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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to certification of 911 public safety
3 telecommunicators; amending s. 401.465, F.S.; revising
4 the definition of the term "911 public safety
5 telecommunicator" to exclude certain law enforcement
6 officers; revising requirements for certification of
7 911 public safety telecommunicators; providing
8 conditions under which the requirement for completion
9 of a public safety telecommunication training program
10 may be waived for certain law enforcement officers;
11 providing for exemption from the examination fee;
12 providing an effective date.

13
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15
16 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and paragraphs
17 (d) and (j) of subsection (2) of section 401.465, Florida
18 Statutes, are amended, paragraph (k) of subsection (2) is
19 redesignated as paragraph (l), and a new paragraph (k) is added
20 to subsection (2) of that section, to read:

21 401.465 911 public safety telecommunicator certification.—

22 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

23 (a) "911 public safety telecommunicator" means a public
24 safety dispatcher or 911 operator whose duties and
25 responsibilities include the answering, receiving, transferring,
26 and dispatching functions related to 911 calls; dispatching law
27 enforcement officers, fire rescue services, emergency medical
28 services, and other public safety services to the scene of an

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29 emergency; providing real-time information from federal, state,
30 and local crime databases; or supervising or serving as the
31 command officer to a person or persons having such duties and
32 responsibilities. However, the term does not include
33 administrative support personnel, including, but not limited to,
34 those whose primary duties and responsibilities are in
35 accounting, purchasing, legal, and personnel, or sworn state-
36 certified law enforcement officers selected by their chief
37 executive to perform on an occasional or limited basis as a
38 public safety telecommunicator.

39 (2) PERSONNEL; STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION.—

40 (d) The department shall determine whether the applicant
41 meets the requirements specified in this section and in rules of
42 the department and shall issue a certificate to any person who
43 meets such requirements. Such requirements must include the
44 following:

45 1. Completion of an appropriate 911 public safety
46 telecommunication training program;

47 2. Certification under oath that the applicant is not
48 addicted to alcohol or any controlled substance;

49 3. Certification under oath that the applicant is free
50 from any physical or mental defect or disease that might impair
51 the applicant's ability to perform his or her duties;

52 4. Submission of the application fee prescribed in
53 subsection (3);

54 5. Submission of a completed application to the department
55 which indicates compliance with subparagraphs 1., 2., and 3.;

56 and

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57 6. Effective October 1, 2012, passage of an examination
58 approved ~~administered~~ by the department which measures the
59 applicant's competency and proficiency in the subject material
60 of the public safety telecommunication training program.

61 (j) If a person was employed as a 911 public safety
62 telecommunicator, ~~a sworn state-certified law enforcement~~
63 ~~officer~~, or a state-certified firefighter before April 1, 2012,
64 he or she must pass the examination administered by the
65 department which measures the competency and proficiency in the
66 subject material of the public safety telecommunication program,
67 as defined in paragraph (1) (c). Upon passage of the examination,
68 the completion of the public safety telecommunication training
69 program shall be waived.

70 (k)1. The requirement for completion of a public safety
71 telecommunication training program is waived for a person
72 employed as a sworn state-certified law enforcement officer
73 selected by his or her chief executive to perform on an
74 occasional or limited basis as a public safety telecommunicator
75 if the person passes the department-approved examination that
76 measures the competency and proficiency of an applicant in the
77 subject material comprising the public safety telecommunication
78 program.

79 2. A sworn state-certified law enforcement officer who
80 fails an examination taken under subparagraph 1. must take a
81 department-approved public safety telecommunication training
82 program prior to retaking the examination.

83 3. The testing required under this paragraph is exempt
84 from the examination fee required under subsection (3).

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Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.