

CHAPTER 2023-122

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 341

An act relating to 911 public safety telecommunicator certifications; amending s. 401.465, F.S.; increasing the timeframe within which an inactive 911 public safety telecommunicator certificate may be reactivated before it permanently expires; deleting a process by which a certificateholder may voluntarily place his or her certificate in inactive status; providing applicability; prohibiting the Department of Health from requiring certificateholders to pay a fee or to make an election to place their certificates in inactive status, beginning on a specified date; requiring that certain fees paid by a certificateholder before a specified date be credited toward any future renewal fees required to be paid by the certificateholder; providing for retroactive application; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraphs (f) and (h) of subsection (2) of section 401.465, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

401.465 911 public safety telecommunicator certification.—

(2) PERSONNEL; STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION.—

(f) A 911 public safety telecommunicator certificate expires automatically if not renewed at the end of the 2-year period and may be renewed if the holder meets the qualifications for renewal as established by the department. A certificate that is not renewed at the end of the 2-year period automatically reverts to an inactive status for a period that may not exceed 6 years ~~180 days~~. Such certificate may be reactivated and renewed within the 6-year ~~180-day~~ period by if the certificateholder pursuant to paragraph (h). A certificate that has been inactive for more than 6 years automatically expires and may not be renewed ~~meets all other qualifications for renewal and pays a \$50 late fee. Reactivation shall be in a manner and on forms prescribed by department rule.~~

~~(h) A certificateholder may request that his or her 911 public safety telecommunicator certificate be placed on inactive status by applying to the department before his or her current certification expires and paying a fee set by the department, which may not exceed \$50.~~

~~(h)1.~~ A certificateholder whose certificate has been on inactive status for 6 years ~~1-year~~ or less may renew his or her certificate pursuant to the rules adopted by the department and upon payment of a renewal fee set by the department, which may not exceed \$50.

~~2.— A certificateholder whose certificate has been on inactive status for more than 1 year may renew his or her certificate pursuant to rules adopted by the department.~~

~~3.— A certificate that has been inactive for more than 6 years automatically expires and may not be renewed.~~

Section 2. (1) The amendments made by this act to s. 401.465(2)(f) and (h), Florida Statutes, apply regardless of whether the certificateholder voluntarily placed his or her certificate in inactive status pursuant to former s. 401.465(2)(h), Florida Statutes, or the certificate reverted to inactive status pursuant to s. 401.465(2)(f), Florida Statutes, during the 6-year period before the effective date of this act. Beginning on the effective date of this act, the Department of Health may not require a certificateholder to pay a fee or to make an election to place his or her certificate in inactive status.

(2) Any fee paid by a certificateholder to voluntarily place his or her certificate in inactive status during the 6-year period before the effective date of this act must be credited toward any future renewal fee required to be paid by the certificateholder under s. 401.465(2)(h), Florida Statutes.

(3) This act is remedial in nature and applies retroactively to any public safety telecommunicator certificate that has expired pursuant to former s. 401.465(2)(f), Florida Statutes, during the 6-year period before the effective date of this act.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 24, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 24, 2023.