

22 Section 7. Section [553.841](#), Florida Statutes, is  
23 amended to read:

24 [553.841](#) Building code compliance and mitigation  
25 program education and outreach program.--

26 (1) The Legislature finds that knowledge and  
27 understanding by persons licensed in the design and  
28 construction industries of the importance and need for  
29 complying with the Florida Building Code is vital to the  
30 public health, safety, and welfare of this state, especially  
31 for mitigating damage caused by hurricanes to residents and

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1 visitors to the state. The Legislature further finds that the  
2 Florida Building Code can be effective only if all  
3 participants in the design and construction industries  
4 maintain a thorough knowledge of the code and additions  
5 thereto which improve construction standards to protect  
6 against storm and other damage. Consequently, the Legislature  
7 finds that there is a need for a program to provide ongoing  
8 education and outreach activities concerning compliance with  
9 the Florida Building Code and hurricane mitigation ~~the~~  
10 ~~effectiveness of the building codes of this state depends on~~  
11 ~~the performance of all participants, as demonstrated through~~  
12 ~~knowledge of the codes and commitment to compliance with code~~

13 ~~directives, and that to strengthen compliance by industry and~~  
14 ~~enforcement by government, a building code education and~~  
15 ~~outreach program is needed.~~

16           (2) The Department of Community Affairs shall  
17 administer a program, designated as the Florida Building Code  
18 Compliance and Mitigation Program, to develop, coordinate, and  
19 maintain education and outreach to persons required to comply  
20 with the Florida Building Code and ensure consistent  
21 education, training, and communication of the code's  
22 requirements, including, but not limited to, methods for  
23 mitigation of storm-related damage. The program shall also  
24 operate a clearinghouse through which design, construction,  
25 and building code enforcement licensees, suppliers, and  
26 consumers in this state may find others in order to exchange  
27 information relating to mitigation and facilitate repairs in  
28 the aftermath of a natural disaster. ~~There is created the~~  
29 ~~Building Code Education and Outreach Council to coordinate,~~  
30 ~~develop, and maintain education and outreach to ensure~~  
31 ~~administration and enforcement of the Florida Building Code.~~

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1           (3) All services and materials under the Florida  
2 Building Code Compliance and Mitigation Program must be

3 provided by a private, nonprofit corporation under contract  
4 with the department. The term of the contract shall be for 4  
5 years, with the option of one 4-year renewal at the end of the  
6 contract term. The initial contract must be in effect no later  
7 than November 1, 2007. The private, nonprofit corporation must  
8 be an organization whose membership includes trade and  
9 professional organizations whose members consist primarily of  
10 persons and entities that are required to comply with the  
11 Florida Building Code and that are licensed under part XII of  
12 chapter 468, chapter 471, chapter 481, or chapter 489. When  
13 selecting the private, nonprofit corporation for the program,  
14 the department must give primary consideration to the  
15 corporation's demonstrated experience and the ability to:

16 (a) Develop and deliver building code-related  
17 education, training, and outreach;

18 (b) Directly access the majority of persons licensed  
19 in the occupations of design, construction, and building code  
20 enforcement individually and through established statewide  
21 trade and professional association networks;

22 (c) Serve as a clearinghouse to deliver education and  
23 outreach throughout the state. The clearinghouse must serve as  
24 a focal point at which persons licensed to design, construct,  
25 and enforce building codes and suppliers and consumers can  
26 find each other in order to exchange information relating to  
27 mitigation and facilitate repairs in the aftermath of a  
28 natural disaster;

29 (d) Accept input from the Florida Building Commission,  
30 licensing regulatory boards, local building departments, and

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1 the design and construction industries in order to improve its  
2 education and outreach programs; and

3 (e) Promote design and construction techniques and  
4 materials for mitigating hurricane damage at a Florida-based  
5 trade conference that includes participants from the broadest  
6 possible range of design and construction trades and  
7 professions, including from those private and public-sector  
8 entities having jurisdiction over building codes and design  
9 and construction licensure. ~~The Building Code Education and~~  
10 ~~Outreach Council shall be composed of the following members:~~

11 ~~(a) Three representatives of the Florida Building~~  
12 ~~Commission, one of whom must be a member of a Florida based~~  
13 ~~organization of persons with disabilities or a nationally~~  
14 ~~chartered organization of persons with disabilities having~~  
15 ~~chapters in this state, selected by the commission;~~

16 ~~(b) One representative of the Florida Building Code~~  
17 ~~Administrators and Inspectors Board, selected by that board;~~

18 ~~(c) One representative of the Construction Industry~~  
19 ~~Licensing Board, selected by that board;~~

20 ~~(d) One representative of the Electrical Contractors'~~  
21 ~~Licensing Board, selected by that board;~~

22           ~~(e) One representative of the Florida Board of~~  
23 ~~Professional Engineers, selected by that board;~~  
24           ~~(f) One architect representative of the Board of~~  
25 ~~Architecture and Interior Design, selected by that board;~~  
26           ~~(g) One interior designer representative of the Board~~  
27 ~~of Architecture and Interior Design, selected by that board;~~  
28           ~~(h) One representative of the Board of Landscape~~  
29 ~~Architecture, selected by that board;~~  
30           ~~(i) One representative from the office of the State~~  
31 ~~Fire Marshal, selected by that office; and~~

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1           ~~(j) One representative with experience and expertise~~  
2 ~~in K-12 public school construction.~~  
3  
4 ~~Each member of the board shall be appointed to a 2 year term~~  
5 ~~and may be reappointed at the discretion of the appointing~~  
6 ~~body. A chair shall be elected by majority vote of the council~~  
7 ~~and shall serve a term of 1 year.~~  
8           ~~(4) The Building Code Education and Outreach Council~~  
9 ~~shall meet in Tallahassee no more than semiannually. The~~  
10 ~~council may meet more often but not more than monthly, and~~  
11 ~~such additional meetings shall be by telephone conference~~  
12 ~~call. Travel costs, if any, shall be borne by the respective~~

13 ~~appointing entity. The Department of Community Affairs shall~~  
14 ~~provide administrative support to the council; however, the~~  
15 ~~department may contract with an entity that has previous~~  
16 ~~experience with building code training, development, and~~  
17 ~~coordination to provide administrative support for the~~  
18 ~~council.~~

19 ~~(5) The Building Code Education and Outreach Council~~  
20 ~~shall:~~

21 ~~(a) Consider and determine any policies or procedures~~  
22 ~~needed to administer ss. 489.109(3) and 489.509(3).~~

23 ~~(b) Administer the provisions of this section.~~

24 ~~(c) Determine the areas of priority for which funds~~  
25 ~~should be expended for education and outreach.~~

26 ~~(d) Review all proposed subjects for advanced courses~~  
27 ~~concerning the Florida Building Code and recommend to the~~  
28 ~~commission any related subjects that should be approved for~~  
29 ~~advanced courses.~~

30 ~~(4)(6)~~ The department, in administering the Florida  
31 Building Code Compliance and Mitigation Program, Building Code

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1 ~~Education and Outreach Council~~ shall maintain, update,

2 develop, or cause to be developed:

3           (a) A core curriculum that is prerequisite to the  
4 advanced module coursework.

5           (b) Advanced modules designed for use by each  
6 profession.

7           (c) The core curriculum developed under this  
8 subsection must be ~~approved by the commission and~~ submitted to  
9 the Department of Business and Professional Regulation for  
10 approval. Advanced modules developed under this paragraph must  
11 be approved by the commission and submitted to the respective  
12 boards for approval.

13           ~~(5)(7)~~ The core curriculum shall cover the information  
14 required to have all categories of participants appropriately  
15 informed as to their technical and administrative  
16 responsibilities in the effective execution of the code  
17 process by all individuals currently licensed under part XII  
18 of chapter 468, chapter 471, chapter 481, or chapter 489,  
19 except as otherwise provided in s. [471.017](#). The core  
20 curriculum shall be prerequisite to the advanced module  
21 coursework for all licensees and shall be completed by  
22 individuals licensed in all categories under part XII of  
23 chapter 468, chapter 471, chapter 481, or chapter 489 within  
24 the first 2-year period after initial licensure. Core course  
25 hours taken by licensees to complete this requirement shall  
26 count toward fulfillment of required continuing education  
27 units under part XII of chapter 468, chapter 471, chapter 481,  
28 or chapter 489.

29           ~~(6)(8)~~ Each biennium, upon receipt of funds by the  
30 Department of Community Affairs from the Construction Industry  
31 Licensing Board and the Electrical Contractors' Licensing

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1 Board provided under ss. 489.109(3) and 489.509(3), the  
2 department council shall determine the amount of funds  
3 available for the Florida Building Code Compliance and  
4 Mitigation Program ~~education and outreach projects from the~~  
5 ~~proceeds of contractor licensing fees and identify, solicit,~~  
6 ~~and accept funds from other sources for education and outreach~~  
7 ~~projects.~~

8       ~~(7)(9)~~ If the funds collected for education and  
9 ~~outreach~~ projects provided through the Florida Building Code  
10 Compliance and Mitigation Program in any state fiscal year do  
11 not require the use of all available funds, the unused funds  
12 shall be carried forward and allocated for use during the  
13 following fiscal year.

14       (8) The Florida Building Commission shall provide by  
15 rule for the accreditation of courses related to the Florida  
16 Building Code by accreditors approved by the commission. The  
17 commission shall establish qualifications of accreditors and  
18 criteria for the accreditation of courses by rule. The  
19 commission may revoke the accreditation of a course by an  
20 accreditor if the accreditation is demonstrated to violate  
21 this part or the rules of the commission.

22           (9) This section does not prohibit or limit the  
23 subject areas or development of continuing education or  
24 training on the Florida Building Code by any qualified entity.

25           ~~(10) The commission shall consider and approve or~~  
26 ~~reject the recommendations made by the council for subjects~~  
27 ~~for education and outreach concerning the Florida Building~~  
28 ~~Code. Any rejection must be made with specificity and must be~~  
29 ~~communicated to the council.~~

30           ~~(11) The commission shall adopt rules for establishing~~  
31 ~~procedures and criteria for the approval of advanced courses.~~

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1 ~~This section does not modify or eliminate the continuing~~  
2 ~~education course requirements or authority of any licensing~~  
3 ~~board under part XII of chapter 468, chapter 471, chapter 481,~~  
4 ~~or chapter 489.~~