schools Better communication during Statewide or Regional Natural disasters
100	Prioritizing Schools serving as shelters for restoration of electricity, Fuel and water
101	Additional funding for generators to support schools and their routine maintenance
102	Allocate funding for cots, crates and blankets
103	-Red Cross supplies were limited due to Hurricane Harvey
104	Other sheltering options once school reopen but citizens cannot return home.
105	Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs Department, Rebecca DeLaRosa, Legislative Affairs Director Support state medical staffing, including nurses, CNAs, mental health professionals and medical administration at shelters
106	Support funding for cots/mats for all shelters. Cots cost between \$60-\$200/unit; sleeping mats cost between \$50-\$100/unit.
107	Local government reimbursement for the purchase and rental of generators for high priority infrastructure, including school shelters.
108	Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Because survivors of domestic violence and their children are exposed to (sometimes fatal) retribution from their abusers if evacuated to public designated hurricane shelters, Florida’s

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		confidentially-located certified domestic violence centers have been hardened to provide shelter-in-place. The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence is requesting nonrecurring funds in the amount of \$1,457,309 to draw a 75-percent match in federal funds through a Victims of Crime Act grant through the Office of the Attorney General to install generators at Florida’s 42 centers statewide.
	<u>Health Care Facilities and Medical Care</u>	<u>Policy Recommendation</u>
109	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Develop strategies to assist and support essential personnel including health professionals and other caregivers to continue working during evacuations and other declared emergencies.
110		Evaluate the adequacy of emergency management planning by nursing homes, hospices, assisted living facilities, and group homes, and consider policies to improve such planning.
111		Assess and strengthen current regulations for health care and residential facilities to have generators and maintain service capabilities.
112		Evaluate whether curfew orders allow critical medical personnel to travel to and from work, and consider other strategies for maintaining essential staffing while allowing some regulatory flexibility during evacuations.
113		Evaluate the adequacy of emergency management planning by nursing homes, hospices, assisted living facilities, and group homes, and consider policies to improve such planning.
114		Assess and strengthen current regulations for health care and residential facilities to have generators and maintain service capabilities.
115		Evaluate whether curfew orders allow critical medical personnel to travel to and from work, and consider other strategies for maintaining essential staffing while allowing some regulatory flexibility during evacuations.
116		Consider expanding access to telehealth (within and outside of Florida) as a means of ensuring adequate access to health services.
117		Evaluate the adequacy of public information addressing refills and temporary supplies of prescription drugs, and consider requiring pharmacies to use their patient communication systems to provide information.
118		Consider financial supports for essential health care providers, including mental health providers, to ease hurricane-related cash flow problems and support continuous access to care.
119	Michael D. Wanchick, St. Johns County Administrator	Repetitive loss of property due to storms and rebuilding in the same location is a problem. Location of nursing homes in vulnerable locations creates problems.
120	Sally Bishop, Director, Pinellas County Emergency Management	It would be helpful to review the various agency/departments statutory assignments, the rules and processes developed for implementation, and the required coordination with other agencies/entities,

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	<p>to identify gaps that may be responsible for emergency response issues. As a primary example – the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) is the licensing body for healthcare facilities but the Department of Health (DOH) is responsible for managing them during an emergency. AHCA has the knowledge and understanding of the facilities and DOH does not, and has little to no contact with them on a regular basis except possibly hospitals.</p>
121	<p>The new emergency rule regarding generators and its requirements for air-conditioned space needs to be ‘mitigated’ by providing additional time for implementation, and thoroughly thought out for unintended consequences. Currently it is keeping facilities from being able to shelter other evacuating facilities, and is likely to discourage them from accepting special needs evacuees from the community. We are already hearing of agreements between evacuating and sheltering facilities being cancelled, which will leave evacuating healthcare facilities with no like-facility to evacuate to. All emergency managers in want the healthcare facilities to be able to generate power and cooling, but we also need them to be able to shelter other like facilities.</p>
122	<p>AHCA and DOH need adequate staff to manage facilities during emergencies, and a system for self-reporting that is not reliant on power and internet failure. DOH should be required to work with AHCA on developing a greater understanding of the facilities and their needs and develop a process for working together to meet those needs during an emergency. Currently the county government I left to manage what those State agencies are unprepared to handle and we have less staff than the State agencies.</p>
123	<p>Currently it appears the regulating agencies for healthcare do not enforce the regulations adequately. I have no awareness of any consequences to a facility whose plan fails, and they either turn to the local government for solutions, or show up in a public shelter, or worse – stay in a vulnerable location. My recommendation would be to ensure AHCA, during their licensing survey process, puts special emphasis on emergency plans and the CMS required training and exercises. In addition, there should be a process for strong and definite consequences to licensed facilities who fail to execute their plan, or who deviate from that plan without coordinating with the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Health & Medical desk. Without strong enforcement, there will be no motivation for facilities to develop viable plans, and all the legislation and plan review work will be for naught.</p>
124	<p>Another issue of concern with the healthcare facilities is the reporting system established as a tool for facilities to report their status. The newest system, FL Health Stat, was newly implemented prior to Irma and did not work, causing the need for Pinellas to call nearly 300 facilities on a daily basis. I would recommend that in fixing the issues with the online tool, DOH look at how the system can be tied to systems used by the State and Counties, such as WebEOC, for better integration and situational awareness by more agencies. I would also strongly recommend development of a back-up</p>

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	<p>system or process for facility reporting that does not require power and the internet, but that can be done through a verbal tool such as radio communication or satellite phone. The physical task of calling all the healthcare facilities in our county was something DOH was not prepared for and county staff had to resolve in order to ensure we knew what their status was and could respond accordingly.</p> <p>With various State agencies involved in the rule development, licensing, and plan reviews my recommendation would be that the State Division of Emergency Management (DEM) serve as a facilitator and technical resource to the other agencies where rules and criteria are being developed that directly impact local emergency management. While the practical experience of managing special needs and the healthcare facilities falls at the county level, State DEM has access to county expertise through working groups, our professional association, and a willing group of Emergency Managers who have a very vested interest in getting it right where the rules and the plans are involved, and avoiding unintended consequences.</p> <p>Ensure funding for mental health includes service delivery during emergencies, realistically through contracting rather than full time staff, to support the community at large and sheltering operations.</p>
125	<p>Generators and fuel should be required for NHs & ALs to allow safe sheltering in place</p> <p>Emergency Management systems must be better integrated with AHCA at local level</p> <p>Given costs of evacuation, long-term solution to not build NHs in Flood Zone A or near flood water and “harden” those already there.</p> <p>Emergency Management systems must be better integrated with AHCA at local level.</p>
126	<p>Quality of care requires sufficient staff and ongoing training of staff. Disaster preparedness funding for training dried up by 2010.</p> <p>Emergency plans should be public documents, thoughtfully reviewed, AND practices reported.</p> <p>Consider requiring routine disaster drills similar to fire drills.</p>
127	<p>Emergency Management should prioritize NHs and large assisted livings for power restoration. AL must register as licensed facilities.</p> <p>Litigation protection is warranted for facilities appropriately sheltering in place</p> <p>Plans should address staffing requirements as emergency conditions continue for long periods.</p>
128	<p>Als require far more scrutiny and EOC/AHCA oversight. Little is known about AL Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMP) and there may be inadequate sanctions; the cost of review and adherence is not trivial.</p>
129	<p>Support the Governor’s emergency power rules for nursing homes and assisted living facilities and recommend the legislature codify these rules into statute.</p>
130	<p>Supports a tiered electric power restoration strategy that prioritizes nursing homes and assisted living facilities the same as hospitals.</p>
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137	<p>Doreen Barker, Associate State Director of Advocacy, AARP</p>
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139	<p>Bob Asztalos, Chief Lobbyist, Florida Health Care Association</p>	<p>Florida Health Care Association (FHCA) supports the Emergency Power Plan Rules (Requiring Generators) with the following modifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require that nursing centers and ALFs have generators to ensure cooling in sufficient areas of their centers to maintain patient safety. Compliance can be met through any combination of existing generators or acquisition or rental of new or supplemental power supplies, including transportable units. • Change the ambient temperature from 80 degrees to 81 degrees to be consistent with federal regulations. • Maintain the 96 hours of fuel either onsite or through delivery arrangements. Currently, 72-hours of fuel and the associated storage area is the general standard for building codes and zoning laws, as well as professional practice. Zoning requirements in many areas, particularly residential, become stringent beyond this limit. Centers must demonstrate a delivery contract for any period beyond 72 hours. • Add language to the rules that ensures facilities implement resident-focused procedures. Ensure that: a) residents do not experience complications from heat exposure, and b) the center has a plan to transport residents to a safe facility if the facility can no longer meet the requirements of the rule (i.e. the generator breaks). • Within two business days of plan approval, nursing centers and ALFs must begin the regulatory approval process to install the necessary generator. The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) / Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) shall monitor the process to ensure there are no unnecessary delays. • Require that approval of the center’s plan, not the actual plan, be posted on the local emergency management website. • The State Fire Marshal shall only conduct an inspection of the center if the center installs a new generator.
140		<p>Consider funding these improvements. Two-thirds of nursing center residents rely on Medicaid to pay for their long-term care and services. The average cost of installing a generator in a 120-bed nursing center is \$350,000, including the electrical, fuel storage, permitting and compliance costs. That equates to \$230 million for the 658 Medicaid nursing centers.</p>
141	<p>Susan Anderson, Vice President of Public Policy, Florida Argentum</p>	<p>Support the installation of generator(s) to support cooling an area in the building or on the community campus for resident safety and comfort during a power outage. Cooling devices may include partial-building HVAC, portable cooling units, spot coolers, and similar devices. Temperatures in the area of safe refuge should be maintained consistent with the current requirements in the Florida Building Code, which states inside temperatures must be maintained</p>

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	between 81 and 85 degrees based on whether it is night or day and whether the outside temperature is above of below 90 degrees.
142	Support for safety reasons, allowing communities to store 72 hours or less of non-gasoline fuel onsite, allowing communities to use piped-in natural gas with no onsite storage requirement, and developing separate requirements concerning the use of gasoline generators for communities with 16 beds or less.
143	Support allowing facilities to contract with a company that is able to timely supply an emergency power source or supply of fuel when requested by the facility.
144	Support adding assisted living facilities with a licensed capacity of at least 50 residents to the priority list for power restoration after a natural disaster or other emergency. While almost 2/3 of communities are 16 beds or less, those communities represent less than 15% of the bed capacity.
145	Support a community’s decision to evacuate residents during an emergency as necessary to maintain the health, safety and welfare of residents.
146	Support allowing communities to host evacuees from other assisted living communities without fear of not meeting a certain square footage per person requirement.
147	Support allowing the state to preempt local regulations for providing and maintaining emergency power sources, to eliminate confusion and inconsistency at local levels.
148	Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs Department, Rebecca DeLaRosa, Legislative Affairs Director
149	Support state funded positions to monitor adherence to emergency evacuation for nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and group homes, and penalties in statute for non-compliance.
150	Mayo Clinic
151	Amend statutes to allow the Governor’s executive order declaring a state of emergency to give greater flexibility to the Department of Health to allow providers from other states to assist in storm response and recovery, either in person or through telehealth. This would reduce the need for the Governor to issue a supplemental executive order during the storm or recovery efforts.
	Amend s. 465.0275, F.S., to clarify that residents of other states who may be in Florida for their medical care during a storm also are covered under the prescription refill authorization.
	Policy Recommendation
152	Consider allowing agricultural lands that sit fallow or otherwise become non-income producing following a disaster, to continue to be classified as agricultural and maintain a minimal property tax assessment for a specific time period.
153	There are several taxes, that if reduced would provide considerable relief:

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163	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Consider exempting displaced Florida residents and recovery workers from tourist development taxes and other taxes currently assessed on hotel stays.
164		Consider creating a temporary tax holiday (exemption or credit) for all construction supplies following declared disasters.
165		Consider providing an additional disaster preparedness tax holiday tied to hurricane watch/warning.
166		Consider allowing agricultural lands that sit fallow or otherwise become non-income producing following a disaster, to continue to be classified as agricultural and maintain a minimal property tax assessment for a specific time period.
167	Florida Ag Coalition	There are several taxes, that if reduced would provide considerable relief: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sales tax exemption for materials used to repair or replace damaged fences or structures. • Tax exemption for fuel used in agricultural production or transportation during an emergency declaration as well as a recovery period. • Reduction in Tangible Personal Property Tax for equipment affected by the disaster.
168	Representative Rommel	During a state of emergency, government agencies cannot hold public meetings regarding budgets. Can a mechanism be created that will permit the counties to go back and re-evaluate their budgets, allowing the counties to move dollars into areas of recovery and future storm protection? It would be a protection for resident from counties wanting to raise taxes, as it would just be redirecting dollars to more critical areas.
169	Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs Department, Rebecca DeLaRosa, Legislative Affairs Director	Provide clarity on the criteria used to recommend federal disaster declarations.
170	Trust for Public Lands	Support Division of Emergency Management agency request & Governor's budget recommendations to provide planning & design funds for small counties that have been identified with critical Emergency Operations Center needs. (\$1.8 million)
171		Support Division of Emergency Management agency request & Governor's budget recommendations to provide capital outlay funds for the construction of critical Emergency Operations Center needs. (\$3.0 million)
172		Support funding for emergency management and preparedness readiness for colleges and universities impacted greatest by Hurricane Irma or that provide operational uses of facilities during a natural disaster.
	Housing	Policy Recommendation
173	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Consider prioritizing the expenditure of affordable housing funds on replacing and repairing affordable housing lost or damaged during a disaster.

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174		To facilitate reconstruction, develop policy options to expedite permitting processes, and consider extending existing permit deadlines and reducing or waiving permit fees.
175		Consider reforms to construction law that will expedite reconstruction, including changes to construction licensing regulations. Also consider changes to the construction lien law to protect homeowners from double paying for construction if the construction is paid directly by the homeowner.
176	Randy Hunt, President & CEO of Senior Resource Alliance	We are seeing now, particularly in Southwest Florida, the need for Housing for seniors whose homes (many mobile homes) were flooded and destroyed by Irma. The impact of evacuees from Puerto Rico is now beginning to impact our remaining AAA and Service Provider resources. These seniors are arriving with nothing – housing and other service needs, and our waiting list for home care assistance are certain to grow.
177	Kenny Montilla, Mobilization Coordinator for Airbnb	Support establishing a mechanism to temporarily lift prohibitive regulations that prohibit Airbnb hosts from providing needed temporary housing.
178	Trust for Public Lands	Support Florida Housing Finance Corporation recommendations for distribution of state housing dollars through the Hurricane Recovery Program and the Rental Recovery Loan Program, which target areas impacted the greatest by Hurricane Irma. (Note - Similar to what we did in 2005. Governor has included a pot in his recommendations at \$100 million.)
179		Support legislation authorizing local governments increased flexibility to use local funds for land acquisition and construction of affordable and workforce housing.
180		Support funding for homeless and transitional housing targeting areas impacted the greatest from immigration due to Hurricane Irma.
181	Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs Department, Rebecca	A faster response to mobilize programs available to post storm victims such as Food for Florida (D-SNAP) and mobile housing units for displaced residents with home damage is needed.
	<u>Beaches, Sanitary Sewers, Stormwater and Flooding</u>	<u>Policy Recommendation</u>
182	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Evaluate alternative approaches to avoid or reduce flooding, including methods to remove excess water when traditional storm water systems are overwhelmed.
183		Enhanced funding for beach restoration and nourishment to protect property and people.
184	Deborah Flack, President, Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association	State funding priority for Irma-impacted beaches should be given to existing beach management (restoration, nourishment, and inlet sand management) projects that leverage federal cost-sharing.

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185	<p>Encourage all coastal communities to develop storm damage recovery plans and alternative funding scenarios to address coastal emergencies along critically eroded beaches of the State. The Department of Environmental Protection should be available to offer guidance, expertise, and identify other resources. Modest state grants to assist in plan development may be considered, especially for unprepared communities.</p>
186	<p>Provide funding assurances for reimbursement of state cost-sharing to local governments who move forward with emergency response/post-storm beach recovery activities in advance of the next storm season, but prior to a final Federal or State funding determinations. The Legislature may wish to consider a mechanism to assure those local governments that expedite sand placement following an emergency will receive priority consideration for reimbursement from post-hurricane recovery funds appropriated by the Legislature.</p>
187	<p>Direct state agencies to initiate and facilitate feasibility and design studies for critically-eroded segments of beach impacted by recent storm events that are not part of the statewide beach program, and have a willing local government sponsor. Encourage other coastal stakeholders to reach out and assist these local coastal communities. Storm recovery funding should be made available to initiate such studies with the intent of transitioning construction activities to the traditional statewide beach program.</p>
188	<p>Expedite state agency permitting of all projects included in the State’s Storm Damage Recovery Plan, taking into consideration, for prioritizing workload, beach condition, level of damage, and upland vulnerability. Emphasis must be on preparing for the next hurricane season, which is not being achieved as evidenced by the lack of major project construction activities, and post-Matthew funding not being available to beach communities (unless it was local funding) before Irma’s impact.</p>
189	<p>Enhance and improve coordination of post-storm data collection efforts and re-examine how post-storm data is shared between Federal (USACE and FEMA) and State (DEP and DEM) agencies, as well as local coastal governments.</p>
190	<p>Michael Rubín, Vice President for Governmental Affairs, Florida Ports Council</p> <p>Recommend that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission work with the U.S. Coast Guard to determine if the mooring prohibitions contained in Chapter 327 are adequate to prevent disabled vessels from blocking navigable waterways after a hurricane. We also recommend enforcement capabilities of anchoring and mooring prohibitions contained in Chapter 327 be increased. Local and state law enforcement agencies with waterside authority must have the ability to help remove unlawfully moored vessels once the COTP has set condition Whiskey (72 hours prior to gale force winds) at the seaport.</p>

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191	Florida Water Environment Association Utility Council (FWEAUC)	<p>The FWEAUC supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection a statewide voluntary program for advanced collection system assessment, investment, rehabilitation, and electric power outage mitigation planning. • Providing regulatory incentives for utilities to implement the program. • Allowing financially disadvantaged utilities to apply for grant funds to implement the program.
192	Trust for Public Land	Support state funding for Florida Forever and various land acquisition programs that focus on conservation strategies that provide buffering, drainage and flood mitigation to critical residential communities and economic hubs.
193	Richard Pinsky, Port of Palm Beach	Recommend prohibiting the owner or operator of a vessel or floating structure from anchoring or mooring such that the nearest approach of the anchored or moored vessel or floating structure is within 1,500 feet of any federally maintained waterways utilized by a port facility.
194	Representative Rommel	If counties negotiate, in advance and in good faith, how can vendors demand higher payments during a state of emergency? Contracts must be enforced and penalties ensued if vendors cannot or refuse to fulfill their contractual obligations. There should also be time tables established for the removal of debris based on total cubic yards with penalties for services not delivered in a timely fashion.
195	National Waste & Recycling Association (NwRA) Florida Chapter	Prohibit tree trimming prior to storm as they become dangerous projectiles.
196		Determine an appropriate time to stop collection in order to get our employees off the street so they can prepare for the storm and make sure materials in trucks have time to dispose of items (example – stop service 48 hours prior to storm).
197		Roll off containers need to be covered prior to storms.
198		Prioritization of services post storm, i.e. suspend recycling and yard waste to remove municipal solid waste (MSW) as quickly as possible.
199		Employees on streets during curfews – create a way for law enforcement to recognize our workers as “second responders” with special signage; making sure they are in uniform with safety vest.
200		Florida Department of Transportation – the hours of service limits the overall volume debris removal on a daily basis. An additional hour per day (until the debris is removed) would be helpful
201	Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs Department, Rebecca DeLaRosa, Legislative Affairs Director	Amend state emergency procurement rules to ensure equity of services to local governments, particularly for debris removal.

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202	Miami-Dade County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava	South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) should invest in the infrastructure of the primary canal system so that canals can better accommodate potential heavy rainfall and flooding and prevent, as much as possible, expected storm surge flooding.
203		SFWMD should address the issue of eroded banks of the primary canal system, inadequate conveyance capacity, and overflow protections as well as investing in emergency power for all flood gates.
	Education	Policy Recommendation
204	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Consider allowing school districts to deduct hurricane days from required days of instruction.
205		Consider providing additional school readiness funding for care when schools are closed.
206		Consider authorizing and funding the school readiness program to temporarily serve additional families in areas where schools are closed for extended periods.
207	Florida Association of District School Superintendents	Current law prohibits a salary from being paid to any employee in advance of the work being done. Consider providing that in the event that schools close due to a natural disaster or other emergency, employees may be paid for such days so long as the time is made up at a later date in the school year.
208		Exempt students who arrived from Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands as a result of a natural disaster from the definition of an “eligible” student for assessment purposes. The scores of these students on any assessment would not be included in the grading system.
209	Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Associate Superintendent, Miami-Dade County Public Schools	Provide emergency radios or other communication emergency communication devices, including the potential use of satellite phones for voice/data and emergency voice over I.P. systems for schools during the storm recovery period.
210		Provide generators for schools that serve as shelters.
211		Facilitate the authorization to provide breakfast and lunch for all students at no cost as authorized and funded by through the National Lunch Program USDA.
212		Extend the testing window period. This is recommended due to the disparate statewide impact on school days/instructional minutes. Staff has initiated discussions with the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) and the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE), regarding the possible need to request modifications to assessment and accountability calendars based on the best interests of students and teachers.
213		Recommend some accommodations related to the accountability system due to the loss of instructional days/minutes and the acceptance of students from Puerto Rico and Texas. In previous years, accommodations such as holding schools harmless, or stipulating that no school will drop more than one letter grade, and suspending any sanctions.
214	Duval County Schools	Better communication during Statewide or Regional Natural disasters

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	Miscellaneous
215	<u>Initial Policy/Questions List Provided to Select Committee</u>
216	Evaluate the performance of Florida’s building code and determine if any changes to the code or code adoption processes are warranted.
217	Evaluate access to emergency management information, and identify ways to improve statewide information regarding all roads in Florida, shelter availability and location, government closures, food distribution, gasoline availability, etc.
218	Review the use of emergency ordinances and curfews and the roles of state, local and federal authorities, and consider policy changes to ensure consistency and cooperation.
219	Enhance penalties for looting and other crimes committed during evacuations and declared emergencies.
220	Evaluate the need for support for private employers and their employees during evacuation and declared emergencies. Consider providing for one-time increase in benefits to enable restocking by those who lose all food at home during a disaster.

Appendix 6: Summary of Preliminary Member Recommendations

Evacuation	Policy Recommendation
Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Consider placing permanent generators at rest stops or repositioning generators at key rest areas.
	Consider directing the Division of Emergency Management to establish a system of providing food, water and other necessities on major roadways at rest stops and weigh stations.
	Consider utilizing closed weigh and agriculture stations as comfort stations or locations for drivers to pull off the road when running low on gas.
	Evaluate the benefits of improving the shoulders of key roads on southbound lanes to facilitate reentry after an evacuation. Northbound shoulders are evacuation ready whereas southbound shoulders are not reentry ready.
1	Rep. Asencio During evacuations, increased law enforcement presence through the use of mutual aid agreements with municipal, county and, when necessary, federal law enforcement personnel to aid in increased presence, traffic control, crowd control, law enforcement response and support of evacuation needs.
2	Rep. Asencio Upon a declaration of emergency by the Governor of the State of Florida, tolls should be lifted in areas of declaration of emergency.
3	Rep. M. Grant The Division of Emergency Management, in consultation with the Department of Transportation and the appropriate local emergency management agencies, should develop and implement a real-time, web-based evacuation route/destination resource tool to assist the public in making informed decisions relating to the selection of evacuation routes and destinations.
4	Rep. Lee Construct another lane for on and off ramps at exit locations so vehicles may exit and get on easier and faster.
5	Rep. Lee Open both northbound and southbound lanes of traffic on all highways.
6	Rep. Lee Lease a huge Cruise Ship to evacuate 5000-6000+ people from Key West or other deep harbor in the Keys that can accommodate it.
7	Rep. Rodrigues Extend the Suncoast Parkway to the Georgia state line. We have discovered that mass evacuations in preparation for major storms can create major traffic congestion and opportunity for accidents to occur. The Sunshine Parkway can be another north-south option to be utilized for those who are evacuating
8	Rep. Stevenson Update behavior studies for hurricane evacuations. We have not updated these studies since before Mathew and Hermine, and now we have significantly more data and information.
9	Rep. Stevenson Provide an education program for residents and businesses on their obligation to have an emergency plan. Inform and encourage the consideration of shorter evacuations to safe shelter options in county. Encourage people in non-evacuation zones with suitably constructed and prepared homes to plan to invite friends who need to evacuate to shelter with them. Encourage communities as part of their preparation to help neighbors install hurricane shutters.

Appendix 6: Summary of Preliminary Member Recommendations

	<p><u>Energy: Electric Utilities and Petroleum</u></p> <p>Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee</p>	<p><u>Policy Recommendation</u></p>
		<p>Develop policies to limit electrical outages during a storm, including policies to encourage cost-effective infrastructure hardening, auxiliary power at key interstate interchanges, and, where appropriate, underground utilities.</p>
		<p>Consider alternative approaches to ensure adequate supplies of gasoline are available to meet demand during a disaster, including the merits of establishing a Florida petroleum reserve.</p>
		<p>Evaluate existing processes used to prioritize the restoration of electric service, and consider policies to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable are addressed, including individuals in facilities and at home.</p>
		<p>Determine if avoidable impediments hampered the movement of utility trucks and other emergency response vehicles, and consider providing a right of way and escorts as necessary to reach affected locations.</p>
		<p>Consider modifying the 811 (call before you dig) system to better address facility location in extraordinary circumstances.</p>
10	Rep. Asencio	<p>Establish a designated list of fueling stations specifically for the use of hurricane response personnel. Create an identification system for confirmation of use of authorized personnel.</p>
11	Rep. Cortes	<p>Customers/local governments currently may pay an electric utility a PSC-approved rate to cover the cost of converting overhead facilities to underground. This recommendation is to authorize local governments to require, upon the petition or vote of a specified percentage of affected customers, specific storm-hardening measures to be undertaken by the electric utility within the local government's boundaries, with the initial cost of the hardening measure paid for by the electric utility and reimbursed to the utility via a non-ad valorem assessment collected from affected property owners.</p>
12	Rep. Davis	<p>Establish a tiered electric power restoration strategy that prioritizes nursing homes and large assisted living facilities the same as hospitals.</p>
13	Rep. Eagle	<p>During a state of emergency declared by the Governor, when a dealer exhausts the dealer's supply of the lowest grade motor fuel, authorize the dealer to sell any remaining supply of higher grade motor fuel at the same price per gallon or liter as the price the dealer charged for a gallon or liter of the lowest grade motor fuel.</p>
14	Rep. Lee	<p>Provide state funded fuel farms within each County or Region throughout the State, however the farm must be within the network of distribution</p>
15	Rep. Lee	<p>Require underground utilities and electrical infrastructure.</p>
16	Rep. Lee	<p>On behalf of the St. Lucie Sheriff's Office, we recommend county jails have full generator capabilities with back up's to provide for full power restoration including A/C to provide for the jail</p>

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		staff, jail inmates, including medical needs inmates and mental health inmates in a safe and healthy environment.
17	Rep. Lee	Require all sales of portable generators to include the purchase of a home carbon monoxide detector. They are not terribly expensive and would save lives.
18	Rep. Porter	Consider optimizing the use of rail transport, before, during and after a Hurricane event, to facilitate delivery of automotive and diesel fuel to effected areas in the state, utilizing rail tankers and mobile fuel transfer systems moved in tandem with the tankers via rail flatbed. This contingency could be activated as a supplemental system that effectively avoids both stalled or blocked highway traffic and road outages, and shutdowns of maritime traffic due to high seas.
19	Rep. Stevenson	Establish a communication network with tanker carriers who carry fuel so they can be part of the solution to move fuel if needed.
20	Rep. Stevenson	Identify and relieve choke points in fuel supply chain.
21	Rep. Stevenson	Request a change in dates for the crossover of seasonal fuel for Florida to alleviate low point in fuel inventory in tanks that occur during hurricane season.
22	Rep. Stevenson	In light of this event and the lengthy power outage, consider if we need to have 5 days of supplies. Inform residents that if they are supposed to evacuate and choose to stay in place, that their need for supplies may be greater and they could experience greater than average delays for restoring power so they can properly prepare.
23	Rep. Trumbull	Based on testimony received by the committee, it appears that there is not consistent communication and cooperation among local emergency management officials and electric utilities statewide in relation to restoration of critical facilities. Develop processes that ensure greater communication and cooperation between electric utilities and local emergency management officials to provide for the efficient restoration of electric service to critical facilities identified by local emergency management officials.
24	Rep. Trumbull	Forensic data gathered by electric utilities and reviewed by the Public Service Commission may indicate that the number and duration of some storm-related electrical outages may be lessened by certain storm hardening measures, including, among other things, enhanced vegetation management and undergrounding electric distribution system infrastructure. The effectiveness, cost, and desirability of these measures may vary by locality. Develop processes that ensure greater communication and cooperation between electric utilities and affected customer groups/local governments to identify and compare the costs and benefits of various storm hardening options, including review by local governments of existing tree ordinances to consider whether amendments to those ordinances can more cost-effectively address storm-related outage issues.
25	Rep. Trumbull	Florida statute provides specific standards for vegetation management within power line rights-of-way, but the statute does not apply if a local government adopts its own vegetation management plan.

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		Consider repeal of the statutory exception for local governments to adopt plans that differ from the statutory standards.
26	Rep. Trumbull	Develop alternatives to address potential fuel shortage and distribution issues resulting from the high fuel demand created by storm preparation, evacuation, evacuee return, and storm recovery.
27	Rep. Edwards	The Public Service Commission is directed to ensure prioritization of power restoration for nursing facilities and ALFs over 50 beds.
28	Rep. Moraitis	Nursing homes and large special needs assisted living facilities (ALFs) should be categorized by FPL as Critical Infrastructure (FIC).
29	Rep. Moraitis	A more rigorous tree trimming program must be implemented to mandate cooperation from local governments and educate citizens on the importance of tree trimming.
30	Rep. Rommel	Every county should determine how much fuel it needs to operate generators needed for critical infrastructure and first responders for the first 72 hours following the event. Counties should either build and maintain fuel depots, or create agreements with current fuel depots. If current depots need additional land to build larger storage facilities, counties could donate land leases, have depots built (maybe split cost), and allow facilities to use the depots when the county is not in a state of emergency. Counties should require that a minimum amount of fuel be maintained at all fuel depots during high threat times. Once a state of emergency has been declared, the county would take over distribution of the fuel, and then reimburse the depot for fuel used.
31	Rep. Rommel	The state and counties need to evaluate how they spend money on landscaping of center medians, sidewalks, etc. As a State, if we come up with standards that protect the public and the State's infrastructure, but counties still want to plant trees that are known to cause harm or are not properly maintained because residents like the lushness, those counties risk losing any State reimbursement, post-storm.
	<u>Shelters and Vulnerable Populations</u>	<u>Policy Recommendation</u>
	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Determine the adequacy of current shelters, and consider providing additional funding for schools and universities to provide hurricane shelter facilities. Evaluate the adequacy of special needs shelters, and consider establishing tiers of facilities to handle the most fragile, using nursing homes, rehabilitation center and hospital beds. For those in government-funded health care programs, consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring Medicaid plans to use care managers to determine whether individuals need help and find them a place to shelter. • Requiring coverage for facility admissions when no other qualified shelter is available.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requiring Medicaid plans to have emergency operation plans, documenting how they will provide these services, and proving contract relationships with facilities. (Meeting #3)
	Determine the adequacy of communications about and the availability of pet shelters, and consider means to improve communication and the merits of requiring a standard population-based minimum number of pet shelters or ratio of pet and non-pet shelters.
32	Rep. Asencio Create a shelter assignment system(s) for evacuees by zones. This will ensure evacuees know where their primary shelters are located beforehand and will reduce confusion that enhances liabilities. The system(s) should be flexible and allow secondary shelter relocations
33	Rep. Asencio Charter schools and other facilities owned or leased by agencies that receive public funds should be constructed to serve as shelters to the extent possible.
34	Rep. Asencio State owned facilities that can be made suitable within 12 hours for use as shelters should be made available as shelters. Many existing facilities used for shelters today require the prior movement of gym equipment, furniture and other equipment to be made ready for use. Additionally, several state facilities become completely unoccupied during a state of emergency or prior to an impending disaster.
35	Rep. Asencio Recruitment of health care practitioners, faculty and/or medical students from state colleges and universities should be part of the targeted recruitment of practitioners to serve in shelters. Ensure shelters are staffed with at least one emergency medical aide responder on a ratio of 1/75.
36	Rep. Asencio Require that by May 31 of each year, the county health department provide its special needs medical staffing roster and plan to the county emergency management agency.
37	Rep. Asencio Amend s. 119.071(1), F.S., to provide an exemption for individual assessment data provided by individuals to emergency management agencies for the purpose of damage assessment, as well as, amend s. 252.355(4) to provide an exemption for information revealing the identity of persons registering for emergency sheltering with a local emergency management agency.
38	Rep. Lee Require all new construction of schools to install a generator powerful enough to run the air conditioning at the facility, or at least the area to which will be utilized as a shelter.
39	Rep. Lee Provide adequate funding to our County Health Departments so they may have the resources to provide higher level medical care to our special needs patients at the shelter.
40	Rep. Nunez Because survivors of domestic violence and their children are exposed to (sometimes fatal) retribution from their abusers if evacuated to public designated hurricane shelters, Florida's confidentially-located certified domestic violence centers have been hardened to provide shelter-in-place. The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence is requesting nonrecurring funds in the amount of \$1,457,309 to draw a 75-percent match in federal funds through a Victims of Crime Act grant through the Office of the Attorney General to install generators at Florida's 42 centers statewide.

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41	Rep. Nunez	Provide more state assistance with shelter management training at the local level.
42	Rep. Stevenson	Fund and build new facilities for people with special needs to shelter standards in areas that are shelter deficient. In this way the facilities can do double duty by providing capacity for daily use and shelter during emergencies.
43	Rep. Stevenson	Fund generators for hardened public shelters to create more emergency shelter capacity that can be adapted to meet the needs of vulnerable populations.
44	Rep. Stevenson	Require that people who are under contract to care for groups of vulnerable residence or people with special needs to provide staff to meet the needs of their residents if they go to a public shelter even as a last resort. Dropping of vulnerable people by the bus load should result in significant penalties and consequences.
45	Rep. Stevenson	Inform people what they should bring to shelters
46	Rep. Stevenson	Have a bi-annual planning day for evacuation and shelter in place scenarios impacting nursing homes, hospitals and other vulnerable users.
47	Rep. Rommel	Information regarding shelters needs to be made available several days before the storm so proper arrangements can be made by those who will be seeking shelter. In addition, information regarding which shelters will accept pets needs to be made public sooner. Many people who need/should seek the safety of a shelter will not do so if they must leave their pets(s) behind.
		<u>Policy Recommendation</u>
	<u>Health Care Facilities and Medical Care</u>	
	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Develop strategies to assist and support essential personnel including health professionals and other caregivers to continue working during evacuations and other declared emergencies.
		Evaluate the adequacy of emergency management planning by nursing homes, hospices, assisted living facilities, and group homes, and consider policies to improve such planning.
		Assess and strengthen current regulations for health care and residential facilities to have generators and maintain service capabilities.
		Evaluate whether curfew orders allow critical medical personnel to travel to and from work, and consider other strategies for maintaining essential staffing while allowing some regulatory flexibility during evacuations.
		Evaluate the adequacy of emergency management planning by nursing homes, hospices, assisted living facilities, and group homes, and consider policies to improve such planning.
		Assess and strengthen current regulations for health care and residential facilities to have generators and maintain service capabilities.

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	Evaluate whether curfew orders allow critical medical personnel to travel to and from work, and consider other strategies for maintaining essential staffing while allowing some regulatory flexibility during evacuations.
	Consider expanding access to telehealth (within and outside of Florida) as a means of ensuring adequate access to health services.
	Evaluate the adequacy of public information addressing refills and temporary supplies of prescription drugs, and consider requiring pharmacies to use their patient communication systems to provide information.
	Consider financial supports for essential health care providers, including mental health providers, to ease hurricane-related cash flow problems and support continuous access to care.
48	<p>Rep. Eagle</p> <p>Exempt from the emergency power rule a facility that meets a "Gold Standard for Evacuation," consisting of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An established protocol and corporate team to monitor developing storms, as well as policies to prepare the community in advance for evacuation; • Evacuation must occur 48 hours before a storm event occurs; • Residents, staff and family must be evacuated at no additional costs to residents, staff or staff's family; • A standing contract for emergency transportation sufficient to simultaneously transport all residents, staff, and staff's families and arrangements for separate vehicles for transportation of oxygen and other necessary medical equipment used by residents; • A standing contract to house residents for at least 5 days with full services where licensed services can be safely performed; • If evacuating out-of-state to another community operated by the company or a full-service hotel out of the path of the hurricane, the company must have established plans and resources to send additional support supervision and staff as necessary. Staffing at the evacuation site must be equal to or greater than staffing at the evacuated community under normal operating conditions; • If evacuating to sites located in Florida, the site evacuated to must have been built to post-Andrew hurricane standards, serviced with underground utilities, with a location and elevation above any anticipated storm surge, and an emergency generator sufficient to provide power for at least 96 hours (including AC); • Exempted communities must train on the evacuation procedure at least once per year.
49	<p>Rep. M. Grant for Rep. Roth</p> <p>Exempt from sales and use tax the purchase of any equipment that uses natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas to generate emergency electric energy at nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Limit the exemption to a maximum of \$30,000 for the purchase of equipment for any one facility.</p>

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50	Rep. Nunez	Amend statutes to allow the Governor’s executive order declaring a state of emergency to give greater flexibility to the Department of Health to allow providers from other states to assist in storm response and recovery, either in person or through telehealth. This would reduce the need for the Governor to issue a supplemental executive order during the storm or recovery efforts.
51	Rep. Nunez	Amend s. 465.0275, F.S., to clarify that residents of other states who may be in Florida for their medical care during a storm also are covered under the prescription refill authorization.
52	Rep. Lee	HB 437 -- The legislation relates to building standards for health care facilities. The Florida Building Code must require all public and private health care facilities to have an operational emergency power source. For purposes of this subsection, the term “emergency power source” means a system that provides an independent source of electric power during a loss of power supply and includes a supply of fuel sufficient to sustain the emergency power source for at least 7 days during a power outage. An emergency power system may include a generator, batteries, and other essential accessories needed to power such emergency power system.
53	Rep. Lee	HB 435 -- The Legislature recognizes the importance of public and private health care facilities in providing emergency health services and understands that by having power readily available, the professionals, staff, and patients will experience less stress during power outages and electric service interruptions that occur during major natural disasters. It understands the fiscal constraints under which many public and private health care facilities operate to provide a safe and comfortable atmosphere while providing essential medical services. The intent is to offset some of the fiscal difficulties by creating a 5-year matching grant program to assist public and private health care facilities that were constructed and operational before July 30 2018 in acquiring emergency power systems (which may include a generator, batteries, and other essential accessories needed) The Emergency Power Systems Matching Grant Program shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide state matching funds on a first-come, first- served basis to public or private health care facilities that apply for funds with the department. • Prohibit a public or private health care facility from receiving more than one grant per county per year under this program. • Be established and administered by the Department of Health.
54	Rep. Porter	Consider financial or tax incentives to encourage nursing homes, ALF’s and Special Needs group homes to build to hurricane shelter standards so that less demand would be placed on Special Needs Shelters and to minimize the trauma caused to these populations by transport and displacement from their home facility.
55	Rep. Stevenson	Allow nursing homes to submit a plan to shelter in place to be considered by AHCA instead of the local governments. AHCA is better equipped to make calls on the medical risk of evacuation and the ability of the medical staff to care for the patients potentially isolated and staying in place.

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56	Rep. Stevenson	Require facilities to share with families their emergency plans and how they can contact their loved ones after the storm.
57	Rep. Stevenson	Encourage counties to make more refined evacuation plans for ALF's & nursing homes that take into consideration their elevation and construction of the facility and proximity to their dedicated shelter.
58	Rep. Stevenson	To avoid unnecessary evacuations, nursing homes and others responsible for shelter of vulnerable populations should work on plans that enable them to evacuate 50 to 100 miles away at the maximum.
59	Rep. Stevenson	Require Nursing homes and hospitals to not be built in certain flood plain unless they include category 5 shelter areas to support their occupancy capacity to shelter in place. The shelter provision could also be satisfied through ownership or an enduring contractual obligation of a shelter facility outside of the flood zone reserved for their exclusive use in a hurricane within 50 miles of their facility.
60	Rep. Edwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All nursing homes and ALFs must have an operational emergency power source, and a supply of fuel sufficient to sustain the emergency power source for at least 4 days during a power outage. A facility may contract with a company that is able to timely supply an emergency power source or supply fuel when requested by the facility, or may store an emergency power source or supply of fuel on site. The emergency power source must provide enough energy to consistently maintain an ambient air temperature of 81 degrees F. or less within one or more areas of the facility having enough space to safely hold all of the facility's residents and power refrigeration, standard preparation of food and beverages that are served by the facility to its residents and for the storage of ice. • Local municipalities will expedite any permit or zoning request submitted by a nursing home or assisted living facility for the installation of generators or storm hardening. • As part of its routing inspection the Agency for Health Care Administration will inspect that the nursing home and ALF have emergency power sources and the electricity provided as required under this statute. • Nursing homes and ALFs must have a plan to monitor residents sufficiently to ensure residents do not experience complications from heat exposure and to make certain all residents have sufficient access to areas of the facility 81 degrees or less.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursing Homes and ALFs must have a plan to safely transport residents to an appropriate facility in the event that a facility knows it will be unable to maintain the residents in a safe temperature range.
61	<p>Rep. Edwards</p> <p>Provide the Agency for Health Care Administration the authority to allow funds from the Quality of Long Term Care Facility Improvement Trust Fund to be spent on grants for nursing homes to acquire emergency power sources and to provide cooling and other emergency services to their residents. Adjustments shall be made to the nursing home Medicaid rate to allow reimbursement over a 5-year period for Medicaid's portion of the costs incurred to meet the emergency power source requirements of this statute.</p>
62	<p>Rep. Edwards</p> <p>Sales Tax Exemption for Diesel Fuel and Propane Purchased by a Health Care Facility During a declared disaster, diesel fuel and propane purchased by a health care facility will be exempt from sales tax. The Department of Revenue will issue a tax-free letter to licensed health care facilities which must be presented at the time of purchase.</p>
63	<p>Rep. Edwards</p> <p>Any generator purchased by a healthcare facility will be exempt from sales tax. The facility must present a copy of its state license at the time of purchase.</p>
64	<p>Rep. Edwards</p> <p>Transfer trauma of nursing home residents must be taken in consideration by local emergency management personnel when planning evacuations during a disaster. Studies have demonstrated that residents who are evacuated suffer higher casualties after a storm than those who are sheltered in place. If a nursing home can demonstrate that it can sustain its residents for 96 hours, meeting their fuel, food, water, medication and mechanical needs, as well as keep them in an environment of 81 degrees or less, the nursing home is exempt from a mandatory evacuation order. However, if the nursing home is in danger of an imminent storm surge or another threat of life, then it must evacuate.</p>
65	<p>Rep. Edwards</p> <p>During a declared disaster, a nursing home or assisted living facility must have on premises at all times either the Administrator, the Director of Nursing or a licensed health care professional who has certificates of completion in a disaster preparedness course and a tabletop exercise as required under the Federal CMS Emergency Preparedness rule.</p>
66	<p>Rep. Edwards</p> <p>A nursing home will submit its annual Comprehensive Emergency Plan to its county emergency management office and the Emergency Preparedness Committee created by the Agency for Health Care Administration. The Committee will be made up of Agency personnel, long term care administrators and professionals as well as state and local emergency management personnel. The Committee will peer review all plans and return them to the appropriate county emergency management office with recommendations for final action.</p>
67	<p>Rep. Edwards</p> <p>The Department of Elder Affairs will create a committee similar to the AHCA's committee, made up of assisted living facility administrators and professionals, as well as state and local emergency management personnel. An assisted living facility will submit its annual Comprehensive Emergency</p>
68	<p>Rep. Edwards</p>

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		Plan to its county emergency management office and the Committee. The Committee will peer review all plans and return them to the appropriate county emergency management office with recommendations for final action.
	Agriculture	Policy Recommendation
	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Consider allowing agricultural lands that sit fallow or otherwise become non-income producing following a disaster, to continue to be classified as agricultural and maintain a minimal property tax assessment for a specific time period.
69	Rep. Albritton	Exempt from sales tax materials used to repair or replace damaged fences or structures.
70	Rep. Albritton	Exempt from taxation fuel used in agricultural production or crop transportation during an emergency declaration as well as a recovery period.
71	Rep. Albritton	Reduce the tangible personal property tax for agriculture related equipment affected by the disaster.
72	Rep. Albritton	Preempt local burning jurisdiction during an emergency. This would allow farms to have consistency in their ability to burn through the authority of the Division of Forestry. The division shall consult with the appropriate state local and local emergency management offices.
73	Rep. Albritton	Appropriate CRDF research dollars with funding for expanded field trials, as well as consider other storm and recovery related research for other commercial crops grown in Florida.
74	Rep. Albritton	Continue to fund the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' BMP program as well as providing supplemental funding for other FDACS programs directly tied to agriculture production fees.
75	Rep. Albritton	Overweight permits were granted for hauling agricultural products leading up to and after the storm. Provide for an emergency permit longer than two weeks and replace the requirement for a physical permit with an electronic permitting system.
76	Rep. Albritton	Consider funding the Agricultural Economic Development Program Disaster Loans program (s. 570.82, F.S) or a similar program. This program provides for loans to farms less than 300 acres and currently has no funding.
77	Rep. Albritton	The State Agricultural Response Team (SART) is a multi-agency coordination group consisting of governmental and private entities dedicated to strengthening all-hazard disaster capabilities through partnerships. This group provided considerable support for the agricultural community following Irma. Consider funding for an organized forensic review of agricultural storm damage and identification of next steps for recovery efforts.
78	Rep. Albritton	Assist with efforts to secure post disaster supplemental funding from the U.S. Congress for Florida agriculture.
79	Rep. Albritton	Consider the elimination of permits and fees on agricultural production and supply chain equipment idled by storm damage.

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80	Rep. Albritton	Exempt from sales and use tax packing, storage, and transportation materials purchased because of transportation limitations due to storms.
81	Rep. Albritton	Exempt from sales and use tax oxygen used to oxygenate water for aquaculture purposes.
82	Rep. Albritton	Exempt from sales and use tax biosecurity/food safety materials purchased no later than six months after a storm event.
83	Rep. M. Grant for Rep. Roth	Exempt from the sales and use tax the purchase of generators used on farms.
84	Rep. Porter	Exempt from sales and use tax materials used to repair or replace damaged fences or structures on agricultural production facilities.
	<u>Future Hurricane Expenditures and Tax Relief</u>	<u>Policy Recommendation</u>
	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Consider exempting displaced Florida residents and recovery workers from tourist development taxes and other taxes currently assessed on hotel stays.
		Consider creating a temporary tax holiday (exemption or credit) for all construction supplies following declared disasters.
		Consider providing an additional disaster preparedness tax holiday tied to hurricane watch/warning.
		Consider allowing agricultural lands that sit fallow or otherwise become non-income producing following a disaster, to continue to be classified as agricultural and maintain a minimal property tax assessment for a specific time period.
	Rep. Albritton	Exempt from sales tax materials used to repair or replace damaged fences or structures. (Also listed as #69 under Agriculture)
	Rep. Albritton	Exempt from taxation fuel used in agricultural production or crop transportation during an emergency declaration as well as a recovery period. (Also listed as #70 under Agriculture)
	Rep. Albritton	Reduce the tangible personal property tax for agriculture related equipment affected by the disaster. (Also listed as #71 under Agriculture)
	Rep. Albritton	Consider the elimination of permits and fees on agricultural production and supply chain equipment idled by storm damage. (Also listed as #79 under Agriculture)
	Rep. Albritton	Exempt from sales and use tax packing, storage, and transportation materials purchased because of transportation limitations due to storms. (Also listed as #80 under Agriculture)
	Rep. Albritton	Exempt from sales and use tax oxygen used to oxygenate water for aquaculture purposes. (Also listed as #81 under Agriculture)
	Rep. Albritton	Exempt from sales and use tax biosecurity/food safety materials purchased no later than six months after a storm event. (Also listed as #82 under Agriculture)
85	Rep. Eagle	Provide for ad valorem property tax abatement for homesteaded property rendered uninhabitable by Hurricane Irma.

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	Rep. M. Grant for Rep. Roth	Exempt from the sales and use tax the purchase of generators used on farms. (Also listed as #83 under Agriculture)
	Rep. M. Grant for Rep. Roth	Exempt from sales and use tax the purchase of any equipment that uses natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas to generate emergency electric energy at nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Limit the exemption to a maximum of \$30,000 for the purchase of equipment for any one facility. (Also listed #49 under Health Care Facilities and Medical Care)
	Rep. Porter	Sales tax exemption for materials used to repair or replace damaged fences or structures on agricultural production facilities. (Also listed as #84 under Agriculture)
86	Rep. Renner	Create a reserve fund to receive regular revenue deposits to build reserves to help pay costs associated with future hurricane strikes in Florida. Monies used from the fund would be replenished over a period of years.
87	Rep. Stevenson	Provide property tax relief to people who were unable to live in their home for more than 6 months in 2016 or 2017 as a result of the impacts of Mathew, Hermine or Irma. This was proposed last year and has been done in the past. This is especially advantageous to people who live in manufactured homes which have very limited insurability. By giving them this tax relief, many would be able to afford the downpayment on a new home or deposits to help them get into a stable rental property.
88	Rep. Stevenson	Amend s. 257.37, F.S., to require the state to provide one-half of the required match for grants to local governments for any Public Assistance project approved by FEMA.
	Rep. Edwards	Sales Tax Exemption for Diesel Fuel and Propane Purchased by a Health Care Facility During a declared disaster, diesel fuel and propane purchased by a health care facility will be exempt from sales tax. The Department of Revenue will issue a tax-free letter to licensed health care facilities which must be presented at the time of purchase. (Also listed as #63 under Health Care Facilities and Medical Care)
	Rep. Edwards	Any generator purchased by a healthcare facility will be exempt from sales tax. The facility must present a copy of its state license at the time of purchase. (Also listed as #64 under Health Care Facilities and Medical Care)
89	Rep. Rommel	During a state of emergency, government agencies cannot hold public meetings regarding budgets. Can a mechanism be created that will permit the counties to go back and re-evaluate their budgets, allowing the counties to move dollars into areas of recovery and future storm protection? It would be a protection for resident from counties wanting to raise taxes, as it would just be redirecting dollars to more critical areas.
	Housing	Policy Recommendation
	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Consider prioritizing the expenditure of affordable housing funds on replacing and repairing affordable housing lost or damaged during a disaster.

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		To facilitate reconstruction, develop policy options to expedite permitting processes, and consider extending existing permit deadlines and reducing or waiving permit fees.
		Consider reforms to construction law that will expedite reconstruction, including changes to construction licensing regulations. Also consider changes to the construction lien law to protect homeowners from double paying for construction if the construction is paid directly by the homeowner.
90	Rep. Cortes	Create the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program and the Rental Recovery Loan Program to provide funding for affordable housing recovery efforts to address the impact of hurricanes Irma and Maria on affordable housing stocks. Funds for the programs would be appropriated from the Local Government Housing Trust Fund and the State Housing Trust Fund to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation for purposes of providing funds to eligible entities for affordable housing recovery efforts and assisting with building and rehabilitating affordable rental housing. Guidelines would be established for use of the funds based on the current State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program or State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program requirements.
91	Rep. Lee	Allow Counties and municipalities who have received a FEMA declaration of Individual Assistance to use up to 30% of their SHIP funds to assist in placing residents who have been displaced from their residences.
92	Rep. Raschein	Direct the Department of Economic Opportunity to expedite emergency comprehensive plan approvals with local governments and the Department.
93	Rep. Raschein	Consider ways to lower the cost of affordable housing development and incentivize more units at affordable rents. Potential options include allowing ad valorem exemption for a specified number of years if this can be accomplished while holding the school portion harmless.
94	Rep. Raschein	Identify incentives for local communities to purchase and redevelop trailer parks destroyed in a storm into affordable housing that meets current building codes.
95	Rep. Raschein	Increase available state funding for Monroe County including \$10 million in additional Sadowski funds to match local land authority funds for affordable housing, increased SAIL funding (\$30 million to match with tax credits), \$3 million in housing tax credits to use with SAIL, and FHFC Tax Exempt bonds with 4% tax credits with a goal of building several multi-family rental properties.
96	Rep. Raschein	Provide additional state funding to harden existing homes against disaster. This could include installing hurricane shutters or impact windows, or elevating a home above Base Flood Elevation.
97	Rep. Stevenson	Provide property tax relief or down payment assistance for low income property owners to assist them to get into replacement housing. Too many are staying in damaged homes, especially mobile homes, to avoid homelessness. Some will not come forward as they fear their homes will be condemned.

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		<u>Beaches, Sanitary Sewers, Stormwater, Flooding, and Debris Removal</u>	<u>Policy Recommendation</u>
		Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Evaluate alternative approaches to avoid or reduce flooding, including methods to remove excess water when traditional storm water systems are overwhelmed. Enhanced funding for beach restoration and nourishment to protect property and people.
98	Reps. Eagle and Lee for Rep. Edwards		Establish in the Department of Environmental Protection a statewide voluntary program for advanced domestic wastewater collection system assessment, investment, rehabilitation, and electric power outage mitigation planning. The program would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide regulatory incentives for utilities to implement the program. • Allow financially disadvantaged utilities to apply for grant funds to implement the program. • Allow certified utilities to demonstrate they are making the right investments to protect the public health and environment.
99	Rep. M. Grant		Prohibit tree trimming after a local government has issued a state of emergency (usually 72 hours) or after the National Weather Service has issued a hurricane/tropical storm watch (usually 48 hours). Tree trimmings can become dangerous projectiles if not removed from the curbside.
100	Rep. M. Grant		Discontinue collection service after a local government has issued a state of emergency (usually 72 hours) or after the National Weather Service has issued a hurricane/tropical storm watch (usually 48 hours). Time is needed in order to get our employees off the street so they can prepare for the storm and make sure materials in trucks have time to dispose of items and landfills have time to process.
101	Rep. M. Grant		Roll off containers need to be covered prior to storms. It would be helpful for local governments to place this requirement in building permits.
102	Rep. M. Grant		Prioritization of services post storm, i.e. suspend recycling and yard waste to remove municipal solid waste (MSW) as quickly as possible. Also bulk pick up should be suspended for a period of time after storm.
103	Rep. M. Grant		Create statewide definition for storm debris and yard waste; storm debris and storm vegetation debris is covered by FEMA and regular yard waste is handled by local solid waste collection contracts.
104	Rep. M. Grant		Employees on streets during curfews – create a way for law enforcement to recognize our workers as “second responders” with special signage; making sure they are in uniform with safety vest
105	Rep. M. Grant		DOT – the hours of service limits the overall volume debris removal on a daily basis. An additional hour per day (until the debris is removed) would be helpful.
106	Rep. Raschein		Provide funding to local communities to improve infrastructure for drainage to lessen flood vulnerability.
107	Rep. Raschein		Identify areas where rebuilding after a disaster may be high-risk and consider options for not rebuilding in those areas including the purchase of these properties and using them to create

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		additional open space and natural buffers. Housing would then need to be rebuilt outside of these high-risk zones (V Zone in the Florida Keys).
108	Rep. Stevenson	Give WMD's the authority to authorize additional taking of water from the rivers during high water events. That way some of the water could be turned into an asset instead of a liability and rest ground water supplies.
109	Rep. Stevenson	Fund Grants through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for vulnerability analysis to develop cost feasible mitigation strategies that can be implemented incrementally for vulnerable development areas in partnership with the federal government. Have DEP identify candidates that would most benefit from the studies.
110	Rep. Stevenson	Consider cost effectiveness of establishing policies so new local roads are built so the roadbed is out of the water table or with enhanced drainage or durability. Identify and mitigate vulnerable public roads in low lying areas during major renovations and repairs.
111	Rep. Stevenson	Encourage protection from obstruction of land that is part of a flow way. Flow ways aide in the mitigations for intermittent flooding events and sea level rise. If flow ways are blocked, constrained or obstructed that increases flood risk. Additionally, fund mitigation to enable flood water to flow into and be absorbed into wetland buffers or open spaces.
112	Rep. Stevenson	Limit mitigation of wetlands outside of a county until the basic flow ways within the county have been secured either through mitigation, permanent easements or acquisition. These may already be an element within county or regional greenway plans.
113	Rep. Stevenson	Create a property tax exemption for up to \$50,000 for repeat flood damaged properties with elevated foundation to reduce the tax burden of hardening and redeveloping older properties. This exemption should require hook up to sewer if available or when it becomes available. If the owner refuses to connect, the exemption should be lost. Reconstruction should be required within 5 years to encourage redevelopment of repeat damage areas and to avoid the area to linger and become blighted.
114	Rep. Stevenson	Find ways to encourage or incentivize redevelopment to current building code standards of properties in areas that are experiencing repeat flood damage. Repeat damage properties are often in older development areas (PREFIRM) and are often on septic tanks. Incentives shall include a requirement to hook up to sewer if and when available. The sewer hook up provision should only apply when there is a density in the development area of a minimum density (at least 4 units an acre). These can occur as entire neighborhoods or be isolated homes that are in a vulnerable locations.
115	Rep. Stevenson	Fund match grant programs for SJRWMD to partner with local governments to develop projects to mitigate flood damage to protect properties in vulnerable areas. Enable cities and counties to use MSBU's or MSTU's to pay for the match and enable the benefiting property to fund the required match.

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116	Rep. Stevenson	Set as a high priority to remove lands from the development area that are not cost feasible to defend. This can be achieved through acquisition, TDR, or permanent conservation easements.
117	Rep. Stevenson	Consider long range plans to migrate critical infrastructure, like water/sewer utilities out of flood plains or have them elevated to prevent damage during a flooding event. Establish policies that discourage investment in new facilities in flood plains unless they are elevated to avoid damage from floods and sea level rise.
118	Rep. Stevenson	Require homes in coastal high hazard areas to be connected to sewer if available and enhance the building code to harden the driveway so the home is safely accessible to residents.
119	Rep. Stevenson	Study to determine if high sugar sand bluffs are more vulnerable places to build homes. There are accounts of rapid erosion of these types of bluffs both on the river and the ocean in both areas resulting in jeopardy to private property. Protecting homes built on top of them presents unique challenges. Adjust building code and policies accordingly.
120	Rep. Stevenson	Consider a building code provision that allows breakaway housing in coastal high hazard areas as an alternative to extremely costly housing on massive pilings in certain coastal areas. This type of structure would not be expected to survive a major storm, but would not cause damage to the dune in a high wind/surge event. The structure could then be rebuilt after the storm.
121	Rep. Stevenson	Consider enabling private partnerships where replacement homes are clustered on good land and development is removed from land that cannot be defended. This would enable redevelopment to occur and development areas to be reshaped in a way that is more appropriate for current conditions...creating a win – win for the existing residents, the state and federal government and future tax revenue for local government.
122	Rep. Altman	The State should consider statewide requirements and funding (including federal disaster recovery monies) for high-resolution topographic and coastal bathymetry data to support mission critical activities such as emergency management, flood control, forest and natural resources, agriculture, land, marine, aviation and navigation safety, infrastructure and construction management, and urban and regional planning. This policy recommendation is consistent with the 2017 Florida LiDAR Assessment issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
123	Rep. Edwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a model ordinance which allows for the preservation of historic, specimen and heritage trees. Demonstrate through science how a local government can map out tree canopy replacement. • Utilize existing industry training/ certifications to complement any specific IFAS training for local code enforcement, industry professional and home owners to learn teach proficiency in tree pruning, plant selection and pre/post storm maintenance

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop program to educate appropriate county and municipal staff on sound tree selection for public areas, rights of way and other critical travel routes • Utilize Center for Landscape Conservation & Ecology (CLCE) to compile, distribute and train regarding the information. As a measurable Metric use PIE Public Information and Education (PIE) as a partner of CLCE, to capture retention of information, delivery and implementation <p>The University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) is perfectly suited to develop and implement education/training programs for local governments, tree maintenance professionals and residents. Due to their land grant mission, they have the research, science and the Extension faculty whose purpose is to educate citizens. The CLCE is a part of UF/IFAS.</p> <p>If counties negotiate, in advance and in good faith, how can vendors demand higher payments during a state of emergency? Contracts must be enforced and penalties ensued if vendors cannot or refuse to fulfill their contractual obligations. There should also be time tables established for the removal of debris based on total cubic yards with penalties for services not delivered in a timely fashion.</p>
124	<p>Representative Rommel</p> <p>Policy Recommendation</p> <p>Consider allowing school districts to deduct hurricane days from required days of instruction.</p> <p>Consider providing additional school readiness funding for care when schools are closed.</p> <p>Consider authorizing and funding the school readiness program to temporarily serve additional families in areas where schools are closed for extended periods.</p> <p>Extend testing window period, due to disparate statewide impact on school days / instructional minutes. Especially, due to current mass transfer of students from other hurricane impacted areas.</p> <p>Provide accommodations related to the accountability system due to the loss of instructional days/minutes and acceptance of students from Puerto Rico and other hurricane affected regions.</p> <p>FTE counts should be conducted on a monthly basis for 6 months following declared emergencies. Monthly counts will ensure appropriate credit for population transitions, influx, and registration of students at schools, due to forced relocation of families.</p> <p>Solicit federal funding for unreimbursed operating cost for facilities, social services, counseling services - estimated at \$2,000 per student/family.</p> <p>Authorize breakfast and lunch of all students in affected areas at no cost as authorized and funded through the National Lunch Program - USDA.</p>
	<p>Education</p> <p>Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee</p>
125	<p>Rep. Asencio</p>
126	<p>Rep. Asencio</p>
127	<p>Rep. Asencio</p>
128	<p>Rep. Asencio</p>
129	<p>Rep. Asencio</p>

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138	Rep. Nunez	Provide financial assistance to those counties with inadequate emergency operation centers that are most vulnerable to damage and that require modernization or replacement.
139	Rep. Stevenson	Require internet providers to post service recovery information including their best estimates of the length of power outages. When outages are extended, consider plans for temporary internet services to be brought into the area. Most businesses can operate with a generator, but not without internet. For many businesses no internet means no phone service as well. We need them up and operating so they can help their communities recover.
140	Rep. Stevenson	Reinvigorate volunteers to assist with hurricane relief efforts and promote understanding of storm preparation and response. As a growing state this must be a continuous effort. Establish lines of communication with people in the business community who might be called on to assist in dealing with the unexpected.
141	Rep. Rommel	A plan should be developed that provides for the cellular companies to push information through texting and/or amber type alerts. Frequent radio updates would also be helpful.

Appendix 7: New and Revised Member Recommendations

	Evacuation	Original Policy Recommendation	Revised or New Policy Recommendation
8a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Update behavior studies for hurricane evacuations. We have not updated these studies since before Mathew and Hermine, and now we have significantly more data and information.	Fund a statewide statistically valid behavioral analysis for use by the state, regions and local governments in planning for and undertaking evacuations.
9a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Provide an education program for residents and businesses on their obligation to have an emergency plan. Inform and encourage the consideration of shorter evacuations to safe shelter options in county. Encourage people in non-evacuation zones with suitably constructed and prepared homes to plan to invite friends who need to evacuate to shelter with them. Encourage communities as part of their preparation to help neighbors install hurricane shutters.	In community education efforts for emergency preparedness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emphasize the effectiveness of shorter evacuation options • note the opportunity for people in non-evacuation zones to share their suitably constructed and prepared homes with family and friends in need of shelter • encourage communities as part of their preparation to help neighbors with their preparation including the installation of hurricane shutters
161 New	Rep. Eagle		Use passenger rail to help evacuate citizens.
		Policy Recommendation	Revised or New Policy Recommendation
19a Revised	Energy: Electric Utilities and Petroleum Rep. Stevenson	Establish a communication network with tanker carriers who carry fuel so they can be part of the solution to move fuel if needed.	Recommend a review and development of communication protocols by state and local emergency response centers to provide a method to communicate with drivers distributing fuel and other emergency cargo from our seaports.
20a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Identify and relieve choke points in fuel supply chain.	Recommend a review and development of communication protocols by state and local emergency response centers to provide a method to communicate with drivers distributing fuel and other emergency cargo from our seaports.
21a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Request a change in dates for the crossover of seasonal fuel for Florida to alleviate low point in fuel inventory in tanks that occur during hurricane season.	Request a change in dates for the crossover of seasonal fuel for Florida to alleviate the low point in fuel inventory in tanks that occurs during Hurricane Season. This was a point brought up during David Mica's presentation.
22a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	In light of this event and the lengthy power outage, consider if we need to have 5 days of supplies. Inform residents that if they are supposed to evacuate and choose to stay in place, that their need for supplies may be greater and they could experience greater than average delays for restoring power so they can properly prepare.	Withdraw this recommendation.

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23a Revised	Rep. Trumbull	<p>Based on testimony received by the committee, it appears that there is not consistent communication and cooperation among local emergency management officials and electric utilities statewide in relation to restoration of critical facilities. Develop processes that ensure greater communication and cooperation between electric utilities and local emergency management officials to provide for the efficient restoration of electric service to critical facilities identified by local emergency management officials.</p>	<p>Based on testimony received by the committee, it appears that there is not consistent communication and cooperation among local emergency management officials and electric utilities statewide in relation to the identification and restoration of critical facilities.</p> <p>This recommendation is to develop processes that ensure greater communication and cooperation between electric utilities and local emergency management officials to provide for the efficient restoration of electric service to facilities identified by the utilities and local emergency management officials as critical to the public health, safety, welfare, and security, which may include: emergency management and law enforcement facilities; health care facilities; shelters; critical utility, transportation, communications, government, and military infrastructure; and providers of essential goods and services.</p>
26a Revised	Rep. Trumbull	<p>Develop alternatives to address potential fuel shortage and distribution issues resulting from the high fuel demand created by storm preparation, evacuation, evacuee return, and storm recovery.</p>	<p>Storm preparation, evacuation, evacuee return, and storm recovery place stresses on fuel supplies and distribution throughout the state. This recommendation is to direct the Department of Transportation to contract for an independent evaluation of the feasibility of establishing strategically located petroleum distribution centers to alleviate storm-related impacts on fuel supply and distribution throughout the state.</p>
142 New	Rep. Eagle		<p>It is in the public interest to ensure that railroads in Strategic Intermodal System corridors are able to quickly resume operations following a hurricane event in order to deliver critical fuel supplies, bulk liquids such as chlorine for water treatment plants, building materials and other relief supplies to affected areas of the state. Further, wide-spread power outages often require substantial law enforcement resources to handle traffic duties at highway-railroad crossings when gates and signals are not operating, resources that can be deployed elsewhere to address other critical public safety duties.</p> <p>Create under the Florida Department of Transportation a category of direct appropriations for the purpose of purchasing and deploying</p>

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			emergency generators at highway-railroad crossings at Principal Arterial, Minor Arterial, and Major Collector roads as defined by the department for powering highway-railroad Crossing gates, signals and traffic safety warning devices to protect the public from railroad traffic operating on Florida Strategic Intermodal System rail corridors.
			<u>Revised or New Policy Recommendation</u>
	Shelters and Vulnerable Populations	<u>Policy Recommendation</u>	Fund the construction of new facilities for people with special needs to shelter standards in areas where special needs shelter space is deficient. In this way the facilities will serve double duty, meeting the needs of the community for capacity to deliver services and for shelter in the event of an emergency.
42a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Fund and build new facilities for people with special needs to shelter standards in areas that are shelter deficient. In this way the facilities can do double duty by providing capacity for daily use and shelter during emergencies.	
44a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Require that people who are under contract to care for groups of vulnerable or people with special needs to provide staff to meet the needs of their residents if they go to a public shelter even as a last resort. Dropping of vulnerable people by the bus load should result in significant penalties and consequences.	Require organizations under contract to care for groups of vulnerable individual, including people with special needs, to provide staff to assist in the care of their clients if they need to go to a public shelter, even as a last resort. Dropping off vulnerable residents by the busload to public shelters without support staff creates an unmanageable burden for emergency managers. Doing so should result in significant consequences.
45a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Inform people what they should bring to shelters.	Withdraw this recommendation.
46a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Have a bi-annual planning day for evacuation and shelter in place scenarios impacting nursing homes, hospitals and other vulnerable users.	Require bi-annual training day for evacuation and shelter in place scenarios impacting nursing homes, hospitals and other institutions that shelter vulnerable residents so they can test their plans. Consider having the Regional Planning Councils or other organization design the scenario to test emergency plans.
143 New	Rep. Burgess		<p>Create a single statewide special needs shelter registration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require all counties to use it. • Get county input on the data collected for the registration form, so no additional local process is needed – maybe convene a work group. • Maintain registrations in a single statewide database accessible to all county EOCs and the state EOC.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all counties to post the eligibility criteria and registration process – including a link to the statewide registration form - on their websites. <p>Counties would continue to set shelter eligibility/exclusions to suit local capacity.</p>
<p>144 New</p>	<p>Rep. Burgess</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require hospitals to shelter people excluded from shelters for medical reasons. This assumes a statewide special needs shelter registration process, so hospitals can estimate the number of people who will shelter. Require counties to review each shelter registration to pre-determine a need for hospital sheltering, identify the appropriate sheltering hospital, and communicate that to the registrant. Require counties to establish MOUs with qualifying hospitals to shelter people, and share registrant data with them.
<p>145 New</p>	<p>Rep. Burgess</p>	<p>To address special needs shelter registration and staffing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require licensed or contracted entities that provide home health or home and community based services (home health agencies, nurse registries, APD group homes and support coordinators, and Medicaid MCOs) to work with clients to develop individual emergency plans, updated annually, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evacuation shelter selection; documented shelter registration; and a plan for staffing the client in the shelter. Require such licensees/contractors to staff clients or groups of clients in shelters. Require APD to determine and communicate before storm impact whether DD requirements will be waived for staffing in shelters (or other settings, such as group homes taking in other clients temporarily). Authorize state employees with clinical roles (nurses, certified behavior analysts, etc.) to work in shelters.

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	Health Care Facilities and Medical Care	Policy Recommendation	Revised or New Policy Recommendation
55a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Allow nursing homes to submit a plan to shelter in place to be considered by AHCA instead of the local governments. AHCA is better equipped to make calls on the medical risk of evacuation and the ability of the medical staff to care for the patients potentially isolated and staying in place.	If nursing homes are allowed to have a partial or nuanced evacuation as referred to in recommendation #6 by Kathryn Hyer, the Director of the Center on Aging at USF, there needs to be support for the medical considerations of the plan-including consideration of the medical needs of residents if the nursing facility is not accessible by roadway during the emergency event, an evaluation of the elevation and soundness of the facility to provide shelter during a storm and consideration of the proximity and availability of dedicated emergency shelter capacity if conditions worsen and full evacuation becomes necessary. Consider performance and design of similar partial evacuation plans utilized in any other states for vulnerable populations.
56a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Require facilities to share with families their emergency plans and how they can contact their loved ones after the storm.	Require residential facilities that shelter vulnerable users to share their emergency plans with the resident's family and to have a communication plan in place to establish post-event contact so families know the condition and location of their family member.
57a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Encourage counties to make more refined evacuation plans for ALFs & nursing homes that take into consideration their elevation and construction of the facility and proximity to their dedicated shelter.	Withdraw this recommendation.
58a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	To avoid unnecessary evacuations, nursing homes and others responsible for shelter of vulnerable populations should work on plans that enable them to evacuate 50 to 100 miles away at the maximum.	To avoid unnecessary evacuations, nursing homes and others responsible for shelter of vulnerable populations should work on plans that enable them to evacuate 50 to 100 miles away where possible.
59a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Require Nursing homes and hospitals to not be built in certain flood plain unless they include category 5 shelter areas to support their occupancy capacity to shelter in place. The shelter provision could also be satisfied through ownership or an enduring contractual obligation of a shelter facility outside of the flood zone reserved for their exclusive use in a hurricane within 50 miles of their facility.	Require nursing homes, hospitals and ALFs to not be built in certain flood plans unless they include category 5 shelter areas to support their occupancy capacity for their residents and support staff. The shelter provision could also be satisfied through ownership or an enduring contractual relationship of a shelter facility outside of the flood zone, but within 50 miles of their facility, reserved for their exclusive use in the event of an emergency.
146 New	Rep. Asencio		Create an at risk registry to identify and assist in the evacuation of vulnerable individuals and patients from patient care facilities, like

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<p>147 New</p>	<p>Rep. Asencio</p>	<p>nursing homes and ALFs. The registry is to be under the purview of the Florida Department of Health, or designate agency. Create an industry member panel to review and approve emergency plans for nursing homes, adult and/or patient care facilities. Review and approval of plans will meet best practice industry standards, federal, state, county, and municipal (if applicable) standards, codes, ordinances, law. The panel will consist of representatives from the industry in Florida and will serve as an initial review panel for completed plans to be submitted to AHCA and county emergency management directors where located for final approval. The panel will serve to improve and streamline the assurance of real time functional plans to maximize patient safety and care during emergencies.</p>
<p>148 New</p>	<p>Reps. Rodrigues and Sprowls</p>	<p>To address review and approval of facility Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require counties to submit an annual report to AHCA/DOEA on approval requests, approved Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans and timelines. • Require facilities to submit plans to the county for approval within 90 days after licensure, and notify AHCA/DOEA when plans are submitted and when approved. • Require APD approval of all its clients' plans (including those not in group homes).
<p>149 New</p>	<p>Reps. Rodrigues and Sprowls</p>	<p>To address the quality of facility Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require more specific elements to be covered in emergency plans, including specific plans for hardening and contact information, and which staff is obligated to take what actions on what pre-storm and post-storm timelines. • Require facilities to conduct annual staff training within 2 months prior to hurricane season on the policies and procedures for implementing the emergency plan, and conduct facility-wide evacuation drills at least annually. • Increase licensure inspection quality to assess compliance and the ability to implement plans.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply these standards to developmental disability group homes, too.
150 New	Reps. Rodrigues and Sprowls		<p>To address facility staffing during emergencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require emergency plans to specifically address how the facility will maintain staffing, including accommodating staff families during evacuation, etc. Create a list of essential personnel with authority to move about during curfews and obligate state and local curfew orders to exempt them.
151 New	Reps. Rodrigues and Sprowls		<p>To improve the ESF-8 data reporting system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the reporting system in statute. Require AHCA to create the system, in consultation with DOH, DOE, APD and any other relevant party; transfer funds from DOH to AHCA. Add generator information (whether the facility has a generator, fuel type, burn rate, etc.) in Florida Health Stat (the ESF-8 facility reporting system) for nursing homes, hospitals, ALFs, hospices.
152 New	Rep. Nuñez		<p>Explore onsite options for ensuring continuity of care for dialysis patients in nursing homes during a disaster.</p>
	<u>Agriculture</u>		<u>Policy Recommendation</u>
	<u>Future Hurricane Expenditures and Tax Relief</u>		<u>Revised or New Policy Recommendation</u>
87a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	<p>Provide property tax relief to people who were unable to live in their home for more than 6 months in 2016 or 2017 as a result of the impacts of Mathew, Hermine or Irma. This was proposed last year and has been done in the past. This is especially advantageous to people who live in manufactured homes which have very limited insurability. By giving them this tax relief, many would be able to afford the downpayment on a new home or deposits to help them get into a stable rental property.</p>	<p>Provide property tax relief to people who were unable to live in their home for more than 6 months in 2016 or 2017 as a result of the impacts of Matthew, Hermine, or Irma. This has been done in the past and is advantageous to people who live in manufactured homes which have very limited insurability. The funds from this tax rebate would help individuals and families stabilize and recover.</p>
153 New	Rep. Nuñez		<p>Create a disaster preparedness tax holiday.</p>
	<u>Housing</u>		<u>Revised or New Policy Recommendation</u>

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97a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Provide property tax relief or down payment assistance for low income property owners to assist them to get into replacement housing. Too many are staying in damaged homes, especially mobile homes, to avoid homelessness. Some will not come forward as they fear their homes will be condemned.	Withdraw this recommendation.
154 New	Rep. Raschein		<p>Disaster Housing Solution – A Pilot Housing Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project would utilize federal CDBG funds to provide 30 affordable, immediate, and resilient temporary or permanent housing within Monroe County Emergency Care Help Organization would be the entity charged with building/delivering the homes under the pilot project They are requesting \$2,850,000 in state funds for this project
<u>Policy Recommendation</u>			
99a Revised	Beaches, Sanitary Sewers, Stormwater, Flooding, and Debris Removal Rep. M. Grant	Prohibit tree trimming after a local government has issued a state of emergency (usually 72 hours) or after the National Weather Service has issued a hurricane/tropical storm watch (usually 48 hours). Tree trimmings can become dangerous projectiles if not removed from the curbside.	Revised or New Policy Recommendation Prohibit tree trimming and discontinue non-containerized yard waste collection service 72 hours prior to hurricane after a local government has issued a state of emergency (usually 72 hours) or after the National Weather Service has issued a hurricane/tropical storm watch (usually 48 hours). Tree trimmings can become dangerous projectiles if not removed from the curbside.
100a Revised	Rep. M. Grant	Discontinue collection service after a local government has issued a state of emergency (usually 72 hours) or after the National Weather Service has issued a hurricane/tropical storm watch (usually 48 hours). Time is needed in order to get our employees off the street so they can prepare for the storm and make sure materials in trucks have time to dispose of items and landfills have time to process.	Discontinue collection service 48 hours prior to hurricane/tropical storm after a local government has issued a state of emergency (usually 72 hours) or after the National Weather Service has issued a hurricane/tropical storm watch (usually 48 hours). Time is needed in order to get our employees off the street so they can prepare for the storm and make sure materials in trucks have time to dispose of items and landfills have time to process.
109a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Fund Grants through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for vulnerability analysis to develop cost feasible mitigation strategies that can be implemented incrementally for vulnerable development areas in partnership with the federal government. Have DEP identify candidates that would most benefit from the studies.	Encourage coastal communities to develop storm damage recovery plans to address coastal emergencies along Florida's critically eroded beaches and develop cost effective mitigation strategies, supported and with the guidance of The Department of Environmental Protection and state matching grants.

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110a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	<p>Consider cost effectiveness of establishing policies so new local roads are built so the roadbed is out of the water table or with enhanced drainage or durability. Identify and mitigate vulnerable public roads in low-lying areas during major renovations and repairs.</p>	<p>Withdraw this recommendation.</p>
111a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	<p>Encourage protection from obstruction of land that is part of a flow-way. Flow ways aide in the mitigations for intermittent flooding events and sea level rise. If flow ways are blocked, constrained or obstructed that increases flood risk. Additionally, fund mitigation to enable flood water to flow into and be absorbed into wetland buffers or open spaces.</p>	<p>Withdraw this recommendation.</p>
112a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	<p>Limit mitigation of wetlands outside of a county until the basic flow ways within the county have been secured either through mitigation, permanent easements or acquisition. These may already be an element within county or regional greenway plans.</p>	<p>Invest in plans that cost effectively mitigate flood risks to developed areas including protection of greenways and blueways that act as flow ways or provide temporary storage during high water events.</p>
113a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	<p>Create a property tax exemption for up to \$50,000 for repeat flood damaged properties with elevated foundation to reduce the tax burden of hardening and redeveloping older properties. This exemption should require hook up to sewer if available or when it becomes available. If the owner refuses to connect, the exemption should be lost. Reconstruction should be required within 5 years to encourage redevelopment of repeat damage areas and to avoid the area to linger and become blighted.</p>	<p>Create a property tax exemption for up to \$50,000 for repeat flood damage that have rebuilt to current code and elevated their foundation. Reducing the tax burden for hardening and redeveloping older properties will encourage redevelopment. To discourage blight and uncertainty, this exemption should be available for 3 to 5 years from the storm date. The credit should be contingent on connecting to sewer services if and when available.</p>
114a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	<p>Find ways to encourage or incentivize redevelopment to current building code standards of properties in areas that are experiencing repeat flood damage. Repeat damage properties are often in older development areas (PREIRM) and are often on septic tanks. Incentives shall include a requirement to hook up to sewer if and when available. The sewer hook up provision should only apply when there is a density in the development area of a minimum density (at least 4 units an acre). These can occur as entire neighborhoods or be isolated homes that are in a vulnerable locations.</p>	<p>Withdraw this recommendation.</p>
115a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	<p>Fund match grant programs for SJRWMD to partner with local governments to develop projects to mitigate flood damage to protect properties in vulnerable areas. Enable cities and counties to use MSBU's or MSTU's to pay for the match and enable the benefiting property to fund the required match.</p>	<p>State matching funds associated with Hurricane Irma for beach recovery should be given to 1) severely impacted beach management projects that leverage substantial federal cost sharing and/or local match; and 2) feasibility studies, design and construction of new projects or other erosion control alternatives for critically-eroded segments of beach that are not part of an existing solution, the statewide program and have a committed local sponsor.</p>

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116a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Set as a high priority to remove lands from the development area that are not cost feasible to defend. This can be achieved through acquisition ,TDR, or permanent conservation easements.	Pursue willing post-storm acquisition opportunities, through existing state programs, of severely impacted properties, to prevent inappropriate redevelopment on critically-eroded beaches. Existing supporting policies and acquisition programs include Sec. 161.161 Beach and Shore Preservation, Sec. 259.105 Florida Forever, and Sec. 380.508 Florida Communities Trust.
117a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Consider long range plans to migrate critical infrastructure, like water/sewer utilities out of flood plains or have them elevated to prevent damage during a flooding event. Establish policies that discourage investment in new facilities in flood plains unless they are elevated to avoid damage from floods and sea level rise.	Consider long range plans to migrate critical infrastructure, like water and sewer treatment plants out of flood plains or have them hardened to prevent damage during a flood event. Establish policies to discourage investmet in new facilities in flood plains unless they are hardened to avoid damage from floods.
119a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Study to determine if high sugar sand bluffs are more vulnerable places to build homes. There are accounts of rapid erosion of these types of bluffs both on the river and the ocean in both areas resulting in jeopardy to private property. Protecting homes built on top of them presents unique challenges. Adjust building code and policies accordingly.	Withdraw this recommendation.
120a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Consider a building code provision that allows breakaway housing in coastal high hazard areas as an alternative to extremely costly housing on massive pilings in certain coastal areas. This type of structure would not be expected to survive a major storm, but would not cause damage to the dune in a high wind/surge event. The structure could then be rebuilt after the storm.	Withdraw this recommendation.
121a Revised	Rep. Stevenson	Consider enabling private partnerships where replacement homes are clustered on good land and development is removed from land that cannot be defended. This would enable redevelopment to occur and development areas to be reshaped in a way that is more appropriate for current conditions...creating a win-win for the existing residents, the state and federal government and future tax revenue for local government.	Withdraw this recommendation.
155 New	Reps. Rodrigues, Porter, Byrd		Produce a complete and accurate 3D map of the state for use in numerous emergency management and infrastructure planning applications. Current coverage is sporadic, outdated, and of varying quality--making it unusable for the vast majority of applications. Funding a statewide lidar mapping program will achieve economies of scale that reduce acquisition costs by approximately 25% or \$5 million. It will also make the program eligible for federal fund matching by the USGS (typically 30%).

Appendix 7: New and Revised Member Recommendations

	Policy Recommendation	Revised or New Policy Recommendation
<p>156 New</p> <p>Education Rep. La Rosa</p>		<p>Following the devastation of Hurricane Maria to the US Territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, Governor Scott has made multiple provisions to best prepare the State of Florida in anticipation of numerous evacuees fleeing to Florida, both on a temporary and permanent basis. One of the major impacts that were anticipated was to our schools across the state of Florida. With urgent requests from multiple legislative members in areas most likely to feel the greatest impact, the Governor enacted additional student count surveys throughout the year to most accurately account for funding to schools absorbing the increased enrollment across the state to Florida. Each of the additional surveys has accounted a greater impact to some school districts, but the survey requires a 5% increase in population threshold to be met from the last original survey before any additional funding for those students is received.</p> <p>REQUEST: The request of the committee is to remove the 5% threshold and supply additional financial resources necessary to back fill the disproportionate funding that would be created to school districts being greatly impacted with higher percentages of increased enrollment. A special consideration should be paid to current high growth districts who have student facility challenges and no option to redistrict or temporarily move students within the district.</p>
<p>139a Revised</p> <p>Miscellaneous Rep. Stevenson</p>	<p>Policy Recommendation Require internet providers to post service recovery information including their best estimates of the length of power outages. When outages are extended, consider plans for temporary internet services to be brought into the area. Most businesses can operate with a generator, but not without internet. For many businesses no internet means no phone service as well. We need them up and operating so they can help their communities recover.</p>	<p>Revised or New Policy Recommendation Withdraw this recommendation.</p>
<p>140a Revised</p> <p>Rep. Stevenson</p>	<p>Reinvigorate volunteers to assist with hurricane relief efforts and promote understanding of storm preparation and response. As a growing state this</p>	<p>Reinvigorate volunteers to assist with disaster relief efforts and promote understanding of emergency preparation and response.</p>

Appendix 7: New and Revised Member Recommendations

157 New	Rep Davis	must be a continuous effort. Establish lines of communication with people in the business community who might be called on to assist in dealing with the unexpected.	Establish lines of communication with people in the business community who might be called on locally to assist in dealing with unexpected circumstances that arise during emergencies.
158 New	Rep. Cortes		Require that mobile phone users be included in the emergency notification system established by the Division of Emergency Management but be permitted to opt-out of notification upon request to the division. In the event a state of emergency is declared by the Governor of the State of Florida, legally authorized persons, acting on behalf of a decedent may authorize licensed funeral directors to perform cremations prior to receipt of the death certificate only if all reasonable efforts have been made to transmit the electronic request for a death certificate to the Department of Health Office of Vital Statistics.
159 New	Rep. Renner		Prior to performing the cremation, the funeral director must notify the legally authorized person that they are waiving their right to review the official death certificate. Any party that is involved in signing or documenting information within the death certificate must immediately transmit the death certificate once electricity and internet service has been restored even if the state of emergency is still in place. Create within the Division of Emergency Management a real-time tracking system for all post-disaster requests for aid or reimbursement. The system should provide easy, online access for the public, but, at minimum, provide detailed information for any individual or entity making application for assistance or reimbursement and provide the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on the proper form for submission of an application for assistance • Date the application was received and any claim number assigned • Any deficiencies in the form of the application that need correction before processing

Appendix 7: New and Revised Member Recommendations

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current person/agency where the application is pending for review or approval and date it was received by that reviewer/approving authority • A good faith estimated completion date on which action will be taken by the current reviewer/approving authority • An “approval flow chart” listing the next review/approval steps and the respective agencies responsible • Date of approval (obligation of funds) and projected date for receipt of payment • Immediate notification to an applicant for any requests for additional information <p>The program should also include sufficient data analytics to assess and report average wait times for all applications at each stage of the review/approval process by each agency so delays can be identified and corrected. If possible, the data analytics should also assist the reviewer/approver to identify any potentially fraudulent or inflated claims, as well as potential deficiencies in applications that may create delays for review/approval. Finally, data analytics should provide DEM with information to assist it and other governmental agencies to improve their own processes in hurricane recovery, as it relates to expense reimbursement and disaster assistance.</p>
<p>160 New</p>	<p>Rep. Raschein</p>	<p>Key Colony Beach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Colony Beach suffered severe storm surge and would like to request state assistance in rebuilding their City Hall • Their cost for this will be \$3,900,000 • They are asking that the State provide \$2,000,000 (approximately 50%)

