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No. 96 An Order to Provide Relief to Victims of Wildfires in Tennessee

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Secretary of State
Tre Hargett



STATE OF TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE ORDER
BY THE GOVERNOR

No. 96

AN ORDER TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO VICTIMS OF WILDFIRES IN TENNESSEE

WHEREAS, Sevier County experienced a significant threat to lives and properties beginning on March 30, 2022, due to two wildland fires;

WHEREAS, these two wildfires eventually consumed more than 3,400 acres and burned 221 structures in Sevier County;

WHEREAS, the emergency response included a total of 340 firefighting personnel representing a coordinated local, state, and federal effort to contain and extinguish the wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is grateful that no lives were lost during the wildfires and recognizes a continuing need to support the survivors who live and work in Sevier County and whose property has been destroyed or damaged by the wildfires.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Tennessee Constitution and applicable law including Tennessee Code Annotated § 58-2-107, do hereby declare a major disaster and state of emergency exist and direct and order the following, *nunc pro tunc* to 12:01 a.m., Eastern Time, on March 30, 2022:

1. The provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Sections 55-6-101(a)(4) and 55-6-104(a)(4), are hereby suspended to waive the fees due to the State and county clerk for the issuance of a duplicate title to replace a motor vehicle title that is lost or mutilated, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-3-115, for persons affected by the wildfires in Tennessee.
2. The provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-50-323, and related rules are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to give the Commissioner of Safety and

Homeland Security the discretion to waive fees for duplicate driver licenses or photo identification licenses issued to persons affected by the wildfires in Tennessee.

3. The relevant provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, and related rules are hereby suspended to give the Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance the discretion to direct Tennessee-licensed insurance companies to make reasonable efforts to assist policyholders who have experienced losses as a result of the wildfires in Tennessee. Specifically, where a delay in premium payment appears to be the result of a disruption to the mail delivery system or the policyholder's displacement due to the wildfires in Tennessee, the Department of Commerce and Insurance requests that insurers work with policyholders and take those circumstances into account before canceling a policy and that insurers suspend cancellations or non-renewals of policies for nonpayment of premiums for a period of at least sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Order for those policyholders who have suffered property damage or injuries as a result of these catastrophic events.
4. The provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Sections 62-13-103(a), 62-13-104(b)(1)(C), and 62-13-301 are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to permit vacation lodging services licensed pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-13-104(b) to engage in the business of providing the services of management, marketing, booking, and rental of residential units owned by others as sleeping accommodations furnished for pay to persons providing relief services to persons affected by the wildfires in Tennessee or who are victims of the wildfires of Tennessee for periods longer than fourteen (14) days without the requirement that such vacation lodging services hold any other license with the Tennessee Real Estate Commission, be under the supervision of a licensed real estate broker, or hold a real estate firm license; provided that sufficient proof of the status of each person providing relief services or who is a victim is maintained by the vacation lodging service and made available to the Tennessee Real Estate Commission upon request. All other provisions applicable to vacation lodging services, real estate firms, and real estate brokers remain in effect.
5. The relevant provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Sections 62-6-102(4)(A)(i) and 62-6-103(a)(1), and related rules are hereby suspended in the case of persons engaging in wildfire damage cleanup resulting from the wildfires in Tennessee, provided that the person has sufficient experience and knowledge in the field to provide for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

This Order shall remain in effect until 12:01 a.m., Eastern Time, on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at which time the suspension of any state laws and rules shall cease and be of no further force and effect.

[Signature page for Governor Lee's Executive Order No. 96]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this 20th day of April, 2022.



GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

