

HB 443

2014

1 A bill to be entitled  
2 An act relating to the Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk  
3 Management Center; amending s. 1004.647, F.S.;  
4 specifying duties of the Florida Catastrophic Storm  
5 Risk Management Center; requiring annual discussion  
6 forums; creating and specifying membership of a  
7 discussion forum panel; specifying powers and duties  
8 of the panel; providing for per diem and travel  
9 expenses; providing for reports; limiting liability;  
10 providing an effective date.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
14 Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 1004.647, Florida  
15 Statutes, is amended to read:

16 1004.647 Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk Management  
17 Center.—The Florida Catastrophic Storm Risk Management Center is  
18 created at the Florida State University, College of Business,  
19 Department of Risk Management. The purpose of the center is to  
20 promote and disseminate research on issues related to  
21 catastrophic storm loss and to assist in identifying and  
22 developing education and research grant funding opportunities  
23 among higher education institutions in this state and the  
24 private sector. The purpose of the activities of the center is  
25 to support the state's ability to prepare for, respond to, and  
26 recover from catastrophic storms. The center shall:

27 (5) Organize and sponsor conferences, symposia, and  
28 workshops to educate consumers and policymakers.

29 (a) The center shall annually hold a series of discussion  
30 forums, including a legislative discussion forum to update and  
31 educate new and returning legislators with regard to emerging  
32 issues and topics relating to the residential property insurance  
33 market.

34 (b)1. A discussion forum panel is created and assigned to  
35 the center to assist the center in:

36 a. Identifying educational topics, emerging issues,  
37 research needs, planning needs among state catastrophic  
38 entities, communication improvements among state catastrophic  
39 entities, ways to better coordinate activities among state  
40 entities that deal with catastrophic losses.

41 b. Reviewing, evaluating, and identifying areas for  
42 legislative changes that improve the availability and  
43 affordability of residential property insurance, protect  
44 consumers, prevent fraud, improve mitigation, improve  
45 catastrophic ratemaking, reduce the size of the residual market  
46 for residential property insurance, attract risk capital,  
47 increase residential property insurance capacity in the state,  
48 and improve the financial strength of insurers writing  
49 residential property insurance.

50 2. The discussion forum panel shall consist of the  
51 following 11 members:

52 a. The director of the center, who shall also serve as  
53 chair of the discussion forum panel.

54 b. The Insurance Consumer Advocate.

55 c. The Commissioner of Insurance Regulation.

56 d. The chief operating officer of the Florida Hurricane

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57 Catastrophe Fund.

58 e. The executive director and president of the Citizens  
59 Property Insurance Corporation.

60 f. The executive director of the Florida Insurance Guaranty  
61 Association.

62 g. Three experts in relevant fields, selected by the  
63 director of the center to serve terms of 1 year, 2 years, or 3  
64 years.

65 h. One representative of a large national property insurer  
66 and one representative of a Florida-only property insurer,  
67 selected by the director of the center to serve terms of 1 year  
68 each.

69 3. A member of the discussion forum panel in sub-  
70 subparagraphs 2.b.-f. who is unable to attend a meeting may  
71 temporarily assign an employee to attend the meeting in the  
72 member's place by filing a letter with the director of the  
73 center. However, the member may not make such a temporary  
74 assignment more than two times in any one calendar year.

75 4. The discussion forum panel is an independent body  
76 separate and apart from the control of any state agency, elected  
77 official, or private entity. The panel has no official powers or  
78 duties other than to serve in an educational role consistent  
79 with the functions contemplated by the original establishment of  
80 the Florida Catastrophic Risk Management Storm Center and to  
81 assist the director of the center in developing appropriate  
82 forum discussion topics.

83 5. The members of the discussion forum panel shall serve  
84 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for per diem and

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85 travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, as an expense of the  
86 center.

87 6. By February 1 of each year, the center shall present a  
88 report including the proceedings of various discussion forum  
89 panels to the Governor, the Cabinet, the President of the  
90 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

91 7. There shall be no liability on the part of, and no  
92 cause of action of any nature shall arise against, any member of  
93 the discussion forum panel, Florida State University, or any  
94 employee of the Florida State University for any action or  
95 activities taken in performance with their role under this  
96 subsection.

97 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.