

The Florida Senate  
**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**

**MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, SPACE, AND  
DOMESTIC SECURITY**

**Senator Altman, Chair  
Senator Gibson, Vice Chair**

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, February 17, 2015

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

**PLACE:** Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Office Building

**MEMBERS:** Senator Altman, Chair; Senator Gibson, Vice Chair; Senators Evers, Sachs, and Stargel

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	<b>SB 380</b> Bradley (Similar H 177)	Persons with Developmental Disabilities; Requiring the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to allow an applicant whose parent or guardian is a member of the United States Armed Forces, the Florida National Guard, or the United States Reserve Forces to receive Medicaid home and community-based waiver program services under certain conditions, etc.  MS 02/17/2015 Favorable AHS AP	Favorable Yeas 4 Nays 0

Consideration of proposed bill:

	<b>SPB 7028</b> Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security	Educational Opportunities for Veterans; Revising criteria for eligibility for out-of-state fee waivers at state universities, Florida College System institutions, and specified career centers; removing a provision regarding the applicability of waivers to required credit hours for a student's degree or certificate program, etc.	Submitted as Committee Bill Yeas 4 Nays 0
2	<b>(Preliminary Draft Available - final draft will be made available at least 48 hours prior to the meeting)</b>		

Other Related Meeting Documents

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

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BILL: SB 380

INTRODUCER: Senator Bradley

SUBJECT: Persons with Developmental Disabilities

DATE: February 16, 2015

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Sanders	Ryon	MS	<b>Favorable</b>
2. _____	_____	AHS	_____
3. _____	_____	AP	_____

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**I. Summary:**

SB 380 allows the dependent of an active duty military member, who has a developmental disability, to receive Medicaid home and community-based services upon the military member's transfer to Florida, if the dependent was receiving such services in another state prior to the transfer and meets the state eligibility requirements. The bill also allows a dependent of a Florida National Guard member or U.S. military reservist who is based in Florida to receive home and community-based services, upon meeting the state eligibility requirements.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Home and Community Based Waiver Services**

Medicaid provides medical coverage to low-income individuals and families. It is administered by the state, according to federal requirements, and funded jointly by the state and the federal government. The Agency for Health Care Administration administers the Medicaid program and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) determines eligibility. The federal government allows states to operate waivers to the Medicaid state plan that provide flexibility to operate certain programs without regard to federal requirements that would otherwise apply. One such waiver Florida has opted to administer is the 1915(c) waiver, which authorizes states to provide home and community-based services as an alternative to institutional care in nursing homes, intermediate care facilities, and hospitals. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) manages one of the state's 1915(c) waiver programs, known as the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver, which provides Medicaid home and community-based care to persons with developmental disabilities. Services provided through the HCBS waiver program enable children and adults to live in a family setting in their own home or in a licensed residential setting, thereby avoiding institutionalization.

The APD is responsible for providing services to persons with developmental disabilities. A developmental disability is defined as a disorder or syndrome that is attributable to intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, autism, spina bifida, or Prader-Willi syndrome; that manifests before the age of 18; and that constitutes a substantial handicap that can reasonably be expected to continue indefinitely.<sup>1</sup> Developmentally disabled individuals apply for admission to the HCBS waiver program through the APD. Applicants undergo an assessment by the APD and the DCF to determine eligibility for the HCBS waiver program.

An individual is eligible for services under the HCBS waiver program if their domicile is in Florida, they have a developmental disability, and are three years of age or older. Children who are at high risk of having a developmental disability and are between the ages of 3 and 5 are also eligible for services. As of February 12, 2015, there are 30,983 individuals currently receiving benefits from the HCBS waiver and an additional 20,824 disabled persons on the waiting list for services in Florida.<sup>2</sup> The Legislature appropriated \$941,032,259 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 to provide services through the HCBS waiver program.<sup>3</sup> Florida received a match from Federal funds in the amount of \$560,478,813.<sup>4</sup>

An application must be submitted in writing to the APD either by mail or by hand to be considered for a Medicaid waiver. The agency will return a decision on eligibility within 45 days for children under 6 and within 60 days for all other applicants.<sup>5</sup> Applications for those in crisis will be considered for eligibility within 45 days.<sup>6</sup> All applicants must undergo a comprehensive assessment to determine eligibility. If an applicant is determined to be ineligible for services, the applicant may appeal the decision to the APD.<sup>7</sup>

Clients who are determined to be eligible for the waiver program are either awarded a slot in the program or placed on a waiting list. As part of the wait list prioritization process, clients are assigned to a category as prescribed by section 393.065(5), F.S., and further refined in Section 9 of Chapter 2014-53, Laws of Florida. There are seven categories listed below in decreasing order of priority.

- Category 1 – Clients deemed to be in crisis.
- Category 2 – Children from the child welfare system at the time of:
  - Finalization of an adoption with placement in a family home;
  - Reunification with family members with placement in a family home; or
  - Permanent placement with a relative in a family home.
- Category 3 – Includes, but not limited to, clients:
  - Whose caregiver has a documented condition that is expected to render the caregiver unable to provide care within the next 12 months and for whom a caregiver is required but no alternate caregiver is available;
  - Who are at substantial risk of incarceration or court commitment without supports;

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<sup>1</sup> Section 393.063(9), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Allocation Budget Control (ABC) System (data retrieved on February 12, 2015).

<sup>3</sup> Chapter 2014-51, Laws of Fla. (line 268)

<sup>4</sup> Id.

<sup>5</sup> Section 393.065, F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Id.

<sup>7</sup> Id.

- Whose documented behaviors or physical needs place them or their caregiver at risk of serious harm and other supports are not currently available to alleviate the situation; or
- Who are identified as ready for discharge within the next year from a state mental health hospital or skilled nursing facility and who require a caregiver but for whom no caregiver is available.
- Category 4 – Includes, but not limited to, clients whose caregivers are 70 years of age or older and for whom a caregiver is required but no alternate caregiver is available;
- Category 5 – Includes, but not limited to, clients who are expected to graduate within the next 12 months from secondary school and need support to obtain or maintain competitive employment, or to pursue an accredited program of postsecondary education to which they have been accepted.
- Category 6 – Clients 21 years of age or older who do not meet the criteria for categories 1-5.
- Category 7 – Clients younger than 21 years of age who do not meet the criteria for categories 1-4.

A wait list is utilized by the APD for those who qualify under categories 3-7. Clients may be removed from the waitlist or denied a waiver should the parent or guardian fail to maintain accurate contact information, fail to meet eligibility requirements, or become domiciled outside the state. There is currently no special consideration for military families relocating to Florida in Florida Statutes.

During the 2014 Regular Session, the Legislature passed HB 5003 to allow an individual who meets eligibility requirements to receive home and community based services in this state if the individual's parent or legal guardian is an active-duty military service member and, at the time of the service member's transfer to Florida, the individual was receiving home and community-based services in another state. This statutory change is in place for one year and expires July 1, 2015. As of February 12, 2015, the APD has processed six requests for enrollment from military families under this temporary statutory provision. Out of the six requests for enrollment, four military families have enrolled and two families are in the process of enrollment.<sup>8</sup> Military families are encouraged to apply for the waiver program prior to relocating to Florida, but cannot be eligible to receive services until they are a Florida resident.<sup>9</sup>

### **Military Family Relocations**

According to the Military One Source 2013 Demographic Report, Florida has the seventh largest population of active duty service men and women at 60,234 and the third largest population of reserve forces at 36,745, which includes the 12,000 members of the Florida National Guard<sup>10 11</sup> Florida is home to 20 major military bases and three of the nation's seven unified combatant

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<sup>8</sup> E-mail correspondence with APD staff. February 12, 2015. (On file with Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security staff.)

<sup>9</sup> E-mail correspondence with APD staff. February 11, 2015. (On file with Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security staff.)

<sup>10</sup> Military One Source, *2013 Demographic Report*, <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2013-Demographics-Report.pdf> (last visited February 13, 2015).

<sup>11</sup> Department of Military Affairs, <http://dma.myflorida.com/about-us/> (last visited February 13, 2015).

commands.<sup>12</sup> For military families transferring to Florida, the state offers temporary professional licensure for military spouses, participates in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, and recognizes a military driving permit or valid driver's license issued by another state in lieu of requiring a new Florida license. These initiatives provide support to military families transitioning to Florida.

Active-duty military service members with developmentally disabled children or dependents who receive military orders to move are called upon to physically relocate and reestablish care for their disabled family member. When such military members are reassigned to an installation in another state, they generally have to start the entire Medicaid waiver process again and reestablish eligibility based on that state's criteria.<sup>13</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 380 amends s. 393.065, F.S., to require the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to allow an applicant who meets eligibility requirements to receive home and community-based services in this state if:

- The applicant's parent or legal guardian is a military service member on active duty and, at the time of the service member's transfer to this state, the applicant was receiving home and community-based care services in another state; or
- The applicant's parent or legal guardian is a member of the Florida National Guard or a member of the United States Reserve Forces and is based in this state.

This bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2015.

### IV. Constitutional Issues:

#### A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

#### B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

#### C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

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<sup>12</sup> Florida Defense Alliance, <http://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/> (last visited February 13, 2015).

<sup>13</sup> USA4Military Families, *Issue 6: Allow service members to retain their earned priority for receiving Medicaid home and community care waivers*, [http://www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil/MOS/f?p=USA4:ISSUE:0:::P2\\_ISSUE,P2\\_STATE:6,FL#](http://www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil/MOS/f?p=USA4:ISSUE:0:::P2_ISSUE,P2_STATE:6,FL#) (last visited February 13, 2015).

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill amends section 393.065 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

By Senator Bradley

7-00526-15

2015380\_\_

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to persons with developmental disabilities; amending s. 393.065, F.S.; requiring the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to allow an applicant whose parent or guardian is a member of the United States Armed Forces, the Florida National Guard, or the United States Reserve Forces to receive Medicaid home and community-based waiver program services under certain conditions; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Present subsection (7) of section 393.065, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (8), and a new subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

393.065 Application and eligibility determination.—

(7) The agency shall allow an applicant who meets the eligibility requirements of subsection (1) to receive home and community-based services in this state if:

(a) The applicant's parent or legal guardian is a military servicemember on active duty and, at the time of the servicemember's transfer to this state, the applicant was receiving home and community-based services in another state; or

(b) The applicant's parent or legal guardian is a member of the Florida National Guard or a member of the United States Reserve Forces and is based in this state.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

2/17/15  
Meeting Date

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

5380  
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic \_\_\_\_\_

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name DEBORAH Linton

Job Title CEO Arc Fz

Address 2898 Mahan Dr

Phone 850-921-0460

Street

Tallahassee

City

State

Zip

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Arc Fz

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

**This form is part of the public record for this meeting.**

S-001 (10/14/14)



THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

2/17/15  
Meeting Date

SB 380  
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic \_\_\_\_\_

Amendment Barcode (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Name Dixie Sanson

Job Title Lobbyist

Address PO Box 98  
Street  
Cocoa  
City State Zip

Phone 321-543-7195

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Ace 1 Inc

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

*While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.*

**This form is part of the public record for this meeting.**

S-001 (10/14/14)



The Florida Senate

## Committee Agenda Request

**To:** Senator Thad Altman, Chair  
Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

**Subject:** Committee Agenda Request

**Date:** January 23, 2015

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I respectfully request that **Senate Bill # 380**, relating to Persons with Developmental Disabilities, be placed on the:

- ☒ committee agenda at your earliest possible convenience.
- ☐ next committee agenda.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Bradley", is written over a horizontal line.

Senator Rob Bradley  
Florida Senate, District 7

**COMMITTEE:** Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security  
**ITEM:** SB 380  
**FINAL ACTION:** Favorable  
**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, February 17, 2015  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon  
**PLACE:** 37 Senate Office Building

[illegible]

CODES: FAV=Favorable  
UNF=Unfavorable  
-R=Reconsidered

RCS=Replaced by Committee Substitute  
RE=Replaced by Engrossed Amendment  
RS=Replaced by Substitute Amendment

TP=Temporarily Postponed  
VA=Vote After Roll Call  
VC=Vote Change After Roll Call

WD=Withdrawn  
OO=Out of Order  
AV=Abstain from Voting

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

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BILL: SPB 7028

INTRODUCER: Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee

SUBJECT: Educational Opportunities for Veterans

DATE: February 17, 2015

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Ryon	Ryon		<b>Submitted as Committee Bill</b>

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**I. Summary:**

SPB 7028 amends the Congressman C.W. “Bill” Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Program to allow additional persons to be eligible for the out-of-state tuition fee waiver currently afforded to honorably discharged veterans residing in Florida and enrolled in a state university, Florida College System institution, career center operated by a school district, or charter technical career center. The bill requires a state university, Florida College System institution, career center operated by a school district, or charter technical career center to waive out-of-state fees for any person who is receiving educational assistance through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and who physically resides in Florida while enrolled in the institution. This addition allows individuals, such as a spouse or child of a veteran or servicemember using GI Bill benefits, to qualify for in-state tuition rates.

In August 2014, the U.S. Congress enacted the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014. This Act requires the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to disapprove programs of education for payment of benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Montgomery GI Bill-AD at public institutions if the schools charge qualifying veterans and dependents tuition and fees in excess of the rate for resident students. Public institutions must offer in-state tuition rates to certain veterans and their dependents by July 1, 2015 in order for the institution to be eligible to receive payments under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty programs.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Tuition and Out-of-State Fees**

Under Florida law, “tuition” is defined as “the basic fee charged to a student for instruction provided by a public postsecondary educational institution in this state.”<sup>1</sup> A student who is

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<sup>1</sup> Section 1009.01(1), F.S.

classified as a “resident for tuition purposes” is a student who qualifies for the in-state tuition rate.<sup>2</sup>

An “out-of-state fee” is “the additional fee for instruction provided by a public postsecondary education institution in this state, which fee is charged to a student who does not qualify for the in-state tuition rate.”<sup>3</sup> A “non-resident for tuition purposes” is defined as a “person who does not qualify for the in-state tuition rate,”<sup>4</sup> and pays the out-of-state fee in addition to tuition.

Residents for tuition purposes are charged in-state rates for tuition while non-residents pay out-of-state fees in addition to tuition, unless such costs are exempted or waived.<sup>5</sup>

### **Fee Exemptions and Fee Waivers**

Florida law provides fee exemptions<sup>6</sup> and fee waivers<sup>7</sup> to qualified students that meet specified criteria. A number of fee exemptions and fee waivers are permissive<sup>8</sup> while others are mandatory.<sup>9</sup>

Through one of the permissive fee waivers, the board of trustees at each state university, as well as school districts, and FCS institutions, are authorized to waive fees under certain conditions. The board of trustees of each state university is authorized to “waive tuition and out-of-state fees for purposes that support and enhance the mission of the university.”<sup>10</sup> Similarly, “[s]chool districts and Florida College System institutions may waive fees for any fee-nonexempt student.”<sup>11</sup>

### ***The Congressman C.W. “Bill” Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Program***

The Congressman C.W. “Bill” Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Program was established during the 2014 Regular Session to waive out-of-state fees for veterans in Florida pursuing higher education.<sup>12</sup> Under this program, state universities, Florida College System institutions, career centers operated by a school district, and charter technical career centers are required to waive out-of-state fees for honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, the U.S. Reserve Forces, or the National Guard who physically reside in Florida while enrolled in the institution.<sup>13</sup> Tuition and fees charged to a veteran who qualifies for the out-of-state fee waiver may not exceed the tuition and fees charged to a resident student. The waiver covers 110 percent of the

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<sup>2</sup> Section 1009.21(1)(g), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 1009.01(2), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 1009.21(1)(e), F.S.

<sup>5</sup> Sections 1009.23(2)(a) and 1009.24(2), F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Section 1009.25, F.S.

<sup>7</sup> Section 1009.26, F.S.

<sup>8</sup> Section 1009.25(2), F.S. (authorizing each Florida College System institution to grant additional fee exemptions “up to 54 full-time equivalent students or 1 percent of [an] institution’s total full-time equivalent enrollment, whichever is greater at each institution”); ss. 1009.26(1)-(4), (6), (9), (10), (11), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 1009.25(1)(a)-(g), F.S.; ss. 1009.26(5), (7), (8), F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Section 1009.26(9), F.S. (noting that fee waivers under this section must be grounded in policies adopted by the state university board of trustees under regulations adopted by the Board of Governors).

<sup>11</sup> Section 1009.26(1), F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Chapter 2014-1, Laws of Fla.

<sup>13</sup> Section. 1009.26(13)(a), F.S.

credit hours the veteran needs to complete the applicable degree or certificate program.<sup>14</sup> Currently, a veteran's dependents are not eligible for the out-of-state veterans' fee waiver.

### ***Purple Heart Recipient Fee Waiver***

Florida law also provides a mandatory undergraduate fee waiver for "each recipient of a Purple Heart or another combat decoration superior in precedence" at a state university or Florida College System (FCS) institution.<sup>15</sup> The statute requires that the recipient:<sup>16</sup>

- Be in an undergraduate program that results in a certificate or degree;
- Currently be a resident of the state and has been a resident at the time of the action that resulted in the awarding of the applicable combat decoration; and
- Provide the institution with appropriate documentation of the separation from service and receipt of the combat decoration.

The fee waiver for Purple Heart recipients, and recipients of superior combat decorations, covers 110 percent of the credit hours the recipient needs to complete the applicable degree or certificate program.<sup>17</sup>

### **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Education Benefit Programs**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) provides financial assistance to eligible veterans and dependents pursuing postsecondary education. The educational assistance programs administered by the USDVA are addressed below.

### ***Post-9/11 GI Bill***

The Post-9/11 GI Bill<sup>18</sup> is the newest educational assistance program that provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate active duty service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 continuous days of active duty service. Individuals may be eligible for up to 36 months of education benefits and eligibility generally expires 15 years from the date of the last discharge or release from active duty service.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides beneficiaries the cost of tuition and fees, not to exceed the most expensive in-state undergraduate tuition at a public higher education institution in the state in which the individual is attending school. The tuition and fees payment is paid directly to the school on behalf of the student and is prorated by the student's benefit level.<sup>19</sup> Post-9/11 GI Bill

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<sup>14</sup> Final data is not yet available from the respective institutions on the number of veteran fee waivers granted under s. 1009.26(13), F.S. Preliminary data from the FCS shows that 721 fee waivers were awarded as of February 4, 2015 for the 2014-2015 academic year. This preliminary data is subject to change upon final submission of waiver data from the respective FCS institutions. FCS data provided via e-mail by FCS staff on February 12, 2015. E-mail on file with Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee.

<sup>15</sup> Section 1009.26(8), F.S.

<sup>16</sup> Section 1009.26(8)(a)-(c), F.S.

<sup>17</sup> Section 1009.26(8), F.S.

<sup>18</sup> 38 U.S.C. §§3301-3325.

<sup>19</sup> Post-9/11 GI Bill students are also entitled to a monthly housing allowance and an annual books and supplies stipend paid directly to the student, both prorated by the student's length of service percentage. The housing allowance is equal to the

benefits may be used for approved training, which includes: graduate and undergraduate degrees, non-college degree programs for vocational and technical training, apprenticeship and on-the-job training, flight training, correspondence training, certification and licensing, national testing programs, entrepreneurship training, and a tutorial assistance program.

An individual is eligible for a fixed percentage of the payments authorized under the Post-9/11 GI Bill based on an individual's amount of creditable active duty service since September 11, 2001. The table below describes the maximum benefit payable for the applicable length of an individual's active duty service.

<b>Post-9/11 GI Bill Service Requirements<sup>20</sup> (Aggregate active duty service after Sept. 10, 2001)</b>	<b>Percentage of Maximum Benefit Payable</b>
At least 36 months	100
At least 30 continuous days on active duty (must be discharged due to service-connected disability)	100
At least 30 months, but less than 36 months	90
At least 24 months, but less than 30 months	80
At least 18 months, but less than 24 months	70
At least 12 months, but less than 18 months	60
At least 6 months, but less than 12 months	50
At least 90 days, but less than 6 months	40

#### Post-9/11 GI Bill Transferability<sup>21</sup>

A servicemember may transfer all or some of their unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to their spouse or children. Transfer requests are submitted and approved while the servicemember is in the military. The servicemember must have at least six years of service, and commit to an additional four years of service in order to transfer benefits to a spouse or child. An eligible servicemember may transfer up to the total months of unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, or the entire 36 months if the member has used none.

A spouse may start to use the benefit immediately upon transfer, while the servicemember remains in the military or after separation. A spouse may use transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for up to 15 years after the servicemember's last separation from active duty service. A child may start to use the benefit only after the transferor has completed at least 10 years of military service. This may be while the servicemember remains in the military or after separation. A child is no longer eligible for the transferred benefits after reaching 26 years of age.

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Department of Defense's Basic Allowance for Housing for an "E-5 with dependents" and the zip code of the school. The books and supplies stipend is based on the number of credit hours taken and may not exceed \$1,000 per academic year.

<sup>20</sup> USDVA Pamphlet 22-09-01 RE: Post-9/11 GI Bill. May 2012. Available at: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/ch33\\_pamphlet.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/ch33_pamphlet.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> 38 U.S.C. § 3319.

### Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship<sup>22</sup>

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) entitles the surviving spouse<sup>23</sup> and children of a servicemember who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001 to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. The Fry Scholarship pays eligible dependents 36 months of the full, 100% level, of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. This includes the tuition and fee payment, a monthly housing allowance, and a books and supplies stipend. A child's Fry Scholarship eligibility ends on their 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday and a spouse loses eligibility upon remarriage.

During fiscal year 2013, there were 63,947 Post-9/11 GI Bill beneficiaries enrolled in a higher education institution in Florida.<sup>24</sup>

### ***Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty***

The Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (MGIB-AD)<sup>25</sup> generally applies to veterans who began active duty service for the first time after June 30, 1985, had their pay reduced by \$100 a month for 12 months, and received an honorable discharge. Assistance may be used for college degree and certificate programs, technical or vocational courses, flight training, apprenticeships or on-the-job training, high-tech training, licensing and certification tests, entrepreneurship training, certain entrance examinations, and correspondence courses. MGIB-AD benefits are paid on a monthly basis directly to the veteran. The monthly benefit amount depends on several factors including length of service and the type of training pursued. The current monthly rate for a veteran who completed an enlistment of 3 years or more pursuing a full time college degree or certificate is \$1,717.<sup>26</sup> A veteran may be eligible for up to 36 months of benefits and must use the benefit within 10 years of the veteran's last discharge. During fiscal year 2013, there were 6,530 MGIB-AD beneficiaries enrolled in a higher education institution in Florida.<sup>27</sup>

### ***Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve***

The Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve program (MGIB-SR)<sup>28</sup> provides educational assistance to members actively participating in the Selected Reserve.<sup>29</sup> Reservists must be actively drilling and have a 6-year obligation in the reserves to be eligible.<sup>30</sup> Assistance may be used for college degree and certificate programs, co-op training, technical or vocational courses, flight training, apprenticeships or on-the-job training, high-tech training, licensing and

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<sup>22</sup> 38 U.S.C. § 3311(b)(9).

<sup>23</sup> Public Law 113-146, Title VII, Section 701, The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, expanded eligibility for the Fry Scholarship to surviving spouses effective January 1, 2015.

<sup>24</sup> National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. Utilization Report on Department of Veterans Affairs Education Program Beneficiaries by Geography: FY 2000 to FY 2013. Available at: <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Utilization.asp>

<sup>25</sup> 38 U.S.C. §§3001-3035.

<sup>26</sup> USDVA website. MGIB-AD Rates Effective October 1, 2014. Available at: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits\\_resources/rates/ch30/ch30rates100114.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits_resources/rates/ch30/ch30rates100114.asp).

<sup>27</sup> National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. Utilization Report on Department of Veterans Affairs Education Program Beneficiaries by Geography: FY 2000 to FY 2013. Available at: <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Utilization.asp>

<sup>28</sup> 10 U.S.C. §§16131-16136.

<sup>29</sup> Selected Reserve components include the Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard, and Air Force National Guard.

<sup>30</sup> 10 U.S.C. §§16131(a), 16132(a); Department of Veterans Affairs, *The Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve*, [http://gibill.va.gov/documents/pamphlets/ch1606\\_pamphlet.pdf](http://gibill.va.gov/documents/pamphlets/ch1606_pamphlet.pdf).



certification tests, entrepreneurship training, certain entrance examinations, and correspondence courses. A reservist may qualify for up to 36 months of MGIB-SR benefits, in which benefits are paid on a monthly basis directly to the reservist. The current monthly rate payable to a qualifying reservist for a full time degree or certificate program is \$367.<sup>31</sup> During fiscal year 2013, there were 2,575 MGIB-SR beneficiaries enrolled in a higher education institution in Florida.<sup>32</sup>

### ***Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance***

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program (DEA)<sup>33</sup> is the USDVA benefit program designed for the spouse and children of a veteran who has a service-connected permanent and total disability, died as a result of service, or is listed as Missing in Action or as a Prisoner of War.<sup>34</sup> Benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training with a maximum entitlement of 45 months. Children are eligible for DEA until age 26. Spouses are generally eligible for DEA for 10 years from the date the USDVA finds the spouse eligible or the date of the death of the veteran, or 20 years in certain circumstances. The current monthly rate payable to a qualifying spouse or child for a full time degree or certificate program is \$1,018.<sup>35</sup> During fiscal year 2013, there were 6,770 DEA beneficiaries enrolled in a higher education institution in Florida.<sup>36</sup>

### ***Reserve Educational Assistance Program***

Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)<sup>37</sup> provides educational assistance to National Guard members and reservists who are called to active duty in response to a war, national emergency, or contingency operation as declared by the President or Congress on or after September 11, 2001 for a minimum of 90 consecutive days.<sup>38</sup> Maximum full-time entitlement is 36 months. Monthly benefit payments are made directly to a qualified National Guard member or reservist. The benefit rate is a portion of the MGIB-AD three-year enlistment rate. The current monthly rate payable for a full time degree or certificate program for a National Guard member or reservist with at least 90 consecutive days of service, but less than one year is \$686.80.<sup>39</sup> During fiscal year 2013, there were 615 REAP beneficiaries enrolled in a higher education institution in Florida.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> USDVA website. MGIB-SR Rates Effective October 1, 2014. Available at:

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits\\_resources/rates/ch1606/ch1606rates100114.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits_resources/rates/ch1606/ch1606rates100114.asp)

<sup>32</sup> National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. Utilization Report on Department of Veterans Affairs Education Program Beneficiaries by Geography: FY 2000 to FY 2013. Available at: <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Utilization.asp>

<sup>33</sup> 38 U.S.C. §§3500-3566.

<sup>34</sup> 38 U.S.C. §3501(a)(1).

<sup>35</sup> USDVA website. REAP Rates Effective October 1, 2014. Available at:

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits\\_resources/rates/ch35/ch35rates100114.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits_resources/rates/ch35/ch35rates100114.asp)

<sup>36</sup> National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. Utilization Report on Department of Veterans Affairs Education Program Beneficiaries by Geography: FY 2000 to FY 2013. Available at: <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Utilization.asp>

<sup>37</sup> 10 U.S.C. §§16161-16166.

<sup>38</sup> 10 U.S.C. §16163(a).

<sup>39</sup> USDVA website. REAP Rates Effective October 1, 2014. Available at:

[http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits\\_resources/rates/ch1607/ch1607rates100114.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits_resources/rates/ch1607/ch1607rates100114.asp)

<sup>40</sup> National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. Utilization Report on Department of Veterans Affairs Education Program Beneficiaries by Geography: FY 2000 to FY 2013. Available at: <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Utilization.asp>

### ***Veterans Educational Assistance Program***

The Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)<sup>41</sup> is an education benefit for veterans who entered service for the first time between December 31, 1976 and July 1, 1985. Although there are still some veterans who use this program, it ended for new enrollees June 30, 1985. During fiscal year 2013, there were 2 VEAP beneficiaries enrolled in a higher education institution in Florida.<sup>42</sup>

The chart below shows the number of Florida beneficiaries for each USDVA education program for fiscal year 2011 through 2013.<sup>43</sup>

Fiscal Year	Total Beneficiaries	USDVA Educational Assistance Program					
		Post-9/11	MGIB-AD	MGIB-SR	DEA	VEAP	REAP
2011	68,133	42,607	14,608	3,020	6,810	7	1,081
2012	62,911	42,607	9,454	2,613	6,513	5	818
2013	87,140	63,947	6,530	2,575	6,770	2	615

### **The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014**

The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Choice Act)<sup>44</sup> was signed into law in August 2014 as a Federal bipartisan response to the health care access issues facing the USDVA. The Choice Act provides new authorities, funding, and other tools to help support and reform the USDVA. Among the provisions relating to veterans' access to healthcare, the Choice Act addresses tuition rates at public higher education institutions for recently separated veterans and their dependents.<sup>45</sup> Specifically, the Choice Act requires the USDVA to disapprove programs of education for payment of benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Montgomery GI Bill-AD at public institutions if the schools charge qualifying veterans and dependents tuition and fees in excess of the rate for resident students for the terms beginning after July 1, 2015. The USDVA will not issue payments for any students eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill or the Montgomery GI Bill-AD until a school becomes fully compliant.<sup>46</sup> The Choice Act requirements apply only to qualifying students using either the Post-9/11 GI Bill or the Montgomery GI Bill-AD. Institutions are not required to change tuition rate policy for individuals using other USDVA educational benefits.

<sup>41</sup> 38 U.S.C. §§3201-3243.

<sup>42</sup> National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. Utilization Report on Department of Veterans Affairs Education Program Beneficiaries by Geography: FY 2000 to FY 2013. Available at: <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Utilization.asp>

<sup>43</sup> National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. Utilization Report on Department of Veterans Affairs Education Program Beneficiaries by Geography: FY 2000 to FY 2013. Available at: <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Utilization.asp>

<sup>44</sup> Public Law 113-146.

<sup>45</sup> Public Law 113-146, Title VII, Section 702.

<sup>46</sup> USDVA summary of Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014. Available at: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/factsheets/Section\\_702\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/factsheets/Section_702_Factsheet.pdf)

Post-9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill-AD beneficiaries who are entitled to in-state tuition rates at public institutions pursuant to the Choice Act include:

- A veteran who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located, regardless of the veteran's formal state of residence, and enrolls in the school within 3 years of discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more; or
- A spouse or child using transferred benefits who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located, regardless of the student's formal state of residence, and enrolls in the school within 3 years of the transferor's discharge from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more; or
- A spouse or child using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John Dave Fry Scholarship who lives in the state in which the institution of higher learning is located, regardless of the student's formal state of residence, and enrolls in the school within 3 years of the servicemember's death in the line of duty following a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.

An individual who meets the initial requirements above will remain eligible for in-state tuition rates under the Choice Act provided that the individual remains continuously enrolled at the same institution of higher learning once the 3 year date of discharge has passed and continue to uses either Post-9/11 GI Bill or the Montgomery GI Bill-AD benefits.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

SPB 7028 amends s. 1009.26(13), F.S., to allow additional persons to be eligible for the out-of-state tuition fee waiver currently afforded to honorably discharged veterans residing in Florida and enrolled in a state university, Florida College System institution, career center operated by a school district, or charter technical career center. The bill requires a state university, Florida College System institution, career center operated by a school district, or charter technical career center to waive out-of-state fees for any person who is entitled to and uses educational assistance through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for a quarter, semester, or term beginning after July 1, 2015, and physically resides in Florida while enrolled in the institution. This addition allows individuals, such as a spouse or child of a veteran or servicemember using GI Bill benefits, to qualify for in-state tuition rates. The Board of Governors and the State Board of Education will adopt regulations and rules, respectively, to administer the out-of-state fee waivers in s. 1009.26(13).

The bill also removes the provision that limits the out-of-state fee waiver for honorably discharged veterans to 110 percent of the required credit hours of a degree or certificate program.

The bill will take effect upon becoming a law.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

Non-resident students using GI Bill educational benefits who qualify for the out-of-state fee waiver under the bill would only pay in-state tuition and fee rates. This would provide a considerable savings to students each semester.

For the 2014-2015 academic year, the average State University System undergraduate cost for tuition and fees for two semesters is \$5,934 for residents and \$20,625 for non-residents. At the graduate level, the average cost for two semesters is \$10,397 for residents and \$25,372 for non-residents.<sup>47</sup> For the same period, the Florida College System reports the average cost for two semesters is approximately \$3,156 for residents enrolled in lower-level credit programs and \$11,605 for non-residents. For residents enrolled in the upper-level credit programs the cost for two semesters is \$3,610 and \$15,393 for non-residents.<sup>48</sup>

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The Board of Governors, based on Fall 2013 enrollment data of veteran dependents using GI Bill benefits, estimates approximately \$2,695,543 in unrealized tuition revenue for the State University System for one year. This estimate is based on the assumption that a veteran's dependents would enroll in 30 credit hours per year.<sup>49</sup> Fiscal estimate from the Florida College System is unknown at this time.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

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<sup>47</sup> Florida Board of Governors website. 2014-2015 Tuition and Fees Excel database. Available at: <http://www.flbog.edu/about/budget/current.php>

<sup>48</sup> E-mail correspondence with Florida College System staff. February 13, 2015. On file with Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Staff.

<sup>49</sup> E-mail correspondence with Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida staff. February 13, 2015. On file with Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following section 1009.26 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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356200

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: FAV	.	
02/17/2015	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

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The Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security (Sachs) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment**

Delete lines 28 - 32  
and insert:

2. Entitled to and uses educational assistance provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for a quarter, semester, or term beginning after July 1, 2015, who physically resides in this state while enrolled in the institution.

(b) Tuition and fees charged to a student ~~veteran~~ who qualifies for

**FOR CONSIDERATION By** the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

583-01515A-15

20157028pb

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to educational opportunities for veterans; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; revising criteria for eligibility for out-of-state fee waivers at state universities, Florida College System institutions, and specified career centers; removing a provision regarding the applicability of waivers to required credit hours for a student's degree or certificate program; requiring the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education to adopt regulations and rules, respectively; revising a short title provision; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (13) of section 1009.26, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.26 Fee waivers.—

(13) (a) There is established the Congressman C. W. "Bill" Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Program. A state university, Florida College System institution, career center operated by a school district under s. 1001.44, or charter technical career center shall waive out-of-state fees for a person who is:

1. An honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, the United States Reserve Forces, or the National Guard who physically resides in this state while enrolled in the institution; or

2. Receiving educational assistance through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for a quarter, semester,

Page 1 of 2

**CODING:** Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

583-01515A-15

20157028pb

or term beginning after July 1, 2015, who physically resides in this state while enrolled in the institution.

(b) Tuition and fees charged to a veteran who qualifies for the out-of-state fee waiver under this subsection may not exceed the tuition and fees charged to a resident student. ~~The waiver is applicable for 110 percent of the required credit hours of the degree or certificate program for which the student is enrolled.~~

(c) Each state university, Florida College System institution, career center operated by a school district under s. 1001.44, and charter technical career center shall report to the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education, respectively, the number and value of all fee waivers granted annually under this subsection.

(d) The Board of Governors and the State Board of Education shall respectively adopt regulations and rules to administer this subsection.

(e) (b) This subsection may be cited as the "Congressman C.W. 'Bill' Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Act."

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Page 2 of 2

**CODING:** Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

2/17/2015

Meeting Date

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

SB 7028

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic VETERAN EDUCATION

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Betsy Wickham

Job Title STATE APPROVING AGENCY, FDVA

Address The Capitol-2105

Street

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32399

Zip

Phone 850-487-1533

Email WICKHAM@FDVA.STATE.FL.US

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)



**COMMITTEE:** Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security  
**ITEM:** SPB 7028  
**FINAL ACTION:** Submitted as Committee Bill  
**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, February 17, 2015  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon  
**PLACE:** 37 Senate Office Building

[illegible]

CODES: FAV=Favorable  
UNF=Unfavorable  
-R=Reconsidered

RCS=Replaced by Committee Substitute  
RE=Replaced by Engrossed Amendment  
RS=Replaced by Substitute Amendment

TP=Temporarily Postponed  
VA=Vote After Roll Call  
VC=Vote Change After Roll Call

WD=Withdrawn  
OO=Out of Order  
AV=Abstain from Voting

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

17 FEB 15

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name BRIG GEN CHIP DIEHL

Job Title MEMBER FL DEF SUPPORT TASK FORCE

Address 4306 W. SEVILLA ST

Phone 813.546.8125

Street

TAMPA

FL

33629

City

State

Zip

Email CHIPD2005@GMAIL.COM

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing FL DEF SUPPORT TASK FORCE

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

Meeting Date \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Number (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Topic INTRODUCTION

Amendment Barcode (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Name BG MICHAEL CALHOUN

Job Title INCOMING TAG

Address 82 MARINE ST.

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street

ST. AUGUSTINE

FL

Email \_\_\_\_\_

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing DMA

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

**This form is part of the public record for this meeting.**

S-001 (10/14/14)

# CourtSmart Tag Report

**Room:** LL 37

**Case:**

**Type:**

**Caption:** Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

**Judge:**

**Started:** 2/17/2015 9:04:10 AM

**Ends:** 2/17/2015 9:25:40 AM **Length:** 00:21:31

9:04:12 AM Meeting called to order by Chair Altman  
9:04:17 AM Chairman Altman ask Lois to call roll  
9:04:26 AM Roll call by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham, quorum present announced  
9:04:30 AM Chair Altman gives remarks regarding electronic devices and appearance cards  
9:05:04 AM Chair Altman introduces Brig. Gen. Chip Diehl, Florida Defense Support Task Force  
9:05:54 AM Comments from Brig. Gen. Diehl  
9:07:33 AM Additional comments from Brig. Gen. Diehl  
9:08:02 AM Comments from Senator Evers  
9:08:50 AM Senator Evers introduces Mr. Van Fuller, Executive Director, and Board Member Mr. James Nealson  
9:09:25 AM TAB 1 - SB 380 Senator Bradley - Persons with Developmental Disabilities  
9:10:29 AM Chair Altman ask for questions  
9:10:35 AM Senator Sachs ask a question regarding active duty members  
9:11:02 AM Response by Senator Bradley  
9:11:49 AM Follow-up question by Senator Sachs  
9:12:02 AM Response by Senator Bradley  
9:12:32 AM Response from Margaret Sanders, Staff Analyst  
9:12:50 AM Senator Bradley further addresses Senator Sachs question  
9:13:10 AM Question from Senator Gibson  
9:13:35 AM Response from Senator Bradley  
9:14:50 AM Response from Margaret Sanders  
9:15:04 AM Additional question from Senator Gibson  
9:15:20 AM Response from Margaret Sanders  
9:15:31 AM Response from Chair Altman  
9:16:15 AM Chair Altman ask if there were additional questions or debate  
9:16:24 AM Ms. Dixie Sansom, Arc, FL waives in support  
9:16:31 AM Ms. Deborah Linton, CEO, Arc FL waives in support  
9:16:40 AM Chair Altman ask if there were additional questions and he also ask Senator Bradley to close on his bill  
9:16:44 AM Senator Bradley closes on SB 380  
9:16:59 AM Comments from Chair Altman  
9:17:14 AM Chairman Altman ask Lois to call the roll on SB 380  
9:17:27 AM Roll call by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham  
9:17:34 AM Chair Altman announces that the bill passes favorably  
9:17:46 AM Chair Altman introduces Brig. General Michael Calhoun  
9:18:23 AM Comments from Brig. General Calhoun  
9:19:20 AM Chair Altman ask if there are questions for Brig. General Calhoun  
9:19:38 AM TAB 2 - SPB 7028 - Educational Opportunities for Veterans  
9:19:58 AM Elizabeth Ryon, Staff Director, presents SPB 7028  
9:21:51 AM Chair Altman makes a statement. He also states that there is a late file amendment 356200 by Senator Sachs  
9:22:34 AM Senator Sachs presents amendment 356200

**9:22:49 AM** Chair Altman ask for questions or debate on the amendment  
**9:23:06 AM** Chairman Altman asked Senator Sachs to close on her amendment  
**9:23:22 AM** Senator Sachs closes on amendment  
**9:23:28 AM** Chair Altman ask for vote on the amendment. He states amendment passes  
**9:23:52 AM** Chair Altman states that there is one appearance card  
**9:24:09 AM** Ms. Betsy Wickham, Florida Dept. of Veterans Affairs waives in support  
**9:24:22 AM** Chair Altman ask for debate on the bill as amended. Elizabeth waives closing  
**9:24:46 AM** Chair Altman states that Senator Sachs moves SPB 7028 as amended be submitted as a Committee Bill  
**9:24:56 AM** Chair Altman states that there is no opposition and ask Lois to call roll on SPB 7028 as amended  
**9:25:07 AM** Roll call on SPB 7028 as amended by Administrative Assistant  
**9:25:26 AM** Senator Evers moves to rise