

**Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic
Security**

CS/HB 249 — Designation of Official State Flagship

by State Affairs Committee and Rep. Gonzalez Pittman and others (SB 1656 by Senator Burgess)

The bill redesignates the state flagship. Instead of the schooner Western Union, the bill designates the S.S. American Victory as the official state flagship.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect on July 1, 2026.

Vote: Senate 34-0; House 114-0

Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

CS/HB 253 — Veterans Dental Care Grant Program

by Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee and Reps. Edmonds and Gantt (CS/CS/SB 96 by Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee; and Senators Sharief, Rouson, Jones, Osgood, and Bernard)

The bill expands eligibility for the Veterans Dental Care Grant Program established within the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. The bill effectively requires veterans to have an income of up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level to be eligible for the program. The department set the current program eligibility to veterans with incomes up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level by administrative rule.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect on July 1, 2026.

Vote: Senate 34-0; House 116-0

Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

CS/CS/SB 1602 — Housing for Veterans

by Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee; and Senator Wright

The bill creates the “Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive Pilot Program” within the Florida Housing Finance Corporation for Broward, Escambia, Hillsborough, and Santa Rosa counties.

The bill directs the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, in consultation with the local public housing authority and case managers assigned to veterans by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish and oversee the document requirements and all processes of the pilot program.

The pilot program provides that landlords may apply to contracted program administrators to receive funding to:

- Hold a vacant dwelling for a veteran for up to 45 days after the date the dwelling unit becomes available or until the actual date that the veteran moves into the dwelling unit, whichever is sooner; and
- Cover property loss at the dwelling unit caused by the veteran, if the veteran moves out of the dwelling unit during the first 12 months of a year-to-year rental agreement or after the expiration of a rental agreement for any duration, which exceeds the amount of the deposit money up to \$2,000.

The bill requires contracted program administrators to work with the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to implement the pilot program. Funding provided for the pilot program is on a first-come, first-served basis, and the Florida Housing Finance Corporation is directed to adopt rules for the pilot program.

Implementation of the pilot program is subject to annual legislative appropriations.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect on July 1, 2026.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 112-0

Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

CS/SB 7000 — OGSR/Persons Provided Public Emergency Shelter

by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee and Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee

The bill saves from repeal, by removing the scheduled repeal date, the current public records exemption for the address and telephone number of a person provided public emergency shelter during a storm or catastrophic event, held by an agency that provided such shelters.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 33-2; House 109-0

Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

CS/SB 7002 — OGSR/Department of Military Affairs/United States Department of Defense

by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee and Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee

The bill delays the repeal date from October 2, 2026, to October 2, 2031, for the current public records exemption relating to records held by the Department of Military Affairs which:

- Are stored in a United States Department of Defense system of records;
- Are transmitted using a Department of Defense network or communications device; or
- Pertain to the Department of Defense, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. s. 394, which addresses military cybersecurity operations.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 32-3; House 105-0