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H.901

SHORT FORM

Introduced by Representative Burrows of West Windsor

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Internal security and public safety; emergency management; Vermont  
Emergency Management; State, regional, and municipal emergency  
management plans; access and functional needs framework; inclusion  
of disability expertise

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require all  
regional and municipal emergency management plans to utilize an access and  
functional needs framework and ensure that the plans apply the  
Communication, Medical needs, Independence, Supervision, and  
Transportation (C-MIST) process to identify needs, provide accommodations,  
and operationalize support. This bill also proposes to require regional and  
local emergency management organizations to include both members with  
lived disability experience and those who represent organizations serving  
vulnerable populations. This bill also would require municipalities to partner  
with disability-led organizations throughout all phases of emergency  
management planning. This bill also proposes to require the Division of  
Emergency Management to update local emergency plan templates and

1 guidance to explicitly address shelter siting, universal access considerations,  
2 and the inclusion of individuals with diverse functional needs as a component  
3 of the municipal emergency management plan. This bill also proposes to  
4 establish minimum standards for municipal emergency management planning  
5 that govern shelter siting, training, accessible communications and alerts, and  
6 coordination of services. This bill also proposes to require all educational  
7 corporations to develop emergency management plans that include evacuation  
8 plans for individuals with disabilities, continuity of education services for  
9 student with disabilities during emergencies, and the inclusion of emergency  
10 plans within individualized education programs. This bill also proposes to  
11 amend various statutes related to housing and high-rise evacuation strategies to  
12 prohibit the use of disability disaster registries, establish housing first  
13 principles, and align statutory provisions with provisions of the Americans  
14 with Disabilities Act. This bill also proposes to establish inclusive planning  
15 and interagency coordination requirements for emergency management  
16 planning, including required designation of State and municipal Access and  
17 Functional Needs Coordinators, completion of disability-led training programs,  
18 accessible communication systems, inclusive emergency response exercises,  
19 and after-action reviews to address accessibility gaps. This bill also proposes  
20 to require State agencies to inspect all emergency shelter spaces for  
21 compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

