

**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, March 10, 2015  
**TIME:** 1:30 —3:30 p.m.  
**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>CS/SB 394</b> Regulated Industries / Brandes (Similar CS/CS/H 277)	Public Lodging Establishments; Requiring specified public lodging establishments to waive certain policies for individuals who present a valid Common Access Card; prohibiting duplication of Common Access Cards, etc.  RI 02/18/2015 Fav/CS CM 03/02/2015 Favorable MS 03/10/2015 Fav/CS	Fav/CS Yeas 5 Nays 0
2	<b>SJR 910</b> Altman (Similar HJR 299)	Homestead Exemption/Living Spouse of Deceased Combat-Disabled Veteran; Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the living spouse of a deceased veteran, who upon his or her death was aged 65 or older, partially or totally permanently disabled due to combat, and honorably discharged, to receive a discount on the payment of ad valorem taxes on homestead property based on the percentage of the veteran's disability and to specify that the exemption is transferrable to another residence if the spouse remains unmarried and uses the residence as his or her primary residence, etc.  MS 03/10/2015 Favorable FT AP	Favorable Yeas 4 Nays 0
3	<b>SB 1296</b> Bean (Similar H 1091, Compare H 7055)	Military and Veterans Affairs; Creating the Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force within the Department of State; providing legislative findings regarding continuing education for veterans of the United States Armed Forces; requiring the application form for an original, renewal, or replacement driver license or identification card to include a voluntary checkoff permitting certain veterans to request written information for federal, state, and local veteran services programs, etc.  MS 03/10/2015 Temporarily Postponed EE AP	Temporarily Postponed

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: CS/CS/SB 394

INTRODUCER: Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee; Regulated Industries Committee; and Senator Brandes

SUBJECT: Public Lodging Establishments

DATE: March 12, 2015

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

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Oxamendi</u>	<u>Imhof</u>	<u>RI</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Goedert</u>	<u>McKay</u>	<u>CM</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
3.	<u>Sanders</u>	<u>Ryon</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>

**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/CS/SB 394 requires that public lodging establishments classified as a hotel, motel, or bed and breakfast inn waive any policy that restricts accommodations to individuals based on age for active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, the United States Reserve Forces, the National Guard, and the Coast Guard upon the presentation of a valid military identification card. The bill also prohibits public lodging establishments from duplicating military identification cards.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Public Lodging Establishments**

The Division of Hotels and Restaurants (division) within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (department) is the state agency charged with enforcing the provisions of ch. 509, F.S., “and all other applicable laws and rules relating to the inspection or regulation of public lodging establishments and public food service establishments for the purpose of safeguarding the public health, safety, and welfare.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Section 509.032(1), F.S.

“Public lodging establishment” is defined to include both transient public lodging establishments and nontransient public lodging establishments.<sup>2</sup> The principal differences between transient and nontransient public lodging establishments are the number of times that the establishments are rented in a calendar year and the length of the rentals. Section 509.013(4)(b), F.S., exempts dormitories, hospital and medical establishments, residential units, migrant labor camps, and establishments inspected by the Department of Health from the definition of “public lodging establishment.”

A public lodging establishment can be classified as a hotel, motel, nontransient apartment, transient apartment, bed and breakfast inn, timeshare project, or vacation rental.<sup>3</sup>

Section 509.242(1)(a), F.S., defines a “hotel” as follows:

any public lodging establishment containing sleeping room accommodations for 25 or more guests and providing the services generally provided by a hotel and recognized as a hotel in the community in which it is situated or by the industry.

Section 509.242(1)(b), F.S., defines “motel” as follows:

any public lodging establishment which offers rental units with an exit to the outside of each rental unit, daily or weekly rates, offstreet parking for each unit, a central office on the property with specified hours of operation, a bathroom or connecting bathroom for each rental unit, and at least six rental units, and which is recognized as a motel in the community in which it is situated or by the industry.

Section 509.242(1)(f), F.S., defines a “bed and breakfast inn” as follows:

a family home structure, with no more than 15 sleeping rooms, which has been modified to serve as a transient public lodging establishment, which provides the accommodation and meal services generally offered by a bed and breakfast inn, and which is recognized as a bed and breakfast inn in the community in which it is situated or by the hospitality industry.

At the end of FY 2013-2014, there were 38,472 licensed public lodging establishments, divided as follows:<sup>4</sup>

- Hotels – 1,720 licenses;
- Motels – 2, 691 licenses;
- Nontransient apartments – 17,501 licenses;
- Transient apartments – 960 licenses;
- Bed and Breakfasts – 260 licenses;
- Vacation Rentals, Condominiums – 3,904 licenses; and
- Vacation Rentals, Dwellings – 11,436 licenses.

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<sup>2</sup> Section 509.013(4)(a), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 509.242(1), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2013-2014, Division of Hotels and Restaurants, Department of Business and Professional Regulation. A copy is available at [http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/hr/reports/annualreports/documents/ar2013\\_14.pdf](http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/hr/reports/annualreports/documents/ar2013_14.pdf) (last visited February 25, 2015).

## Right to Refuse Accommodations

Public lodging establishments are private enterprises and may refuse accommodations to any person who is objectionable or undesirable to the operator, so long as the refusal is not “based upon race, creed, color, sex, physical disability, or national origin.”<sup>5</sup> Public lodging establishments are also allowed to “establish reasonable rules and regulations for the management of the establishment,” which become part of “a special contract between the operator and each guest or employee using the services or facilities of the operator.”<sup>6</sup>

A small sampling of hotels in Florida reveals that some public lodging establishments advertise age requirement policies. While employed by the military, or when traveling for military and personal purposes, some persons have been denied accommodations at public lodging establishments because of their age.<sup>7</sup>

### United States Armed Forces

The United States Armed Forces consists of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.<sup>8</sup> Each branch of the Armed Forces has a U.S. Reserve Forces component that is under the command of their respective military branch.<sup>9</sup> This is in addition to the Army National Guard and the Air Force National Guard.<sup>10</sup> Florida Statutes defines active duty as full-time duty in active military service, to include federal duty such as full-time training, annual training, and attendance while a person is in active military service or in a school designated as a service school by law or by the secretary of the applicable military department.<sup>11</sup> The term does not mean full-time duty in the National Guard.<sup>12</sup> The minimum entrance-age requirement for all branches of the Armed Forces is 17 with parental consent or 18 without parental consent.<sup>13</sup>

The Department of Defense (DoD) issues the Common Access Card (CAC) as the standard form of military identification for active duty uniformed service personnel, Selected Reserve,<sup>14</sup> DoD civilian employees, and eligible contractor personnel.<sup>15</sup> The CAC allows members to gain physical access to buildings and controlled spaces, and it provides access to DoD computer networks and systems.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Section 509.092, F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Section 509.101(1), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> See McCarthy, Regan, “Bill to Bend Hotel Age Requirement for Military Members,” *WFSU* (Jan. 28, 2015). A copy of the article is available at: <http://news.wfsu.org/post/bill-bend-hotel-age-requirements-military-members> (last visited March 12, 2015).

<sup>8</sup> 10 U.S.C. s. 101(a)(4) (2013).

<sup>9</sup> 10 U.S.C. s.10101 (2013).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> Section 250.01, F.S. (1)

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> Today’s Military, Review Military Entrance Requirements, <http://todaysmilitary.com/joining/entrance-requirements> (last visited March 6, 2015).

<sup>14</sup> Selected Reserve personnel are an element of the U.S. Reserve Forces that actively drill or participate in training at least 48 times per year and spend no less than 14 days on active duty for training. 10 U.S.C. s.10143(a) (2013); *see also*, 10 U.S.C. s.10147(a)(1) (2013).

<sup>15</sup> Department of Defense, Common Access Card, <http://www.cac.mil/common-access-card/> (last visited March 12, 2015).

<sup>16</sup> *Id.*

According to the Military One Source 2013 Demographic Report, there are currently 2,513,168 active duty servicemembers in the U.S. Armed Forces.<sup>17</sup> 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>18 19</sup> Florida is home to 20 major military bases and three of the nation's seven unified combatant commands.<sup>20</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates s. 509.095, F.S., to require that public lodging establishments classified as a hotel, motel, or bed and breakfast inn waive any policy that restricts accommodations to individuals based on age for active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, the United States Reserve Forces, the National Guard, and the Coast Guard. The bill prevents public lodging establishments from denying such persons accommodations based upon their age once a valid military identification card is presented.

The bill further prohibits a public lodging establishment from duplicating a military identification card.

The bill only applies to a public lodging establishment classified as a hotel, motel, or bed and breakfast inn as defined in s. 509.242, F.S.

### 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.

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<sup>17</sup> Military One Source, *2013 Demographic Report*, <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2013-Demographics-Report.pdf> (last visited March 7, 2015).

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

<sup>19</sup> Department of Military Affairs, [dma.myflorida.com/about-us/](http://dma.myflorida.com/about-us/) (last visited March 9, 2015).

<sup>20</sup> Florida Defense Alliance, <http://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/> (last visited March 9, 2015).

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The Division of Hotels and Restaurants anticipates an indeterminate increase in complaints received and inspections required to investigate such complaints.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates section 509.095 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:**

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

**CS/CS by Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security on March 10, 2015:**

The committee substitute (CS) requires the presentation of a “military identification card” instead of a “Common Access Card.” The term “military identification card” is commonly used in statute and includes the Common Access Card.

**CS by Regulated Industries on February 18, 2015:**

The committee substitute (CS) requires the presentation of a “Common Access Card” instead of a “military identification card.” The CS refers to active duty members of the United States Armed Services, the United States Reserve Forces, the National Guard, and the Coast Guard. The CS prohibits duplication of Common Access Cards that are presented pursuant to s. 509.095, F.S.

**B. Amendments:**

None.



209142

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/12/2015	.	
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	.	
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The Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security (Stargel) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 14 - 23  
and insert:  
individuals with a valid military identification card.—Upon the presentation of a valid military identification card by an individual who is currently on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard, Reserve Forces, or Coast Guard, and who seeks to obtain accommodations at a hotel, motel, or bed and breakfast inn, as defined in s. 509.242, such



209142

11 hotel, motel, or bed and breakfast inn shall waive any minimum  
12 age policy that it may have which restricts accommodations to  
13 individuals based on age. Duplication of a military  
14 identification card presented pursuant to this

15

16 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

17 And the title is amended as follows:

18       Delete lines 5 - 6

19 and insert:

20       individuals who present a valid military  
21       identification card; prohibiting duplication of  
22       military identification cards;



By the Committee on Regulated Industries; and Senator Brandes

580-01697-15

2015394c1

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to public lodging establishments;  
3           creating s. 509.095, F.S.; requiring specified public  
4           lodging establishments to waive certain policies for  
5           individuals who present a valid Common Access Card;  
6           prohibiting duplication of Common Access Cards;  
7           providing an effective date.  
8  
9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
10  
11           Section 1. Section 509.095, Florida Statutes, is created to  
12   read:  
13           509.095 Accommodations at public lodging establishments for  
14   individuals with a valid Common Access Card.-Upon the  
15   presentation of a valid Common Access Card by an individual who  
16   is currently on active duty as a member of the United States  
17   Armed Forces, the United States Reserve Forces, the National  
18   Guard, or the Coast Guard, and is seeking to obtain  
19   accommodations at a hotel, motel, or bed and breakfast inn, as  
20   defined in s. 509.242, such hotel, motel, or bed and breakfast  
21   inn shall waive any minimum age policy that it may have which  
22   restricts accommodations to individuals based on age.  
23   Duplication of Common Access Cards presented pursuant to this  
24   section is prohibited.  
25           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.



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:** March 3, 2015

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I respectfully request that **Senate Bill #394**, relating to **Public Lodging Establishments**, be placed on the:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Brandes", written over a horizontal line.

Senator Jeff Brandes  
Florida Senate, District 22



# THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

**COMMITTEES:**  
Transportation, *Chair*  
Community Affairs, *Vice Chair*  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Tourism, and Economic Development  
Criminal Justice  
Education Pre-K - 12  
Judiciary

**JOINT COMMITTEE:**  
Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight

**SENATOR JEFF BRANDES**

22nd District

March 10, 2015

Senator Thad Altman  
314 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Chair Altman,

I will be unable to present my bill, **SB 394: Public Lodging Establishments**, in the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security today.

I am requesting that my legislative assistant Trent Phillips be permitted to present this bill on my behalf. Please contact me with any questions on this request.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Brandes", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeff Brandes

CC: Elizabeth Ryon  
Lois Graham

**REPLY TO:**

- 9800 Fourth Street North, Suite 200, St. Petersburg, Florida 33702 (727) 563-2100
- 318 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5022

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**ANDY GARDINER**  
President of the Senate

**GARRETT RICHTER**  
President Pro Tempore

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

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

3/10/15

Meeting Date

CS/SB 394

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Public Lodging Establishments

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Col. Mike Prendergast

Job Title Executive Director

Address Suite 2105, The Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St.

Phone 487-1533

Street

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32399

Zip

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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)

The Florida Senate  
**COMMITTEE VOTE RECORD**

**COMMITTEE:** Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security  
**ITEM:** CS/SB 394  
**FINAL ACTION:** Favorable with Committee Substitute  
**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015  
**TIME:** 1:30 —3:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** 37 Senate Office Building

FINAL VOTE		SENATORS	3/10/2015 Amendment 209142 <sup>1</sup>					
Yea	Nay		Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay
X		Evers						
X		Sachs						
X		Stargel						
X		Gibson, VICE CHAIR						
X		Altman, CHAIR						
5	0	<b>TOTALS</b>	RCS	-				
<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>		<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>

CODES: FAV=Favorable      RCS=Replaced by Committee Substitute      TP=Temporarily Postponed      WD=Withdrawn  
 UNF=Unfavorable      RE=Replaced by Engrossed Amendment      VA=Vote After Roll Call      OO=Out of Order  
 -R=Reconsidered      RS=Replaced by Substitute Amendment      VC=Vote Change After Roll Call      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: SJR 910

INTRODUCER: Senator Altman

SUBJECT: Homestead Exemption/Living Spouse of Deceased Combat-Disabled Veteran

DATE: March 9, 2015

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

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

**I. Summary:**

Senate Joint Resolution 910 proposes an amendment to Article VII, section 6 of the Florida Constitution to allow the ad valorem tax discount on homestead property for combat-disabled veterans age 65 or older to carry over to the spouse of the veteran if the veteran predeceases his or her spouse. The spouse is eligible for the tax relief while he or she remains unmarried and uses the residence as his or her primary residence. The discount applied to the residence is determined by the percentage of the veteran's disability.

This joint resolution will require approval by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature for passage.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Property Valuation in Florida**

Florida law provides a number of options to reduce property tax liability. Article VII, section 2 of the Florida Constitution, provides for uniform ad valorem taxation, stating that "all ad valorem taxation shall be at a uniform rate within each taxing unit."<sup>1</sup> The property tax burden for an owner of any particular piece of real estate will depend on the property's just value, its assessed value, and whether the property benefits from any tax exemptions or assessment limitations.

***Just Value***

Article VII, section 4, of the Florida Constitution, requires that all property be assessed at just value for ad valorem tax purposes. Just value has been interpreted by the courts to mean fair market value, or what a willing buyer would pay a willing seller for the property in an arms-length transaction.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> FLA. CONST. art. VII, s. 2.

<sup>2</sup> See *Walter v. Shuler*, 176 So. 2d 81 (Fla. 1965); *Deltona Corp. v. Bailey*, 336 So. 2d 1163 (Fla. 1976); *Southern Bell Tel. & Tel. Co. v. Dade County*, 275 So. 2d 4 (Fla. 1973).

### ***Assessed Value***

The Florida Constitution authorizes certain alternatives to the just valuation standard for specific types of property.<sup>3</sup> Agricultural land, land producing high water recharge to Florida's aquifers, and land used exclusively for noncommercial recreational purposes may be assessed solely on the basis of their character or use.<sup>4</sup> Land used for conservation purposes must be assessed solely on the basis of character or use.<sup>5</sup> Counties and municipalities may authorize historic properties to be assessed solely on the basis of character or use.<sup>6</sup> Counties may also provide a reduction in the assessed value of property improvements on existing homesteads made to accommodate parents or grandparents that are 62 years of age or older.<sup>7</sup> The Legislature is authorized to prohibit the consideration of improvements to residential real property for purposes of improving the property's wind resistance or the installation of renewable energy source devices in the assessment of the property.<sup>8</sup> Certain working waterfront property is assessed based upon the property's current use.<sup>9</sup>

### ***Taxable Value***

The taxable value of real and tangible personal property is the assessed value minus any exemptions provided by the Florida Constitution or by Florida Statutes. Such exemptions include, but are not limited to, homestead exemptions and exemptions for property used for educational, religious, or charitable purposes.<sup>10</sup>

### **Assessment Limitations**

#### ***Save Our Homes***

The *Save Our Homes* assessment limitation was amended into the Florida Constitution in 1992. Article VII, section 4(d) of the Florida Constitution, limits the amount that a homestead's assessed value can increase annually to the lesser of 3 percent or the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).<sup>11</sup> In addition, an assessment may not exceed just value.

In 2008, Florida voters approved an additional amendment to Article VII, section 4(d) of the Florida Constitution, to provide for the portability of the accrued benefit under the *Save Our Homes* assessment limitation. This amendment allows homestead property owners who relocate to a new homestead to transfer up to \$500,000 of the accrued benefit to the new homestead.

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<sup>3</sup> The constitutional provisions in section 4, Art. VII, of the Florida Constitution, are implemented in Part II of ch. 193, F.S.

<sup>4</sup> FLA. CONST. art. VII, s. 4(a).

<sup>5</sup> Art. VII, section 4(b) of the Florida Constitution.

<sup>6</sup> FLA. CONST. art. VII, s. 4(e).

<sup>7</sup> FLA. CONST. art. VII, s. 4(f).

<sup>8</sup> FLA. CONST. art. VII, s. 4(i).

<sup>9</sup> FLA. CONST. art. VII, s. 4(j).

<sup>10</sup> FLA. CONST. art. VII, ss. 3 and 6.

<sup>11</sup> FLA. CONST. art. VII, s. 4(d).

## **Property Tax Exemptions for Homesteads**

The Legislature may only grant property tax exemptions that are authorized in the Florida Constitution, and any modifications to existing property tax exemptions must be consistent with the constitutional provision authorizing the exemption.<sup>12</sup>

### ***Homestead Exemption***

Article VII, section 6 of the Florida Constitution provides that every person having legal and equitable title to real estate and who maintains a permanent residence on the real estate is eligible for a \$25,000 homestead tax exemption applicable to all ad valorem tax levies including levies by school districts. An additional \$25,000 homestead exemption applies to homesteads that have an assessed value greater than \$50,000 and up to \$75,000, excluding ad valorem taxes levied by school districts.

### ***Additional Tax Exemptions***

Article VII, section 3 of the Florida Constitution, provides additional tax exemptions for certain types of property. These exemptions include, but are not limited to:

- Exemptions for municipal property that is used for a municipal or public purpose;
- Exemptions for household goods and personal effects up to a certain amount specified by general law not less than one thousand dollars;
- Widows/widowers exemptions up to a certain amount specified in general law not less than \$500;
- Economic development exemptions created by county or municipal ordinance for new businesses and expansions of existing businesses;
- Historic preservation exemptions;
- \$25,000 tax exemption for tangible personal property; and
- Exemptions for real property dedicated in perpetuity for conservation purposes.<sup>13</sup>

## **Property Tax Exemptions for Ex-Service Members**

In recognition of their service and sacrifice for our country the State of Florida has granted a number of ad valorem tax exemptions for ex-service members.

### ***Total Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for Ex-Service Members and Surviving Spouses***

Section 196.081(1), F.S., provides that:

Any real estate that is owned and used as a homestead by a veteran who was honorably discharged with a service-connected total and permanent disability and for whom a letter from the United States Government or United States Department of Veterans or its predecessor has been issued certifying that the veteran is totally and permanently disabled is exempt from taxation, [provided] the veteran is a permanent resident of the state on January 1 of the tax year for

<sup>12</sup>*Sebring Airport Auth. v. McIntyre*, 783 So. 2d 238, 248 (Fla. 2001); *Archer v. Marshall*, 355 So. 2d 781, 784. (Fla. 1978); *Am Fi Inv. Corp. v. Kinney*, 360 So. 2d 415 (Fla. 1978); *See also Sparkman v. State*, 58 So. 2d 431, 432 (Fla. 1952).

<sup>13</sup> FLA. CONST. art. VII, s. 3(a)-(f).



which exemption is being claimed or . . . on January 1 of the year the veteran died. If the totally and permanently disabled veteran predeceases his or her spouse . . . the exemption from taxation carries over to the benefit of the veteran's spouse until such time as he or she remarries or sells or otherwise disposes of the property.

Section 196.091(1), F.S., further provides that:

Any real estate used and owned as a homestead by an ex-service member who has been honorably discharged with a service-connected total disability and who has a certificate from the United States Government or United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor, or its successors, certifying that the ex-service member is receiving or has received special pecuniary assistance due to disability requiring specially adapted housing and required to use a wheelchair for his or her transportation is exempt from taxation. In the event the veteran did or shall predecease his or her spouse, the exemption from taxation shall carry over to the benefit of the veteran's spouse.

***Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Veterans Who Died from Service-Connected Causes***

Article VII, section 6(f) of the Florida Constitution, allows the Legislature to adopt a general law allowing counties and municipalities to grant a homestead exemption to the surviving spouse of a veteran who died from service-connected causes while on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces. Section 196.081(4), F.S., currently provides, under specified conditions, a full exemption from ad valorem taxes on property that is owned and used as a homestead by such spouse. To be eligible for the exemption the surviving spouse must provide a letter from the United States Government or United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor certifying that the veteran died from service-connected causes while on active duty. Additionally, the veteran must have been a permanent resident of this state on January 1, of the year in which he or she died.

***\$5,000 Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for Ex-Service Members***

Section 196.24, F.S., provides a \$5,000 property tax exemption to any ex-service member who is a bona fide resident of the state and who has a service-connected disability to a degree of 10 percent or more. This exemption also applies to the un-remarried surviving spouse of a disabled ex-service member who had been married to such ex-service member for at least 5 years on the date of the ex-service member's death.

***Combat-Related Partial Ad Valorem Tax Exemption (Discount) for Ex-Service Members***

Article VII, section 6(e) of the Florida Constitution, grants a discount on ad valorem taxes owed on homestead property for honorably discharged veterans who are 65 years or older and who are partially or totally disabled. To qualify for the discount, the veteran must submit proof of the veteran's disability percentage to the county property appraiser and show that the disability is combat-related.

The ad valorem tax discount percentage is equal to the veteran's percentage of disability, as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.<sup>14</sup>

In 2014, 6,595 veterans received the combat-disabled ad valorem tax discount which amounted to a statewide property value discount of \$336,648,499.<sup>15</sup> There are currently 793,907 veterans over the age of 65 residing in Florida.<sup>16</sup> The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs indicates that there were 177,664 veterans over the age of 55 in Florida receiving compensation for service-related conditions at the end of Fiscal Year 2013.<sup>17</sup>

The Florida Constitution does not authorize this ad valorem tax discount to carry over to the surviving spouse a veteran should the veteran predecease the spouse.

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SJR 910 proposes an amendment to Article VII, section 6 of the Florida Constitution to allow the ad valorem tax discount on homestead property for combat-disabled veterans age 65 or older to carry over to the spouse of the veteran if the veteran predeceases his or her spouse. To be eligible for the discount, the spouse must remain unmarried and use the residence as his or her primary residence. The exemption is transferrable to another residence if the spouse remains unmarried and uses the residence as his or her primary residence.

The proposed amendment becomes effective if approved by the voters at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose.

### IV. Constitutional Issues:

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

The mandate provisions in Article VII, section 18 of the Florida Constitution, do not apply to joint resolutions.

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

None.

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<sup>14</sup> The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) assigns a percentage evaluation from 0-percent to 100-percent (in 10-percent increments) for the amount of disability that the USDVA determines the veteran has sustained. The resulting disability percentage rating determines the level of a veteran's monthly disability compensation. The USDVA does not make a definitive determination if a disability is combat-related.

<sup>15</sup> Revenue Estimating Conference, *Spouses/Combat Disabled Vets Exemption: HJR 299 (companion to SJR 910)*. February 5, 2015.

<sup>16</sup> E-mail correspondence with Florida Department of Veterans Affairs staff (March 9, 2015) (on file with Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee).

<sup>17</sup> The USDVA provides data in 20 year increments. There was no data available that provided the number of veterans receiving disability compensation in a range that began at age 65. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, *Annual Benefits Report: Fiscal Year 2013*, <http://www.benefits.va.gov/REPORTS/abr/ABR-Combined-FY13-09262014.pdf> (last visited March 9, 2015).

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. Other Constitutional Issues:

Article XI, section 1 of the Florida Constitution, authorizes the Legislature to propose amendments to the Florida Constitution by joint resolution approved by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house. The amendment must be placed before the electorate at the next general election held more than 90 days after the proposal has been filed with the Secretary of State or at a special election held for that purpose.

Article XI, section 5(a) of the Florida Constitution, and s. 101.161(1), F.S., require constitutional amendments submitted to the electors to be printed in clear and unambiguous language on the ballot. In determining whether a ballot title and summary are in compliance with the accuracy requirement, Florida courts utilize a two-prong test, asking “first, whether the ballot title and summary ‘fairly inform the voter of the chief purpose of the amendment,’ and second, ‘whether the language of the title and summary, as written, misleads the public.’”<sup>18</sup>

Article XI, section 5(d) of the Florida Constitution, requires proposed amendments or constitutional revisions to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in each county where a newspaper is published. The amendment or revision must be published once in the tenth week and again in the sixth week immediately preceding the week the election is held. The Division of Elections (division) within the Department of State estimates the full publication costs for advertising the proposed amendment to be approximately \$135.97 per word, for a total publishing cost of approximately \$146,031.78.<sup>19</sup>

Article XI, section 5(e) of the Florida Constitution, requires approval by 60 percent of voters for a constitutional amendment to take effect. The amendment, if approved, becomes effective after the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

The Revenue Estimating Conference has determined that SJR 910 will reduce local governments’ revenues by \$200,000 in Fiscal Year 2018-2019, with a negative \$200,000 recurring impact on local governments.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> *Roberts v. Doyle*, 43 So. 3d 654, 659 (Fla. 2010), citing *Florida Dep’t of State v. Slough*, 992 So. 2d 142, 147 (Fla. 2008).

<sup>19</sup> Telephone conversation between Department of State staff and Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee staff (March 9, 2015).

<sup>20</sup> Revenue Estimating Conference, *Spouses/Combat Disabled Vets Exemption: HJR 299 (companion to SJR 910)*. February 5, 2015.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

If the proposed amendment is approved by the electorate and implemented by the Legislature, surviving spouses of certain veterans could receive property tax relief.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

Article XI, section 5(d) of the State Constitution, requires proposed amendments or constitutional revisions to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in each county where a newspaper is published. The amendment or revision must be published once in the tenth week and again in the sixth week immediately preceding the week the election is held. The Division of Elections (division) within the Department of State estimates the full publication costs for advertising the proposed amendment to be approximately \$135.97 per word, for a total publishing cost of approximately \$146,031.78.<sup>21</sup>

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This resolution amends Article VII, section 6 of the Florida Constitution.

**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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<sup>21</sup> Telephone conversation between Department of State staff and Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee staff (March 9, 2015).

By Senator Altman

16-01191-15

2015910\_\_

Senate Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 6 of Article VII of the State Constitution to authorize the living spouse of a deceased veteran, who upon his or her death was aged 65 or older, partially or totally permanently disabled due to combat, and honorably discharged, to receive a discount on the payment of ad valorem taxes on homestead property based on the percentage of the veteran's disability and to specify that the exemption is transferrable to another residence if the spouse remains unmarried and uses the residence as his or her primary residence.

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

That the following amendment to Section 6 of Article VII of the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE VII

Finance and Taxation

SECTION 6. Homestead exemptions.—

(a) Every person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another legally or naturally dependent upon the owner, shall be exempt from taxation thereon, except assessments for special benefits, up to the assessed valuation of twenty-five thousand dollars and, for all levies other than school district

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

16-01191-15

2015910\_\_

levies, on the assessed valuation greater than fifty thousand dollars and up to seventy-five thousand dollars, upon establishment of right thereto in the manner prescribed by law. The real estate may be held by legal or equitable title, by the entireties, jointly, in common, as a condominium, or indirectly by stock ownership or membership representing the owner's or member's proprietary interest in a corporation owning a fee or a leasehold initially in excess of ninety-eight years. The exemption shall not apply with respect to any assessment roll until such roll is first determined to be in compliance with the provisions of section 4 by a state agency designated by general law. This exemption is repealed on the effective date of any amendment to this Article which provides for the assessment of homestead property at less than just value.

(b) Not more than one exemption shall be allowed any individual or family unit or with respect to any residential unit. No exemption shall exceed the value of the real estate assessable to the owner or, in case of ownership through stock or membership in a corporation, the value of the proportion which the interest in the corporation bears to the assessed value of the property.

(c) By general law and subject to conditions specified therein, the Legislature may provide to renters, who are permanent residents, ad valorem tax relief on all ad valorem tax levies. Such ad valorem tax relief shall be in the form and amount established by general law.

(d) The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant either or

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

16-01191-15

2015910\_\_

59 both of the following additional homestead tax exemptions:

60 (1) An exemption not exceeding fifty thousand dollars to  
61 any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate  
62 and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner and  
63 who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income, as  
64 defined by general law, does not exceed twenty thousand dollars;  
65 or

66 (2) An exemption equal to the assessed value of the  
67 property to any person who has the legal or equitable title to  
68 real estate with a just value less than two hundred and fifty  
69 thousand dollars and who has maintained thereon the permanent  
70 residence of the owner for not less than twenty-five years and  
71 who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income does  
72 not exceed the income limitation prescribed in paragraph (1).  
73

74 The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant  
75 these additional exemptions, within the limits prescribed in  
76 this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed  
77 by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of  
78 the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes  
79 in the cost of living.

80 (e) (1) Each veteran who is age 65 or older who is partially  
81 or totally permanently disabled shall receive a discount from  
82 the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead  
83 property the veteran owns and resides in if the disability was  
84 combat related and the veteran was honorably discharged upon  
85 separation from military service. The discount shall be in a  
86 percentage equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent,  
87 service-connected disability as determined by the United States

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

16-01191-15

2015910\_\_

88 Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for the discount  
89 granted by this subsection, an applicant must submit to the  
90 county property appraiser, by March 1, an official letter from  
91 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs stating the  
92 percentage of the veteran's service-connected disability and  
93 such evidence that reasonably identifies the disability as  
94 combat related and a copy of the veteran's honorable discharge.  
95 If the property appraiser denies the request for a discount, the  
96 appraiser must notify the applicant in writing of the reasons  
97 for the denial, and the veteran may reapply. The Legislature  
98 may, by general law, waive the annual application requirement in  
99 subsequent years. This subsection is self-executing and does not  
100 require implementing legislation.

101 (2) If a partially or totally permanently disabled veteran,  
102 as described in paragraph (1), predeceases his or her spouse and  
103 if, upon the death of the veteran, the spouse holds the legal or  
104 beneficial title to the homestead and permanently resides  
105 thereon, the exemption from taxation carries over to the benefit  
106 of the veteran's spouse until he or she remarries or sells or  
107 otherwise disposes of the property. If the spouse sells the  
108 property, an exemption not to exceed the amount granted from the  
109 most recent ad valorem tax roll may be transferred to his or her  
110 new residence as long as the residence is used as his or her  
111 primary residence and he or she does not remarry.

112 (f) By general law and subject to conditions and  
113 limitations specified therein, the Legislature may provide ad  
114 valorem tax relief equal to the total amount or a portion of the  
115 ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property to the:

116 (1) Surviving spouse of a veteran who died from service-

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16-01191-15

2015910

117 connected causes while on active duty as a member of the United  
118 States Armed Forces.

119 (2) Surviving spouse of a first responder who died in the  
120 line of duty.

121 (3) As used in this subsection and as further defined by  
122 general law, the term:

123 a. "First responder" means a law enforcement officer, a  
124 correctional officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical  
125 technician, or a paramedic.

126 b. "In the line of duty" means arising out of and in the  
127 actual performance of duty required by employment as a first  
128 responder.

129  
130 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be  
131 placed on the ballot:

132 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

133 ARTICLE VII

134 SECTION 6

135 TAX EXEMPTION FOR SPOUSES OF DECEASED COMBAT-DISABLED  
136 VETERANS.—Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to  
137 authorize the living spouse of a deceased veteran, who upon  
138 death was aged 65 or older, partially or totally permanently  
139 disabled due to combat, and honorably discharged, to receive a  
140 discount on ad valorem taxes assessed on homestead property  
141 based on the percentage of the veteran's disability. The  
142 exemption is transferrable to another residence if the spouse  
143 remains unmarried and uses it as the primary residence.

# APPEARANCE RECORD

3-10-15

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

SJR 910

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Homestead Exemption Living Spouse

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Angela Gray

Job Title Property Appraiser Jefferson County

Address 480 W Walnut

Phone 997 3356

Street

Monticello FL 32344

City

State

Zip

Email angela.gray@jeffersonpa.net

Speaking:  For  Against  Information

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

Representing Florida Association of Property Appraisers

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.



THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

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

3/10/15

Meeting Date

STR 910

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic HOUSTEAD EXEMPTION

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name <sup>Col.</sup> MICHAEL P RENDERGAST

Job Title EX DIR

Address 400 S. MONROE ST.  
Street

Phone 850-487-1533

TALLAHASSEE FL 32309  
City State Zip

Email PRENDERGASTM@FOIA-STATE.FL.US

Speaking:  For  Against  Information

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

Representing FDVA

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 VOTE RECORD**

**COMMITTEE:** Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security  
**ITEM:** SJR 910  
**FINAL ACTION:** Favorable  
**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, March 10, 2015  
**TIME:** 1:30 —3:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** 37 Senate Office Building

FINAL VOTE		SENATORS						
Yea	Nay		Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay
		Evers						
X		Sachs						
X		Stargel						
X		Gibson, VICE CHAIR						
X		Altman, CHAIR						
4	0	<b>TOTALS</b>						
<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>		<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>

CODES: FAV=Favorable      RCS=Replaced by Committee Substitute      TP=Temporarily Postponed      WD=Withdrawn  
 UNF=Unfavorable      RE=Replaced by Engrossed Amendment      VA=Vote After Roll Call      OO=Out of Order  
 -R=Reconsidered      RS=Replaced by Substitute Amendment      VC=Vote Change After Roll Call      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: SB 1296

INTRODUCER: Senator Bean

SUBJECT: Military and Veterans Affairs

DATE: March 9, 2015

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

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Ryon	Ryon	MS	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			EE	
3.			AP	

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**I. Summary:**

SB 1296 addresses absentee voting for military personnel, support for student veterans at public colleges and universities, and outreach to veterans. Specifically, the bill:

- Creates the Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force within the Department of State to study issues involving the development and implementation of an online voting system that allows absent military members to electronically submit voted ballots;
- Provides legislative intent regarding academic credit for military training and coursework and collaboration between the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors on student veteran issues; and
- Establishes a voluntary check-off on driver license and identification card applications to allow a veteran to request written information on federal, state, and local veterans benefit services.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Military Absentee Voters**

The federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) requires each state to permit absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to use absentee registration procedures and to vote by absentee ballot in general, special, primary, and runoff elections for federal office. Florida law also permits the use of state absentee ballots for all state and local elections, merit retention, and ballot measures. An overseas voter can register to vote and request an absentee ballot at the same time by using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). The FPCA can be submitted by mail, e-mail, or fax if the overseas voter is already registered. If the overseas voter is not registered, the FPCA must be submitted by mail. An overseas voter may also obtain an absentee ballot by submitting a request to the supervisor of elections by telephone, mail, fax or e-mail. Absentee ballots are mailed to military and overseas voters no later than 45 days before each election. A voter can also request that the absentee ballot be faxed or e-mailed.

Additionally, the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) is the emergency back-up absentee ballot that allows UOCAVA voters who have not yet received their absentee ballot to vote in any election for federal office and any state or local election involving two or more candidates.<sup>1</sup> UOCAVA voters must submit their voted absentee ballot or the FWAB by mail or fax to their local election office no later than 7:00 p.m. on election day for primary elections and no later than 10 days after election day for presidential preference primaries and general elections.

### **College Credit for Military Training and Education**

Section 1004.096, F.S., requires the Board of Governors to adopt regulations and the State Board of Education to adopt rules that enable eligible members of the U.S. Armed Forces to earn academic college credit at public postsecondary educational institutions for college-level training and education acquired in the military.<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, Board of Governors Regulation 6.013 and Rule 6A-14.0302 of the Florida Administrative Code, require all Florida universities and colleges, respectively, to have an established policy and process in place for evaluating military training and education. Pursuant to both the rule and regulation, such military training and education must be recognized by the American Council on Education (ACE).

### **Priority Course Registration for Veterans**

Section 1004.075, F.S., requires each Florida College System institution and state university to provide priority course registration for veterans receiving GI Bill benefits if the institution offers priority course registration for any segment of the student population.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, a spouse or dependent child of a veteran to whom GI Bill benefits have been transferred are also entitled to priority course registration until the expiration of their GI Bill benefits.

### **Voluntary Contributions**

The voluntary contribution process, also known as voluntary check-offs, provides the opportunity for citizens to make a donation by checking a box on a form when registering a vehicle or renewing a registration, as well as applying for a new or replacement driver license or identification card.<sup>4</sup>

An organization that desires to receive a voluntary contribution must be specifically authorized by Florida Statutes. Section 320.023, F.S., establishes requirements for organizations seeking to establish a voluntary contribution on motor vehicle registration application forms, and

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<sup>1</sup> Section 101.6925, F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Chapter 2012-169, Laws of Fla.

<sup>3</sup> Chapter 2012-159, Laws of Fla.

<sup>4</sup> Sections 320.02(8), (14), and (15) and 328.72(11) and (16), F.S., provide motor vehicle registration applicants with 26 options for voluntary contributions. Section 322.08(7), F.S., provides driver license applicants with 19 options for voluntary contributions.

s. 322.081, F.S., establishes similar requirements for driver license and identification card applications. Both sections require the following:

- A request for the voluntary contribution being sought, describing the voluntary contribution in general terms;
- An application fee<sup>5</sup>, not to exceed \$10,000, to defray the DHSMV's cost for reviewing the application and developing the voluntary contribution check off, if authorized; and
- A marketing strategy outlining short-term and long-term marketing plans for the contribution, and a financial analysis outlining the anticipated revenues and the planned expenditures of the revenues to be derived from the contributions.

There are three veteran or military-related voluntary contributions authorized for driver license and identification card applications. An applicant may elect to contribute \$1 to the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund, the Disabled American Veterans, and Support Our Troops, Inc.<sup>6</sup>

### **The Florida Vets Connect Program**

In 2010, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) and the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) partnered to create the Florida Vets Connect Program to stimulate outreach efforts to veterans in Florida.<sup>7</sup> Through the Florida Vets Connect Program, veterans have the opportunity to voluntarily identify their veteran status when applying for or renewing a Florida driver license or state of Florida identification card. Beginning in 2010, present on each driver license and identification card application is the option for an individual to indicate status as a veteran and interest in receiving information on benefits, services, and support available to veterans.<sup>8</sup> The DHSMV and the FDVA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the sharing of a veteran's contact information from the DHSMV to the FDVA. The FDVA, through a third party provider, distributes general state of Florida veterans' benefits information via e-mail<sup>9</sup> to those individuals who request such information on the driver license or identification card application.<sup>10</sup> The FDVA distributed 50,350 e-mails during the 2014 calendar year under the Vets Connect Program.<sup>11</sup> E-mails are distributed on a monthly basis.<sup>12</sup>

### **County and City Veteran Service Officers**

Section 292.11, F.S., authorizes each county and city to employ a county or city veteran service officer to provide a myriad of assistance to veterans including presenting claims for and securing

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<sup>5</sup> State funds may not be used to pay the application fee.

<sup>6</sup> See Section 322.08(7)(n), (o), and (r), F.S.

<sup>7</sup> See Florida Department of Financial Services Press Release. *CFO Sink Announces "Florida Vets Connect" to Recognize Brave Service of Florida Veterans*. March 3, 2010. Available at: <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/sitepages/newsroom/pressrelease.aspx?id=3449>.

<sup>8</sup> Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee staff telephone conversation with Steve Murray, Communications Director, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. March 6, 2015.

<sup>9</sup> According to the FDVA, it is too cost prohibitive to distribute printouts of the veterans' benefits information via the United States mail.

<sup>10</sup> *Supra* note 9.

<sup>11</sup> E-mail correspondence from FDVA staff on March 5, 2015. On file with the Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

benefits or privileges to which veterans are or may become entitled by reason of their service in the military. County veteran service officers are county employees, but are certified by the FDVA.<sup>13</sup> Each county currently employs a veteran service officer, however, in some cases, one veteran service officer may service two counties.<sup>14</sup> There are currently no certified city veteran service officers in Florida.<sup>15</sup>

### **Direct-Support Organizations**

Florida law provides for the establishment of direct-support organizations as a means to assist state agencies in accomplishing their missions. A direct-support organization is established as a Florida corporation not for profit incorporated under ch. 617, F.S., and approved by the Department of State.<sup>16</sup>

The 2008 Legislature authorized the establishment of the Florida Veterans Foundation, a direct-support organization created to provide assistance, funding, and support for the FDVA in carrying out its mission of veterans' advocacy.<sup>17</sup> The Florida Veterans Foundation mission is to serve, support, and advocate for Florida veterans to improve their wellbeing.

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

**Section 1** establishes the Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force (Task Force) within the Department of State to study issues involving the development and implementation of an online voting system that allows absent military members to electronically submit voted ballots.

The Task Force consists of the following 20 members:

- The Secretary of State or his or her designee, who shall serve as the chair of the Task Force;
- The Adjutant General or his or her designee;
- The executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, or his or her designee;
- The executive director of the Agency for State Technology or his or her designee;
- One member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;
- One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;
- One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;
- One member appointed by the Governor;
- Six supervisors of elections appointed by the Secretary of State;

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<sup>13</sup> Section 292.11(4), F.S.

<sup>14</sup> Listing of Florida County Veteran Service Officers: [http://floridavets.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CVSO\\_Directory\\_1-February-2014.pdf](http://floridavets.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CVSO_Directory_1-February-2014.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> E-mail correspondence with FDVA staff on March 6. On file with the Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee.

<sup>16</sup> Direct-support organizations perform a variety of services to state agencies including: Raising money; Submitting requests for and receiving government grants; Receiving, holding, investing, and administering property; Assisting an agency in performing its mission; and Making expenditures for the benefit of the supported agency.

<sup>17</sup> See s. 292.055, F.S.

- Five individuals appointed by the Secretary of State; and
- Five individuals appointed by the Secretary of State with relevant expertise in computers, the Internet, or other associated technologies.

Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses.

The bill directs the Task Force to study and report on the following issues:

- Any factor that limits the ability of absent uniformed services voters to request, receive, and return absentee ballots within the current statutory time period for casting absentee ballots;
- The costs associated with the development and implementation of an online voting system;
- The feasibility of absent uniformed services voters using an online voting system to electronically submit a voted ballot;
- The security of electronically submitting a voted ballot through an online voting system; and
- Procedures adopted by other states to facilitate greater electoral participation among absent uniformed services voters.

The Secretary of State must submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by July 1, 2016, containing the Task Force's recommendation on whether the state should pursue the development and implementation of an online voting system for absent military voters. If the Task Force recommends an online voting system, the report must include recommended steps for developing and implementing such a system.

The Task Force will expire upon the submission of the Secretary of State's required report by July 1, 2016.

Additionally, the bill requires the Division of Elections of the Department of State to provide support staff for the Task Force and requires the Agency for State Technology to assist the Task Force upon request.

**Section 2** provides legislative intent regarding the provision of college credit for military training and coursework and other services to student veterans. The bill provides that it is the intent of the Legislature that the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors work collaboratively to do the following:

- Establish degree programs that award academic credit for military training and experience, including, but not limited to vocational and technical degrees;
- Appoint and train specific faculty within each degree program at each institution as liaisons and contacts for veterans;
- Coordinate existing disability services on each campus with veteran disability services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and other federal, state, and private entities;
- Facilitate statewide meetings for campus personnel to discuss and develop best practices, exchange ideas and experiences, and hear presentations by individuals with expertise in the unique needs of veterans; and

- Provide veterans with sufficient courses required for graduation, including but not limited to, giving priority registration for veterans.

Because legislative intent does not expressly mandate an action, section 2 of the bill essentially expresses the Legislature's desire that the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors work collaboratively to assist student veterans in the ways outlined above.

**Section 3** amends s. 322.08, F.S., to provide a voluntary check-off on the application form for an original, renewal, or replacement driver license or identification card to allow honorably discharged military servicemembers to request written information at on federal, state, and local veteran services programs. The written information will be provided at no cost to the veteran by a county or city veteran service officer through a direct-support organization. If a veteran is not under the jurisdiction of a county or city veteran service officer, the information will be provided by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA). Such written information on veteran services programs must be sent by United States mail.

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) and the FDVA will collaborate to administer the voluntary check-off. The DHSMV will report quarterly to the FDVA the identifying information of veterans who requested information via the voluntary check-off and provided a DD Form 214 or other acceptable form. Information provided from the DHSMV to the FDVA includes a veteran's legal name, sex, date of birth, social security number, and address.

Additionally, the bill requires the FDVA to provide assistance to veterans who select the voluntary check-off with preparing claims for and securing compensation, hospitalization, career training, and other benefits available to veterans. The bill allows the FDVA to apply for and administer any federal veteran services programs and any state and local programs that may be beneficial to the particular interests of veterans.

**Section 4** 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.



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

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The Department of State would be responsible for the reimbursement of per diem and travel expenses for the Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force (Task Force) members. Additionally, the Division of Elections within the Department of State will provide support staff for the Task Force. Depending on the scope of the Task Force's needs, this may require additional full-time employees.<sup>18</sup>

There is no estimate available at this time for the cost to implement the voluntary check-off program. Program expenses may include postage fees, packaging materials, technical and staff support. The bill does not identify a funding source to pay for the implementation of the program and does not specify which entity referenced in the bill is responsible for the costs associated with the program.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

The bill provides that a "direct-support organization," on behalf of a county or city veteran service officer, will distribute written information on veteran services program to veterans who request such information via the voluntary check-off established in the bill. The bill does not specify which statutorily created direct-support organization will perform this function.

The duties and authorities prescribed to the FDVA on lines 157-172 of the bill appear to be unnecessary because they are consistent with existing FDVA duties and authorities prescribed in s. 292.05, F.S.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends section 322.08 of the Florida Statutes.  
This bill creates undesignated sections of the Florida Law.

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<sup>18</sup> Department of State. SB 1296 Agency Bill Analysis. March 6, 2015.

**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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624704

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: TP	.	
03/12/2015	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

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

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 109 - 172  
and insert:

(1) Align existing degree programs, including, but not limited to, vocational and technical degrees, at each state university and Florida College System institution with applicable military training and experience to maximize academic credit award for such training and experience.

(2) Appoint and train specific faculty within each degree



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11 program at each state university and Florida College System  
12 institution as liaisons and contacts for veterans.

13 (3) Incorporate outreach services tailored to disabled  
14 veterans into existing disability services on the campus of each  
15 state university and Florida College System institution to make  
16 available to such veterans information on disability services  
17 provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,  
18 other federal and state agencies, and private entities.

19 (4) Facilitate statewide meetings for personnel at state  
20 universities and Florida College System institutions who provide  
21 student services for veterans to discuss and develop best  
22 practices, exchange ideas and experiences, and attend  
23 presentations by individuals with expertise in the unique needs  
24 of veterans.

25 (5) Make every effort to provide veterans with sufficient  
26 courses required for graduation, including, but not limited to,  
27 giving priority registration to veterans.

28 Section 3. Present subsection (8) of section 322.08,  
29 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (9), and a new  
30 subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

31 322.08 Application for license; requirements for license  
32 and identification card forms.—

33 (8) (a) To support the carrying out of the duties of the  
34 Department of Veterans' Affairs prescribed in s. 292.05 and to  
35 facilitate outreach to veterans residing in this state, the  
36 application form for an original, renewal, or replacement driver  
37 license or identification card must include a voluntary checkoff  
38 permitting a veteran of the United States Armed Forces to  
39 request written or electronic information on federal, state, and



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40 local benefits and services available to veterans. The veteran  
41 may elect to receive requested information through United States  
42 mail or by e-mail. A county or city veteran service officer  
43 shall deliver the requested information to the veteran through a  
44 third-party provider acting on behalf of the Department of  
45 Veterans' Affairs. If the veteran does not have access to a  
46 county or city veteran service officer, the Department of  
47 Veterans' Affairs shall deliver the requested information to the  
48 veteran through a third-party provider acting on its behalf.

49 (b) The department shall collaborate with the Department of  
50 Veterans' Affairs to administer this subsection. The department  
51 shall report monthly to the Department of Veterans' Affairs the  
52 name and mailing address or e-mail address of each veteran who  
53 requests information as provided in paragraph (a). Following  
54 receipt of the monthly report, the Department of Veterans'  
55 Affairs shall disseminate the contact information for each such  
56 veteran to the third-party provider acting on its behalf and the  
57 respective county or city veteran service officer. The third-  
58 party provider and the county or city veteran service officer  
59 shall coordinate delivery of the information requested pursuant  
60 to paragraph (a).

61  
62 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

63 And the title is amended as follows:

64 Delete lines 16 - 31

65 and insert:

66 align existing degree programs at state universities  
67 and Florida College System institutions, train  
68 faculty, incorporate outreach services into existing



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69 disability services, facilitate statewide meetings for  
70 personnel, and provide sufficient courses and priority  
71 registration to veterans; amending s. 322.08, F.S.;  
72 requiring the application form for an original,  
73 renewal, or replacement driver license or  
74 identification card to include a voluntary checkoff  
75 permitting veterans to request written or electronic  
76 information on federal, state, and local benefits and  
77 services for veterans; requiring a county or city  
78 veteran service officer to deliver the requested  
79 information; requiring the Department of Veterans'  
80 Affairs to deliver the requested information under  
81 certain circumstances; requiring the Department of  
82 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to collaborate with  
83 the Department of Veterans' Affairs in the  
84 administration of the voluntary checkoff program;  
85 requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
86 Vehicles to report monthly to the Department of  
87 Veterans' Affairs the names and mailing or e-mail  
88 addresses of veterans who request information;  
89 requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs to  
90 disseminate veteran contact information to the third-  
91 party provider and respective county or city veteran  
92 service officer; requiring the third-party provider  
93 and the county or city veteran service officer to  
94 coordinate delivery of the requested information;  
95 providing an effective date.

By Senator Bean

4-00425B-15

20151296\_\_

1 A bill to be entitled  
 2 An act relating to military and veterans affairs;  
 3 creating the Military and Overseas Voting Assistance  
 4 Task Force within the Department of State; specifying  
 5 membership of the task force; authorizing  
 6 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses;  
 7 prescribing duties of the task force; requiring  
 8 submission of a report to the Governor and the  
 9 Legislature by a specified date; providing for  
 10 expiration of the task force; providing for staffing;  
 11 providing legislative findings regarding continuing  
 12 education for veterans of the United States Armed  
 13 Forces; providing legislative intent for the State  
 14 Board of Education and the Board of Governors of the  
 15 State University System to work collaboratively to  
 16 establish degree programs at state universities and  
 17 Florida College System institutions, train faculty,  
 18 coordinate campus disability services, facilitate  
 19 statewide meetings for personnel, and provide  
 20 sufficient courses and priority registration to  
 21 veterans; amending s. 322.08, F.S.; requiring the  
 22 application form for an original, renewal, or  
 23 replacement driver license or identification card to  
 24 include a voluntary checkoff permitting certain  
 25 veterans to request written information for federal,  
 26 state, and local veteran services programs; directing  
 27 the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to  
 28 report specified information to the department;  
 29 directing the department to assist veterans with

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

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30 preparing certain claims and securing certain  
 31 services; providing an effective date.  
 32

33 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
 34

35 Section 1. Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task  
 36 Force.—The Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force, a  
 37 task force as defined in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes, is created  
 38 within the Department of State. The task force is created for  
 39 the express purpose of studying issues involving the development  
 40 and implementation of an online voting system that allows absent  
 41 uniformed services voters to electronically submit voted  
 42 ballots.

43 (1) The task force is composed of 20 members, as follows:

44 (a) The Secretary of State or his or her designee, who  
 45 shall serve as chair of the task force.

46 (b) The Adjutant General or his or her designee.

47 (c) The executive director of the Department of Veterans'  
 48 Affairs or his or her designee.

49 (d) The executive director of the Agency for State  
 50 Technology or his or her designee.

51 (e) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of  
 52 the Senate.

53 (f) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by  
 54 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

55 (g) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority  
 56 Leader of the Senate.

57 (h) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by  
 58 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

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- 59 (i) One member appointed by the Governor.
- 60 (j) Six supervisors of elections appointed by the Secretary
- 61 of State.
- 62 (k) Five individuals appointed by the Secretary of State,
- 63 with relevant expertise in computers, the Internet, or other
- 64 associated technologies.
- 65 (2) Members of the task force shall serve without
- 66 compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and
- 67 travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.
- 68 (3) The task force, at a minimum, shall study and report on
- 69 the following issues:
- 70 (a) Any factor that limits the ability of absent uniformed
- 71 services voters to request, receive, and return absentee ballots
- 72 within the current statutory time period for casting absentee
- 73 ballots.
- 74 (b) The costs associated with the development and
- 75 implementation of an online voting system.
- 76 (c) The feasibility of absent uniformed services voters
- 77 using an online voting system to electronically submit a voted
- 78 ballot.
- 79 (d) The security of electronically submitting a voted
- 80 ballot through an online voting system.
- 81 (e) Procedures adopted by other states to facilitate
- 82 greater electoral participation among absent uniformed services
- 83 voters.
- 84 (4) The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the
- 85 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
- 86 House of Representatives by July 1, 2016, containing the task
- 87 force's recommendation concerning whether the state should

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- 88 pursue the development and implementation of an online voting
- 89 system that allows absent uniformed services voters to
- 90 electronically submit voted ballots. If the task force favorably
- 91 recommends an online voting system, the report must include
- 92 recommended steps for developing and implementing such a system.
- 93 Upon submission of the report, the task force shall expire.
- 94 (5) The Division of Elections of the Department of State
- 95 shall provide support staff for the task force. The Agency for
- 96 State Technology shall assist the task force upon request.
- 97 Section 2. The Legislature finds that many veterans of the
- 98 United States Armed Forces in this state have completed training
- 99 and coursework during their military service, including overseas
- 100 deployments, resulting in tangible and quantifiable strides in
- 101 their pursuit of a postsecondary degree. The Legislature further
- 102 finds that the State Board of Education and the Board of
- 103 Governors of the State University System must work together to
- 104 ensure that military training and coursework are granted
- 105 academic credit in order to assist veterans in continuing their
- 106 education. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that
- 107 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors work
- 108 collaboratively to:
- 109 (1) Establish degree programs, including, but not limited
- 110 to, vocational and technical degrees, at each state university
- 111 and Florida College System institution that awards academic
- 112 credit for military training and experience.
- 113 (2) Appoint and train specific faculty within each degree
- 114 program at each state university and Florida College System
- 115 institution as liaisons and contacts for veterans.
- 116 (3) Coordinate existing disability services on the campus

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117 of each state university and Florida College System institution  
 118 with veteran disability services provided by the United States  
 119 Department of Veterans Affairs, other federal and state  
 120 agencies, and private entities.

121 (4) Facilitate statewide meetings for personnel at state  
 122 universities and Florida College System institutions who provide  
 123 student services for veterans to discuss and develop best  
 124 practices, exchange ideas and experiences, and hear  
 125 presentations by individuals with expertise in the unique needs  
 126 of veterans.

127 (5) Make every effort to provide veterans with sufficient  
 128 courses required for graduation, including, but not limited to,  
 129 giving priority registration to veterans.

130 Section 3. Present subsection (8) of section 322.08,  
 131 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (9), and a new  
 132 subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

133 322.08 Application for license; requirements for license  
 134 and identification card forms.—

135 (8) (a) To facilitate outreach by the Department of  
 136 Veterans' Affairs, the application form for an original,  
 137 renewal, or replacement driver license or identification card  
 138 must include a voluntary checkoff permitting an honorably  
 139 discharged member of the United States Armed Forces to request  
 140 written information for federal, state, and local veteran  
 141 services programs from a county or city veteran service officer  
 142 through a direct-support organization or, if the veteran is not  
 143 under the jurisdiction of a county or city veteran service  
 144 officer, the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

145 (b) The department shall work with the Department of

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146 Veterans' Affairs to administer this subsection. The department  
 147 shall report quarterly to the Department of Veterans' Affairs  
 148 the legal name, sex, date of birth, social security number, and  
 149 address of each honorably discharged member of the United States  
 150 Armed Forces who provides a DD Form 214 issued by the United  
 151 States Department of Defense or another acceptable form  
 152 specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and who selects  
 153 the voluntary checkoff to receive written information for  
 154 federal, state, and local programs pursuant to paragraph (a).  
 155 Information for such programs shall be sent by United States  
 156 mail.

157 (c) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide  
 158 assistance to veterans who select the voluntary checkoff  
 159 pursuant to paragraph (a) with preparing claims for and securing  
 160 compensation, hospitalization, career training, and other  
 161 benefits or privileges that such veterans are or may become  
 162 entitled to under any federal or state law or regulation by  
 163 reason of their service in the United States Armed Forces. The  
 164 Department of Veterans' Affairs may apply for and administer any  
 165 federal veteran services programs and develop and coordinate  
 166 such state and local programs as may be beneficial to the  
 167 particular interests of veterans, including, but not limited to,  
 168 social services, health care, education, employment, and any  
 169 other areas of determined need. Programs developed,  
 170 administered, and coordinated pursuant to this subsection are  
 171 subject to chapters 215 and 216 and services secured pursuant to  
 172 this subsection shall be without charge to the veteran.

173 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.



# CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: LL 37

Case:

Type: C

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

Judge:

Started: 3/10/2015 1:33:12 PM

Ends: 3/10/2015 2:16:28 PM Length: 00:43:17

1:33:14 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Altman  
1:33:19 PM Roll call by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham  
1:33:29 PM Quorum is present  
1:33:35 PM Comments from Chair Altman  
1:34:04 PM Chair Altman ask that all appearance cards be given to Lois  
1:34:14 PM TAB 1 CS/SB 394 by Senator Brandes presented by Mr. Trent Phillips, Legislative Assistant to Senator Brandes - Public Lodging Establishments  
1:34:54 PM Explanation of CS/SB 394 by Mr. Phillips  
1:35:01 PM Chair Altman ask if there are questions on the bill  
1:35:12 PM Chair Altman states that there is a courtesy Amendment by Senator Stargel, Barcode #209142 I  
1:35:31 PM Explanation of Amendment by Mr. Phillips  
1:35:36 PM Chair Altman ask for questions on the amendment  
1:35:42 PM Chair Altman ask for debate on the amendment  
1:35:47 PM Chair Altman states that the amendment is adopted  
1:35:55 PM Chair Altman states that we are back on the bill as amended  
1:36:12 PM Chair Altman ask for appearance cards  
1:36:17 PM Col. Mike Prendergast, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs waives in support  
1:36:30 PM Chair Altman ask for debate  
1:36:36 PM Chair Altman ask Mr. Phillips to close on CS/CS/SB 394  
1:36:41 PM Mr. Phillips waives closing  
1:36:47 PM Roll call on CS/S/SB 394 by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham  
1:36:56 PM CS/CS/SB 394 passes favorably  
1:37:07 PM TAB 3 - SB 1296 by Senator Bean, Military and Veterans Affairs presented by Ms. Dee Alexander, Legislative Assistant to Senator Bean  
1:37:43 PM Explanation of SB 1296 by Ms. Alexander  
1:37:54 PM Chair Altman ask for questions  
1:38:04 PM Senator Sachs speaking  
1:39:04 PM Chairman Altman called on Senator Gibson for question  
1:39:13 PM Question from Senator Gibson  
1:40:02 PM Response from Ms. Alexander  
1:40:26 PM Chair Altman states that there is an Amendment on the Bill  
1:40:46 PM Ms. Alexander explains Amendment, Barcode #624704  
1:41:00 PM Ms. Alexander explains the Amendment  
1:43:07 PM Chair Altman states that the amendment is courtesy of Senator Stargel  
1:43:22 PM Representative Greg Steube, State Representative speaking regarding the amendment  
1:43:37 PM Chair Altman ask for questions on the amendment  
1:43:41 PM Question from Senator Gibson  
1:44:20 PM Response from Representative Steube  
1:47:07 PM Question from Senator Sachs to Colonel Prendergast  
1:47:31 PM Response from Colonel Prendergast  
1:53:45 PM Chair Altman ask if there are additional questions

1:53:50 PM Question from Senator Gibson  
1:54:13 PM Response from Colonel Prendergast  
1:55:09 PM Question from Senator Stargel  
1:55:18 PM Response from Colonel Prendergast  
1:57:11 PM Question from Senator Stargel  
1:57:31 PM Response from Colonel Prendergast  
1:59:31 PM Question from Chair Altman  
1:59:47 PM Response from Colonel Prendergast  
2:01:06 PM Additional question from Chair Altman  
2:01:20 PM Question from Senator Stargel  
2:01:49 PM Response from Representative Steube  
2:02:04 PM Additional comments from Representative Steube  
2:02:09 PM Question from Senator Sachs  
2:02:19 PM Response from Representative Steube  
2:02:52 PM Follow-up question from Senator Sachs  
2:03:03 PM Response from Representative Steube  
2:05:07 PM Chair Altman ask if there are questions  
2:05:27 PM Chair Altman ask for debate on the amendment  
2:05:37 PM Question from Senator Gibson  
2:07:43 PM Statement by Chair Altman  
2:07:53 PM Chair Altman ask if there were additional debate  
2:08:20 PM Comments from Senator Sachs  
2:11:04 PM Chair Altman states that the bill will be TP'd  
2:12:04 PM Chair Altman states that the bill is TP'd until next meeting  
2:12:22 PM TAB 2 - SJR 910 by Senator Altman - Homestead Exemption/Living Spouse of Deceased Combat-Disabled Veteran  
2:13:00 PM Chair passed to Senator Sachs  
2:13:12 PM Explanation of SJR 910 by Senator Altman  
2:13:54 PM Chair Sachs ask for questions on the bill and ask for appearance cards  
2:14:03 PM Mr. Angela Gray, Property Appraiser, Jefferson County waives in support  
2:14:17 PM Colonel Mike Prendergast, Executive Director, The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs waives in support  
2:14:26 PM Comments from Chair Sachs  
2:14:31 PM Chair Sachs ask Senator Altman to close on bill  
2:14:59 PM Senator Altman waives closing  
2:15:10 PM Roll call by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham  
2:15:16 PM SJR 910 reported favorably  
2:15:25 PM Comments from Chair Altman  
2:15:38 PM Senator Stargel introduces Judge Davis the father of her Legislative Assistant  
2:16:07 PM Comments from Chair Altman  
2:16:12 PM Senator Stargel moves to rise