

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 17, 2015
TIME: 9:00 —10:30 a.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	SB 184 Evers (Identical H 109, Compare H 1161)	Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot; Authorizing absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to use the federal write-in absentee ballot in any state or local election; prohibiting the supervisor of elections from canvassing federal write-in absentee ballots from overseas voters in certain elections until 10 days after the date of the election; revising minimum requirements for Department of State rules used to determine what constitutes a valid vote on a federal write-in absentee ballot, etc. EE 03/10/2015 Favorable MS 03/17/2015 Favorable FP	Favorable Yeas 5 Nays 0
2	SB 1296 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 MS 03/17/2015 Fav/CS EE AP	Fav/CS Yeas 4 Nays 0
Consideration of proposed bill:			
3	SPB 7052	Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for Deployed Servicemembers; Expanding the military operations that qualify a servicemember deployed in support of such an operation in the previous calendar year for an additional ad valorem tax exemption; providing an extended deadline and specifying procedures for filing an application for such tax exemption for a qualifying deployment during the 2014 calendar year, etc.	Submitted as Committee Bill Yeas 5 Nays 0

Other Related Meeting Documents

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA
Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security
Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 9:00 —10:30 a.m.

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.)

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

BILL: SB 184

INTRODUCER: Senators Evers and Gaetz

SUBJECT: Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot

DATE: March 16, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Fox</u>	<u>Roberts</u>	<u>EE</u>	Favorable
2.	<u>Sanders</u>	<u>Ryon</u>	<u>MS</u>	Favorable
3.	_____	_____	<u>FP</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SB 184 expands the use of the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) to include state constitutional amendments, local ballot measures, and judicial merit retention elections. In addition, the bill delays the canvassing of an FWAB until 10 days after the presidential preference primary or general election. This will allow the elector’s original ballot to be counted [in lieu of an FWAB] if it is received during that 10-day window (provided it is otherwise proper).

The FWAB is considered a “ballot of last resort” for absent, active-duty military (and their families) and overseas citizens who timely request, but fail to receive, an official absentee ballot from their county supervisor of elections.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

II. Present Situation:

The Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) is a federally-mandated alternative, or “back-up,” ballot that allows otherwise-eligible overseas citizens and absent, active-duty military (and their families) to cast votes in federal elections,¹ provided they made a timely-request for a regular absentee ballot. Most states have also authorized the FWAB for voting in certain state and local elections.

¹ From its inception in 1986 (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act [UOCAVA]) until it was amended effective 2010, the FWAB was mandated only for federal general elections. See, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, Civil Rights Division web site at http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/misc/activ_uoc.php, (last visited March 11, 2015). In 2010, the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE) expanded the required use of the FWAB to all federal elections, including primaries. *Id*; see also, 42 U.S.C. s. 1973ff-1(a).

In 2011, Florida expanded the FWAB’s “ballot-of-last-resort”² use beyond just federal elections to include state and local elections involving two or more candidates.³ At the time, the FWAB was designed solely for candidate races, with lines for designating candidates’ names and offices sought; it did not embrace ballot elections requiring a voter’s affirmation or rejection. In August 2013, the federal government modified the FWAB form to specifically include spaces for “Ballot Initiatives” and the “Initiative Vote.”⁴

The canvassing of an FWAB that otherwise meets all the legal requirements for validity is a bit confusing, especially when both an FWAB and the elector’s original absentee ballot are received: timing is determinative -⁵

- If the only ballot a supervisor timely receives from an elector is the FWAB, it is counted.
- If the supervisor receives both an FWAB and the elector’s official absentee ballot by 7 p.m. on Election Day, then the elector’s official ballot is counted.
- If the only ballot a supervisor receives from an elector by 7 pm on Election Day is the FWAB, then the FWAB is counted — regardless of whether the elector’s original ballot is subsequently received within a special 10-day validity window after Election Day that the statutes provide for the presidential preference primary and general election.⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 184 eliminates Florida’s “multi-candidate restriction,” and authorizes the FWAB as a “ballot of last resort” for eligible voters in all federal, state, and local elections — including statewide constitutional initiatives, local ballot measures, and judicial merit retention elections for the Florida Supreme Court and district courts of appeal. It specifically directs that votes cast in judicial retention elections be treated in the same manner as ballot measures requiring a “yes” or “no” vote. Finally, it requires the Department of State to adopt rules prescribing what markings, symbols, or language on the FWAB constitute a valid vote with regard to these new elections.

In addition, the bill delays the canvassing of an FWAB until *10 days after the presidential preference primary or general election*, so that the elector’s original ballot can be counted (in lieu of the FWAB) if it is received during that 10-day window (provided it is otherwise legal and proper). This should allow the canvassing board to better determine a voter’s intent⁷ (in most cases) and to more efficiently and accurately canvass the votes — since the ballot doesn’t have to be duplicated to run through the tabulators.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

² Eligible military or overseas voter must have timely requested and not received an official absentee ballot in order to vote by FWAB. Section 101.6952(2)(a), F.S.

³ Ch. 2011-162, Laws of Fla.

⁴ Current FVAP form and instructions, available at Federal Voting Assistance Program web site: <https://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Forms/fwab2013.pdf>, (last visited March 11, 2015).

⁵ Section 101.6952(3)(b), F.S.

⁶ An absentee ballot from an overseas elector in a presidential preference primary or general election will count if it is received up to 10 days after the date of the election, provided it is postmarked or dated no later than Election Day. Section 101.6952(5), F.S.

⁷ The form of the original ballot is pre-printed with specific information for each contest (i.e., candidate names, designated arrows/ovals, better headers, less-confusing spacing).

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:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 101.6952 and 102.166.

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.

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

By Senator Evers

2-00189A-15

2015184__

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the federal write-in absentee
 3 ballot; amending s. 101.6952, F.S.; authorizing absent
 4 uniformed services voters and overseas voters to use
 5 the federal write-in absentee ballot in any state or
 6 local election; authorizing an elector to vote on any
 7 ballot measure in an election using the federal write-
 8 in absentee ballot under certain circumstances;
 9 specifying that a vote cast in a judicial merit
 10 retention election is treated in the same manner as a
 11 vote on certain ballot measures; allowing for
 12 abbreviations, misspellings, and other minor
 13 variations in the name of a ballot measure;
 14 prohibiting the supervisor of elections from
 15 canvassing federal write-in absentee ballots from
 16 overseas voters in certain elections until 10 days
 17 after the date of the election; making technical
 18 changes; amending s. 102.166, F.S.; revising minimum
 19 requirements for Department of State rules used to
 20 determine what constitutes a valid vote on a federal
 21 write-in absentee ballot; providing an effective date.

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

23
 24
 25 Section 1. Subsection (2) and paragraph (b) of subsection
 26 (3) of section 101.6952, Florida Statutes, are amended, and
 27 subsection (5) of that section is republished, to read:

28 101.6952 Absentee ballots for absent uniformed services and
 29 overseas voters.—

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30 (2) (a) An absent uniformed services voter or an overseas
 31 voter who makes timely application for but does not receive an
 32 official absentee ballot may use the federal write-in absentee
 33 ballot to vote in any federal, ~~election and any state,~~ or local
 34 election ~~involving two or more candidates.~~

35 (b)1. In an election for federal office, an elector may
 36 designate a candidate by writing the name of a candidate on the
 37 ballot. Except for a primary or special primary election, the
 38 elector may alternatively designate a candidate by writing the
 39 name of a political party on the ballot. A written designation
 40 of the political party shall be counted as a vote for the
 41 candidate of that party if there is such a party candidate in
 42 the race.

43 2. ~~In an election for a state or local election office,~~ an
 44 elector may vote in the section of the federal write-in absentee
 45 ballot designated for nonfederal races by writing on the ballot
 46 the title of each office and by writing on the ballot the name
 47 of the candidate for whom the elector is voting. Except for a
 48 primary, special primary, or nonpartisan election, the elector
 49 may alternatively designate a candidate by writing the name of a
 50 political party on the ballot. A written designation of the
 51 political party shall be counted as a vote for the candidate of
 52 that party if there is such a party candidate in the race. In
 53 addition, the elector may vote on any ballot measure presented
 54 in such election by identifying the ballot measure on which he
 55 or she desires to vote and specifying his or her vote on the
 56 measure. For purposes of this section, a vote cast in a judicial
 57 merit retention election shall be treated in the same manner as
 58 a ballot measure in which the only allowable responses are "Yes"

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59 or "NO."

60 (c) In the case of a joint candidacy, such as for the
61 offices of President/Vice President or Governor/Lieutenant
62 Governor, a valid vote for one or both qualified candidates on
63 the same ticket shall constitute a vote for the joint candidacy.

64 (d) For purposes of this subsection and except when where
65 the context clearly indicates otherwise, such as when where a
66 candidate in the election is affiliated with a political party
67 whose name includes the word "Independent," "Independence," or a
68 similar term, a voter designation of "No Party Affiliation" or
69 "Independent," or any minor variation, misspelling, or
70 abbreviation thereof, shall be considered a designation for the
71 candidate, other than a write-in candidate, who qualified to run
72 in the race with no party affiliation. If more than one
73 candidate qualifies to run as a candidate with no party
74 affiliation, the designation may shall not count for any
75 candidate unless there is a valid, additional designation of the
76 candidate's name.

77 (e) Any abbreviation, misspelling, or other minor variation
78 in the form of the name of an office, the name of a candidate,
79 the ballot measure, or the name of a political party must be
80 disregarded in determining the validity of the ballot.

81 (3)

82 (b) A federal write-in absentee ballot may not be canvassed
83 until 7 p.m. on the day of the election. A federal write-in
84 absentee ballot from an overseas voter in a presidential
85 preference primary or general election may not be canvassed
86 until the conclusion of the 10-day period specified in
87 subsection (5). Each federal write-in absentee ballot received

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88 by 7 p.m. on the day of the election shall be canvassed pursuant
89 to ss. 101.5614(5) and 101.68, unless the elector's official
90 absentee ballot is received by 7 p.m. on election day. Each
91 federal write-in absentee ballot from an overseas voter in a
92 presidential preference primary or general election received by
93 10 days after the date of the election shall be canvassed
94 pursuant to ss. 101.5614(5) and 101.68, unless the overseas
95 voter's official absentee ballot is received by 10 days after
96 the date of the election. If the elector's official absentee
97 ballot is received by 7 p.m. on election day, or, for an
98 overseas voter in a presidential preference primary or general
99 election, no later than 10 days after the date of the election,
100 the federal write-in absentee ballot is invalid and the official
101 absentee ballot shall be canvassed. The time shall be regulated
102 by the customary time in standard use in the county seat of the
103 locality.

104 (5) An absentee ballot from an overseas voter in any
105 presidential preference primary or general election which is
106 postmarked or dated no later than the date of the election and
107 is received by the supervisor of elections of the county in
108 which the overseas voter is registered no later than 10 days
109 after the date of the election shall be counted as long as the
110 absentee ballot is otherwise proper.

111 Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 102.166, Florida
112 Statutes, is amended to read:

113 102.166 Manual recounts of overvotes and undervotes.—

114 (4) (a) A vote for a candidate or ballot measure shall be
115 counted if there is a clear indication on the ballot that the
116 voter has made a definite choice.

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117 (b) The Department of State shall adopt specific rules for
 118 the federal write-in absentee ballot and for each certified
 119 voting system prescribing what constitutes a "clear indication
 120 on the ballot that the voter has made a definite choice." The
 121 rules shall be consistent, to the extent practicable, and may
 122 not:

123 1. Exclusively provide that the voter must properly mark or
 124 designate his or her choice on the ballot; or

125 2. Contain a catch-all provision that fails to identify
 126 specific standards, such as "any other mark or indication
 127 clearly indicating that the voter has made a definite choice."

128 (c) The rule for the federal write-in absentee ballot must
 129 address, at a minimum, the following issues:

130 1. The appropriate lines or spaces for designating a
 131 candidate choice and, for state and local races, the office or
 132 ballot measure to be voted, including the proximity of each to
 133 the other and the effect of intervening blank lines.

134 2. The sufficiency of designating a candidate's first or
 135 last name when no other candidate in the race has the same or a
 136 similar name.

137 3. The sufficiency of designating a candidate's first or
 138 last name when an opposing candidate has the same or a similar
 139 name, notwithstanding generational suffixes and titles such as
 140 "Jr.," "Sr.," or "III." The rule should contemplate the
 141 sufficiency of additional first names and first initials, middle
 142 names and middle initials, generational suffixes and titles,
 143 nicknames, and, in general elections, the name or abbreviation
 144 of a political party.

145 4. Candidate designations containing both a qualified

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146 candidate's name and a political party, including those in which
 147 ~~where~~ the party designated is the candidate's party, is not the
 148 candidate's party, has an opposing candidate in the race, or
 149 does not have an opposing candidate in the race.

150 5. Situations where the abbreviation or name of a candidate
 151 is the same as the abbreviation or name of a political party to
 152 which the candidate does not belong, including those in which
 153 ~~where~~ the party designated has another candidate in the race or
 154 does not have a candidate in the race.

155 6. The use of marks, symbols, or language, such as arrows,
 156 quotation marks, or the word "same" or "ditto," to indicate that
 157 the same political party designation applies to all listed
 158 offices or the elector's approval or disapproval of all listed
 159 ballot measures.

160 7. Situations in which ~~where~~ an elector designates the name
 161 of a qualified candidate for an incorrect office.

162 8. Situations in which ~~where~~ an elector designates an
 163 otherwise correct office name that includes an incorrect
 164 district number.

165 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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

3/17/15

Meeting Date

184

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Federal White Collar

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name RON LABASKY

Job Title _____

Address 225 S ADAMS ST.

Phone 850-222-7718

Street

TALL FL 32301

City

State

Zip

Email _____

Speaking: For Against Information

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

Representing FL STATE ASSOC. OF SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

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

Committee Agenda Request

To: Senator Altman
Chair, Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security

Subject: Committee Agenda Request

Date: March 10, 2015

I respectfully request that **Senate Bill #184**, relating to the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot, be placed on the:

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg Evers".

Senator Greg Evers
Florida Senate, District 2

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.)

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

BILL: CS/SB 1296

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

SUBJECT: Military and Veterans Affairs

DATE: March 19, 2015 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Ryon	Ryon	MS	Fav/CS
2.	_____	_____	EE	_____
3.	_____	_____	AP	_____

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1296:

- 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;
- Establishes a voluntary check-off on driver license and identification card applications to allow a veteran to request written or electronic information on federal, state, and local benefits and services available to veterans;
- Waives driver license and identification card fees for combat veterans; and
- Removes an existing provision that waives driver license and identification card fees for 100-percent total and permanent service-connected disabled veterans.

II. Present Situation:

Military Overseas 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.¹ 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.

Veterans' Training and Coursework

State Board of Education – Florida College System

The State Board of Education is the chief implementing and coordinating body of public education in Florida, except for the State University System.² In accordance with Article IX, Section 2, of the State Constitution, the State Board of Education is responsible for supervising the system of free public education as is provided by law and appoints the Commissioner of the Department of Education.

There are 28 locally-governed public colleges in the Florida College System. While governed by local boards, the colleges are coordinated under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education. Administratively, the Chancellor of Florida Colleges is the chief executive officer of the system, reporting to the Commissioner of Education who serves as the chief executive officer of Florida's K-20 System.³

Board of Governors - State University System

The Board of Governors is the governing body for the State University System of Florida. In accordance with Article IX, Section 7(d), of the State Constitution, it is required to “operate, regulate, control, and be fully responsible for the management of the whole university system.” Currently, there are 12 institutions within the State University System (SUS).⁴ The SUS enrolls over 337,000 students, offers nearly 1,800 degree programs at the baccalaureate, graduate, and professional levels, and annually awards over 81,000 degrees at all levels.⁵

¹ Section 101.6925, F.S.

² Section 1001.02(1), F.S.

³ Florida Department of Education website, About Us. Available at: <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/higher-ed/fl-college-system/about-us>.

⁴ The State University System 2025 System Strategic Plan, p 5. Available at: http://www.flbog.edu/pressroom/doc/2025_System_Strategic_Plan_Revised_FINAL.pdf.

⁵ *Id.*

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.⁶ 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.⁷ 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 on Driver License/Identification Card Applications

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.⁸

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 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 fee⁹, not to exceed \$10,000, to defray the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' (DHSMV) 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.

⁶ Chapter 2012-169, Laws of Fla.

⁷ Chapter 2012-159, Laws of Fla.

⁸ 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.

⁹ State funds may not be used to pay the application fee.

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.¹⁰

The Florida Vets Connect Program

In 2010, the 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.¹¹ 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.¹² 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-mail¹³ to those individuals who request such information on the driver license or identification card application.¹⁴ The FDVA distributed 50,350 e-mails during the 2014 calendar year under the Vets Connect Program.¹⁵ E-mails are distributed on a monthly basis.¹⁶

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 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.¹⁷ Each county currently employs a veteran service officer, however, in some cases, one veteran service officer may service two counties.¹⁸ There are currently no certified city veteran service officers in Florida.¹⁹

¹⁰ See Section 322.08(7)(n), (o), and (r), F.S.

¹¹ 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>.

¹² 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.

¹³ According to the FDVA, it is too cost prohibitive to distribute printouts of the veterans' benefits information via the United States mail.

¹⁴ *Supra* note 9.

¹⁵ E-mail correspondence with FDVA staff on March 5, 2015. On file with the Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Section 292.11(4), F.S.

¹⁸ Listing of Florida County Veteran Service Officers: http://floridavets.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/CVSO_Directory_1-February-2014.pdf

¹⁹ E-mail correspondence with FDVA staff on March 6. On file with the Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee.

Driver License and Identification Card Fees

Driver license fees are authorized in s. 322.21, F.S. An original or renewal commercial driver license is \$78; and an original renewal or extension of a Class E driver license is \$48. The revenues from these fees are deposited into the General Revenue Fund. Other fees established include replacement driver licenses and original, replacement, and renewal identification cards. A replacement drive license is \$25. Of this amount, \$7 is deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund and \$18 is deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

An identification card is \$25.²⁰ Of this amount, the fee distribution varies depending on the type of issuance. The fee for an original identification card is deposited into the General Revenue Fund. From the fee for a renewal identification card, \$6 is deposited into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund and \$19 into the General Revenue Fund; and for a replacement identification card, \$9 into the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund and \$16 is deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

Current law requires that driver license issuance services be assumed by the tax collectors who are constitutional officers under s. 1(d), Art. VIII of the State Constitution by June 30, 2015.²¹ Beginning July 1, 2015, or upon completion of the transition of driver license issuance services, a tax collector who issues a replacement driver license or replacement identification card may retain the portion the fee that is currently deposited in the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund, \$7 or \$9 respectively.²²

Fee Exemption for 100-Percent Total and Permanent Service-Connected Disabled Veterans

Section 322.21(7), F.S., provides an exemption from all driver license and identification card fees required by s. 322.21, F.S., for any honorably discharged veteran who: has been issued a valid identification card by the FDVA in accordance with s. 295.17, F.S.;²³ has been determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) or the Department of Defense to have a 100-percent total and permanent service-connected disability; and is qualified to obtain a Florida driver license.

Combat Veterans

Section 1.01(14), F.S., defines the term “veteran” as:

“a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under honorable conditions only or who later received an upgraded discharge under honorable conditions, notwithstanding any action by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs on individuals discharged or released with other than honorable discharges.”

²⁰ Section 322.21(f), F.S.

²¹ Section 322.135(5), F.S.

²² Section 322.21(1)(e) and (1)(f)3., F.S.

²³ Pursuant to s. 295.17, F.S., the FDVA may issue an identification card to any veteran who is a permanent Florida resident and who has a 100-percent service-connected disability.

The Florida Statutes also defines “wartime veteran”²⁴ for the purpose of determining eligibility for certain state benefits, but does not define “combat veteran.”

For the purpose of determining eligibility for certain health care services provided by the USDVA, the U.S. Code defines “combat veteran” as:

“a veteran who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War, or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998.”²⁵

The USDVA considers the following documentation to determine service in a theater of combat operations:²⁶

- Military service documentation that reflects service in a combat theater;
- Receipt of combat service medals; or²⁷
- Receipt of imminent danger or hostile fire pay²⁸ or tax benefits.²⁹

Florida is home to approximately 1.6 million veterans, of which 1.2 million are considered wartime veterans.³⁰ There is no estimate available for the number of combat veterans residing in Florida.³¹

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.

²⁴ s. 1.01(14), F.S. To receive benefits as a wartime veteran, a veteran must have served in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized or a veteran must have served during one of the following periods of wartime service: (a) Spanish-American War, including the Philippine Insurrection and the Boxer Rebellion; (b) Mexican Border Period; (c) World War I; (d) World War II; (e) Korean Conflict; (f) Vietnam Era; (g) Persian Gulf War; (h) Operation Enduring Freedom; and (i) Operation Iraqi Freedom.

²⁵ 38 U.S.C. Section 1710(e)(1)(D)

²⁶ A combat operation is a military action that may involve carrying out a strategic, operational, or tactical mission against a hostile or unfriendly force, to include carrying on combat and any related movement, supply, attack, defense, or maneuvers needed to gain the objectives of a battle or campaign. Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom are examples of combat operations. Department of Defense: Financial Management Regulation 7000.14 – R, Volume 7a: “Military Pay Policy - Active Duty And Reserve Pay.” p. 13-3. Available at:

http://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/documents/fmr/Volume_07a.pdf

²⁷ Air Force Cross, Air Medal with “V” Device, Army Commendation Medal with “V” Device, Bronze Star Medal with “V” Device, Combat Action Badge, Combat Action Ribbon, Combat Aircrew Insignia, Combat Infantry/Infantryman Badge, Combat Medical Badge, Distinguished Flying Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Joint Service Commendation Medal with “V” Device, Medal of Honor, Navy Commendation Medal with “V” Device, Navy Cross, Purple Heart, and/or Silver Star.

²⁸ Hostile fire pay is defined as pay to anyone exposed to hostile fire or mine explosion, while imminent danger pay is paid to anyone on duty outside the United States area who is subject to physical harm or imminent danger due to wartime conditions, terrorism, civil insurrection, or civil war. USDVA Veterans Health Administration Directive 2008-054. Available at:

http://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=1758

²⁹ USDVA. Combat Veteran Eligibility. December 2011. Available at:

http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/assets/documents/publications/ib-10-438_combat_veteran_eligibility.pdf

³⁰ FDVA. Fast Facts. Available at: <http://floridavets.org/our-veterans/profilefast-facts/>

³¹ E-mail correspondence with FDVA staff on March 18, 2015. On file with Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee.

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;
- 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:

- Align existing degree programs with applicable military training and experience to maximize academic credit awarded for such training and experience;
- Appoint and train specific faculty within each degree program at each institution as liaisons and contacts for veterans;
- Incorporate outreach services tailored to disabled veterans to inform disabled veterans of disability services provided by the USDVA, and other federal and state agencies, 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.

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 veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces to request written or electronic information on federal, state, and local benefits and services available to veterans. The veteran may elect to receive the information through the U.S. mail or by e-mail. The FDVA will select one or more third-party providers to act on the FDVA's behalf and deliver the requested information to the veteran.

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) and the FDVA will collaborate to administer the voluntary check-off. The DHSMV will report monthly to the FDVA the name and mailing address or e-mail address of each veteran who selects the voluntary check-off. The FDVA will then distribute the veterans' contact information to the third-party provider to administer delivery of veteran benefit and service information via the indicated preferred method of delivery (U.S. mail or e-mail). The FDVA will also disseminate the contact information for veterans who select the voluntary check-off to the appropriate county or city veteran service officer in order to facilitate further outreach to veterans.

The bill requires that a third-party provider selected by the FDVA to act on its behalf be a nonprofit organization with sufficient ability to communicate with veterans throughout the state. "Nonprofit organization" is defined as an organization exempt from the federal income tax under s. 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any federal, state, or local governmental entity.

Additionally, the bill requires that a veteran's contact information obtained by a third-party may only be used for purposes outlined in the bill, prohibits a third-party provider from selling a veteran's contact information, and requires a third-party to maintain confidentiality of the contact information in accordance with ch. 119, F.S., and the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994. Any person who willfully and knowingly violates the aforementioned conditions commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

Section 4 amends s. 322.21(7), F.S., to remove the provision that waives the driver license and identification card fees provided in s. 322.21, F.S., for 100-percent total and permanent service-connected disabled veterans who are qualified to obtain a driver license.

The bill provides that any honorably discharged veteran who has served in combat and is qualified to obtain a driver license is exempt from the driver license and identification card fees provided in s. 322.21, F.S.

Section 5 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:

The bill entitles veterans who served in combat and who are qualified to obtain a driver license to a free original, renewal, or replacement driver license or identification card.

Veterans with a 100-percent total and permanent service-connected disability are no longer entitled to a free original, renewal, or replacement driver license or identification card.

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.³²

There is no estimate available at this time for the cost to implement the veterans' 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

³² Department of State. SB 1296 Agency Bill Analysis. March 6, 2015.

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.

The bill will have a negative fiscal impact on the General Revenue Fund, the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund, and County Tax Collectors due to loss of revenue collected from driver license and identification card fees for combat veterans. The revenue loss estimate is indeterminate at this time.

The bill will have a positive fiscal impact on the General Revenue Fund, the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund, and County Tax Collectors due to the removal of the existing driver license and identification card fee exemption for 100-percent total and permanent service-connected disabled veterans.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

The bill does not define a “veteran who served in combat” as it relates to the driver license and identification card fee exemption authorized in the bill. The bill also does not identify the appropriate documentation to verify that a veteran served in combat.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 322.08 and 322.21. This bill creates undesignated sections of the Florida Law.

IX. Additional Information:

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

CS by Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security on March 17, 2015:

The CS makes the following changes to the veterans voluntary check-off program:

- Replaces “direct-support organization” with “third-party provider” selected by the FDVA to act on its behalf;
- Defines “third-party provider;”
- Allows a veteran to opt to receive the benefit information via U.S. mail or e-mail;
- Provides that only the veteran’s name and mailing address or e-mail address will be shared;
- Removes requirement that a veteran present a DD-214 to be able to participate in the check-off program;
- Changes frequency in which DHSMV will disseminate veterans’ contact information to the FDVA from quarterly to monthly;
- Provides that a third-party provider, instead of a county or city veteran service officer, will distribute the benefit information directly to veterans;

- Requires FDVA to disseminate veterans' contact information to each county and city veteran service officer for optional outreach to veterans;
- Provides a criminal penalty for any person who sells a veteran's contact information or who does not maintain confidentiality of a veteran's contact information; and
- Removes unnecessary redundant language.

The CS also revises the legislative intent regarding college and university student veteran support.

B. Amendments:

None.



624704

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RS	.	
03/17/2015	.	
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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 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



624704

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



624704

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



624704

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.



444302

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/17/2015	.	
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	.	

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

1 **Senate Substitute for Amendment (624704) (with title**
2 **amendment)**

3
4 Delete lines 109 - 172
5 and insert:

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



444302

11 (2) Appoint and train specific faculty within each degree
12 program at each state university and Florida College System
13 institution as liaisons and contacts for veterans.

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

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

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

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

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

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



444302

40 request written or electronic information on federal, state, and
41 local benefits and services available to veterans. The veteran
42 may elect to receive requested information through United States
43 mail or by e-mail. The requested information shall be delivered
44 to the veteran by a third-party provider acting on behalf of the
45 Department of Veterans' Affairs.

46 (b) The department shall collaborate with the Department of
47 Veterans' Affairs to administer this subsection. The department
48 shall report monthly to the Department of Veterans' Affairs the
49 name and mailing address or e-mail address of each veteran who
50 requests information as provided in paragraph (a). Following
51 receipt of the monthly report, the Department of Veterans'
52 Affairs shall disseminate the contact information for each such
53 veteran to the third-party provider acting on its behalf. The
54 third-party provider must be a nonprofit organization with
55 sufficient ability to communicate with veterans residing
56 throughout this state. For purposes of this paragraph, the term
57 "nonprofit organization" means an organization exempt from the
58 federal income tax under s. 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of
59 1986 or any federal, state, or local governmental entity.

60 (c) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (b), the
61 Department of Veterans' Affairs shall disseminate the contact
62 information for a veteran who selects the voluntary checkoff to
63 the appropriate county or city veteran service officer in order
64 to facilitate further outreach to veterans.

65 (d)1. The contact information of a veteran which is
66 obtained by a third-party provider pursuant to this subsection
67 may be used only as authorized by this subsection. The third-
68 party provider may not sell such contact information. Except as



444302

69 otherwise provided, the third-party provider must maintain the
70 confidentiality of the contact information in accordance with
71 chapter 119 and the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of
72 1994, 18 U.S.C. ss. 2721 et seq.

73 2. A person who willfully and knowingly violates this
74 paragraph commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable
75 as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

76
77 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

78 And the title is amended as follows:

79 Delete lines 16 - 31

80 and insert:

81 align existing degree programs at state universities
82 and Florida College System institutions, train
83 faculty, incorporate outreach services into existing
84 disability services, facilitate statewide meetings for
85 personnel, and provide sufficient courses and priority
86 registration to veterans; amending s. 322.08, F.S.;
87 requiring the application form for an original,
88 renewal, or replacement driver license or
89 identification card to include a voluntary checkoff
90 authorizing veterans to request written or electronic
91 information on federal, state, and local benefits and
92 services for veterans; requiring the requested
93 information to be delivered by a third-party provider;
94 requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor
95 Vehicles to report monthly to the Department of
96 Veterans' Affairs the names and mailing or e-mail
97 addresses of veterans who request information;



444302

98 requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs to
99 disseminate veteran contact information to the third-
100 party provider; requiring that the third-party
101 provider be a nonprofit organization; defining the
102 term "nonprofit organization"; requiring that the
103 Department of Veterans' Affairs provide veteran
104 contact information to the appropriate county or city
105 veteran service officer; specifying that a third-party
106 provider may use veteran contact information only as
107 authorized; prohibiting a third-party provider from
108 selling veteran contact information; requiring a
109 third-party provider to maintain confidentiality of
110 veteran contact information under specified
111 provisions; providing a penalty; providing an
112 effective date.



654876

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/17/2015	.	
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	.	

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

Senate Amendment to Substitute Amendment (444302)

Delete lines 44 - 45
and insert:
to the veteran by any third party provider selected by the
Department of Veterans' Affairs to act on its behalf.



574736

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/17/2015	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

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

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Between lines 172 and 173

insert:

Section 4. Subsection (7) of section 322.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

322.21 License fees; procedure for handling and collecting fees.—

(7) Any veteran honorably discharged from the Armed Forces who has served in combat ~~been issued a valid identification card~~



574736

11 ~~by the Department of Veterans' Affairs in accordance with s.~~
12 ~~295.17, has been determined by the United States Department of~~
13 ~~Veterans Affairs or its predecessor to have a 100 percent total~~
14 ~~and permanent service-connected disability rating for~~
15 ~~compensation, or has been determined to have a service-connected~~
16 ~~total and permanent disability rating of 100 percent, is in~~
17 ~~receipt of disability retirement pay from any branch of the~~
18 ~~United States Armed Services, and who is qualified to obtain a~~
19 driver license under this chapter is exempt from all fees
20 required by this section.

21
22 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

23 And the title is amended as follows:

24 Delete line 31

25 and insert:

26 services; amending s. 322.21, F.S.; revising
27 eligibility for veterans for exemptions from certain
28 license fees; 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

Page 1 of 6

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

4-00425B-15

20151296__

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.

Page 2 of 6

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

4-00425B-15

20151296__

- 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

Page 3 of 6

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

4-00425B-15

20151296__

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

4-00425B-15 20151296__

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.

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

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

3/17/15

Meeting Date

SB 1296

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Veteran & Military Affairs

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Col. Mike Prendergast

Job Title Executive Director

Address Suite 2105, The Capitol

Phone (850) 487-1533

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32399

City

State

Zip

Email exdir@fdva.state.fl.us

Speaking: For Against Information

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

Representing The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

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

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

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.)

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

BILL: SPB 7052

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

SUBJECT: Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for Deployed Servicemembers

DATE: March 16, 2015

REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Sanders	Ryon	_____	Submitted as Committee Bill

I. Summary:

SPB 7052 amends s. 196.173, F.S., to update the designated operations for which deployed servicemembers may qualify for an additional ad valorem tax exemption. The changes are based upon the report required to be delivered by the Department of Military Affairs to the Legislature of all known and unclassified military operations outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii for which servicemembers based in the continental United States have been deployed during the previous calendar year. The bill adds the following to the statutory list of operations:

- Operation Joint Guardian
- Operation Octave Shield
- Operation Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership
- Operation Nomad Shadow
- Operation U.S. Airstrikes Al Qaeda in Somalia
- Operation Objective Voice
- Operation Georgia Deployment Program
- Operation Copper Dune
- Operation Observant Compass
- Operation Juniper Shield
- Operation Inherent Resolve

The bill provides an exception to the March 1 application deadline in s. 196.173(5), F.S., for 2015 only, by establishing June 1, 2015, as the deadline for an eligible servicemember to apply for an additional tax exemption for qualifying deployment during the 2014 calendar year.

The bill is effective upon becoming law and first applies to ad valorem tax rolls for 2015.

II. Present Situation:

Ad Valorem Exemption for Deployed Servicemembers

Section 196.173, F.S., provides an additional ad valorem tax exemption for homestead property owned by a military servicemember¹ deployed outside of the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the Legislature. The tax relief provided by the exemption is equal to the taxable value of the homestead of the servicemember on January 1 of the year in which the exemption is sought multiplied by the number of days that the servicemember was on a qualifying deployment in the preceding calendar year and divided by the number of days in that year.²

Eligible Military Operations

The exemption is currently available to servicemembers who were deployed during the previous calendar year on active duty outside the continental United State, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of:

- Operation Noble Eagle, which began on September 15, 2001;
- Operation Enduring Freedom, which began on October 7, 2001;
- Operation Iraqi Freedom, which began on March 19, 2003, and ended on August 31, 2010;
- Operation New Dawn, which began September 1, 2010, and ended on December 15, 2011; or
- Operation Odyssey Dawn, which began on March 19, 2011, and ended on October 31, 2011.³

Annual Report of All Known and Unclassified Military Operations

By January 15 of each year, the Department of Military Affairs must submit to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the tax committees of each house of the Legislature a report of all known and unclassified military operations outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii for which servicemembers based in the continental United States have been deployed during the previous calendar year.⁴

To the extent possible, the report must include:

- The official and common names of the military operations;
- The general location and purpose of each military operation;
- The date each military operation commenced; and
- The date each military operation terminated, unless the operation is ongoing.⁵

Exemption Application

A servicemember who seeks to claim the additional tax exemption must file an application for exemption with the property appraiser on or before March 1 of the year following the year of the

¹ The term “servicemember” is defined as a member or former member of any branch of the United States military or military reserves, the United States Coast Guard or its reserves, or the Florida National Guard. *See s. 196.173(7), F.S.*

² Section 196.173(4), F.S.

³ Section 196.173(2), F.S.

⁴ Section 196.173(3), F.S.

⁵ *Id.*

qualifying deployment.⁶ The application for the exemption must be made on a form prescribed by the Department of Revenue and furnished by the property appraiser.⁷ The servicemember must provide with the application:

- Proof of a qualifying deployment;
- The dates of the qualifying deployment; and
- Other information necessary to verify eligibility for and the amount of the exemption.⁸

The property appraiser must consider a servicemember's application for the exemption within 30 days after receipt of the application or within 30 days after receiving notice of the designation of qualifying deployments by the Legislature, whichever is later.⁹ If a servicemember's application is denied, the property appraiser must send a notice of disapproval no later than July 1, citing the reason for disapproval and advising the servicemember of the right to appeal the decision to the value adjustment board (VAB) along with the procedures for filing such appeal.¹⁰

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SPB 7052 amends s. 196.173, F.S., to add eleven unclassified military operations for which deployed servicemembers may qualify for an additional ad valorem tax exemption. These eleven operations are identified in the statutorily required report submitted to the Legislature by the Department of Military Affairs¹¹ and includes the following operations:

- Operation Joint Guardian, which began on June 12, 1999;
- Operation Octave Shield, which began in 2000;
- Operation Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, which began in June 2005;
- Operation Nomad Shadow, which began in 2007;
- Operation U.S. Airstrikes Al Qaeda in Somalia, which began in January 2007;
- Operation Objective Voice, which began in 2009;
- Operation Georgia Deployment Program, which began in August 2009;
- Operation Copper Dune, which began in 2010;
- Operation Observant Compass, which began in October 2011;
- Operation Juniper Shield, which began in 2013; and
- Operation Inherent Resolve, which began on August 8, 2014.

The bill provides an exception to the March 1 application deadline in s. 196.173(5), F.S., for 2015 only, by establishing June 1, 2015, as the deadline for an eligible servicemember to file an application with the property appraiser for an additional tax exemption for qualifying deployment during the 2014 calendar year.

Any applicant who fails to meet the June 1 deadline may subsequently submit a petition to the property appraiser on or before the 25th day following the mailing by the property appraiser of

⁶ Section 196.173(5)(1), F.S.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Section 196.173(6), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 194.015, F.S.

¹¹ Report on file with the Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee.

the notices required under s. 194.011(1), F.S. Upon receipt of the petition, the property appraiser may grant the tax exemption if:

- The applicant files an application for the exemption on or before the 25th day after the mailing by the property appraiser;
- The applicant is qualified for the exemption; or
- The applicant produces sufficient evidence, as determined by the property appraiser, which demonstrates that the applicant was unable to apply for the exemption in a timely manner or otherwise demonstrates extenuating circumstances that warrant granting the exemption.

If the property appraiser denies an application, the applicant may file a petition to the value adjustment board (VAB) to request that the exemption be granted. The VAB must receive the petition on or before the 25th day after the mailing by the property appraiser required by s. 194.011(1), F.S.

The bill is effective upon becoming law and first applies to ad valorem tax rolls for 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:

The Revenue Estimating Conference has determined that SPB 7052 will reduce local governments' revenues by \$200,000 in Fiscal Year 2015-2016, with a negative \$200,000 recurring impact on local governments.¹²

B. Private Sector Impact:

If the proposed bill becomes law, servicemembers deployed to one of the aforementioned military operations could receive property tax relief.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

¹² Revenue Estimating Conference, *Deployed Service Members Exemptions, Proposed Language*. March 3, 2015.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 196.173 of the Florida Statutes.

This bill creates an undesignated section of the Florida Law.

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.

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

583-01843A-15

20157052pb

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to an ad valorem tax exemption for deployed servicemembers; amending s. 196.173, F.S.; expanding the military operations that qualify a servicemember deployed in support of such an operation in the previous calendar year for an additional ad valorem tax exemption; providing an extended deadline and specifying procedures for filing an application for such tax exemption for a qualifying deployment during the 2014 calendar year; providing procedures to appeal a denial by a property appraiser of an application for such tax exemption; providing for retroactive applicability; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 196.173, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

196.173 Exemption for deployed servicemembers.—

(2) The exemption is available to servicemembers who were deployed during the preceding calendar year on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of any of the following operations:

(a) Operation Joint Guardian, which began on June 12, 1999.

(b) Operation Octave Shield, which began in 2000.

(c) ~~(a)~~ Operation Noble Eagle, which began on September 15, 2001.

(d) ~~(b)~~ Operation Enduring Freedom, which began on October

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7, 2001.

(e) ~~(e)~~ Operation Iraqi Freedom, which began on March 19, 2003, and ended on August 31, 2010.

(f) Operation Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, which began in June 2005.

(g) Operation Nomad Shadow, which began in 2007.

(h) Operation U.S. Airstrikes Al Qaeda in Somalia, which began in January 2007.

(i) Operation Objective Voice, which began in 2009.

(j) Operation Georgia Deployment Program, which began in August 2009.

(k) Operation Copper Dune, which began in 2010.

(l) ~~(d)~~ Operation New Dawn, which began on September 1, 2010, and ended on December 15, 2011.

(m) ~~(e)~~ Operation Odyssey Dawn, which began on March 19, 2011, and ended on October 31, 2011.

(n) Operation Observant Compass, which began in October 2011.

(o) Operation Juniper Shield, which began in 2013.

(p) Operation Inherent Resolve, which began on August 8, 2014.

The Department of Revenue shall notify all property appraisers and tax collectors in this state of the designated military operations.

Section 2. Application deadline for additional ad valorem tax exemption under s. 196.173, Florida Statutes, for 2014 qualifying deployments.—

(1) Notwithstanding the application deadline in s.

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59 196.173(5), Florida Statutes, the deadline for an applicant to
60 file an application with the property appraiser for an
61 additional ad valorem tax exemption for a qualifying deployment
62 during the 2014 calendar year is June 1, 2015.

63 (2) If an application is not timely filed under subsection
64 (1), a property appraiser may grant the exemption if:

65 (a) The applicant files an application for the exemption on
66 or before the 25th day after the mailing by the property
67 appraiser during the 2015 calendar year of the notice required
68 under s. 194.011(1), Florida Statutes;

69 (b) The applicant is qualified for the exemption; and

70 (c) The applicant produces sufficient evidence, as
71 determined by the property appraiser, which demonstrates that
72 the applicant was unable to apply for the exemption in a timely
73 manner or otherwise demonstrates extenuating circumstances that
74 warrant granting the exemption.

75 (3) If the property appraiser denies an application under
76 subsection (2), the applicant may file, pursuant to s.
77 194.011(3), Florida Statutes, a petition with the value
78 adjustment board which requests that the exemption be granted.
79 Such petition must be filed on or before the 25th day after the
80 mailing by the property appraiser during the 2015 calendar year
81 of the notice required under s. 194.011(1), Florida Statutes.
82 Notwithstanding s. 194.013, Florida Statutes, the eligible
83 servicemember is not required to pay a filing fee for such
84 petition. Upon reviewing the petition, the value adjustment
85 board may grant the exemption if the applicant is qualified for
86 the exemption and demonstrates extenuating circumstances, as
87 determined by the board, that warrant granting the exemption.

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88 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law,
89 and first applies to ad valorem tax rolls for 2015.

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CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: LL 37

Case:

Type: C

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

Judge:

Started: 3/17/2015 9:14:32 AM

Ends: 3/17/2015 10:15:46 AM **Length:** 01:01:15

9:14:34 AM Chair Altman calls the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security to order

9:14:47 AM Chair Altman ask Lois to call the roll

9:14:49 AM Lois calls the roll and announces a quorum is present

9:14:55 AM Chair Altman states that all electronic devices needs to be silence

9:14:58 AM Chair Altman states that anyone wishing to speak needs to complete an appearance card

9:15:01 AM TAB 1 - SB 184 - by Senator Evers - Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot

9:15:27 AM Chair Altman ask Senator Evers to explain SB 184; Senator explains SB 184

9:16:20 AM Chair Altman ask for questions on the bill

9:16:27 AM Chair Altman ask is there any appearance card

9:16:35 AM Mr. Ron Labasky, Florida State Association of Supervisor of Elections waives in support

9:16:45 AM Chair Altman ask for debate on the bill

9:16:51 AM Chair Altman ask Senator Evers to close on SB 184; Senator Evers waives closing

9:16:58 AM Chair Altman ask Lois to call the roll on SB 184

9:17:07 AM Roll call by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham

9:17:13 AM Chair Altman states by your vote SB 184 is reported favorably

9:17:33 AM TAB 3 - SPB 7052 - by Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security - Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for Deployed Servicemembers

9:18:06 AM Ms. Margaret Sanders, Legislative Analyst explains SPB 7052

9:18:46 AM Chair Altman ask for questions on the bill

9:18:54 AM Chair Altman ask for appearance cards

9:19:05 AM Chair Altman ask is there any question on SPB 7052

9:19:05 AM Chair Altman ask for debate on SPB 7052

9:19:10 AM Chair Altman ask Ms. Sanders to close on SPB 7052

9:19:17 AM Ms. Sanders waives closing

9:19:23 AM Chair Altman ask for motion on SPB 7052

9:19:32 AM Senator Evers moves that SPB 7052 be submitted as a Committee Bill

9:19:43 AM Senator Sachs second

9:19:50 AM Chair Altman states that SPB 7052 will be reported as a Committee Bill

9:19:56 AM Chair Altman ask Lois to call the roll on SPB 7052

9:20:03 AM Chair Altman states by your vote, SPB 7052 is reported as a Committee Bill

9:20:17 AM TAB 2 - SB 1296 - by Senator Bean - Military and Veterans Affairs; Senator Stargel will explain the bill for Senator Bean

9:20:49 AM Senator Stargel explains SB 1296

9:20:55 AM Senator Stargel explains SB 1296, then she explains Substitute Amendment, Barcode 444302

9:21:52 AM Chair Altman states we have heard Amendment 444302

9:22:43 AM Chair Altman ask if there are questions on Amendment 444302

9:23:26 AM Members are trying to get a hand-written amendment

9:23:55 AM Late-filed amendment, hand-written by Senator Gibson speaking

9:24:10 AM Senator Gibson speaking in reference to the hand-written amendment. Senator Stargel

ask if this is a late filed amendment

9:25:39 AM Chair Altman states it is not ready, Senator Gibson is speaking on what she would like to see in the amendment

9:26:01 AM Chair Altman speaking and ask Col. Mike Prendergast to answer the questions

9:27:28 AM Senator Gibson ask Col. Prendergast another question

9:27:47 AM Col Prendergast speaking

9:28:39 AM Chair Altman ask Col. Prendergast another question

9:28:48 AM Col. Prendergast speaking

9:29:09 AM Senator Gibson ask additional question

9:29:48 AM Col. Prendergast speaking

9:31:18 AM Senator Gibson ask a follow-up question

9:31:51 AM Senator Stargel speaking

9:33:07 AM Col. Prendergast speaking

9:34:16 AM Senator Gibson ask a follow-up question

9:34:24 AM Senator Stargel speaking

9:34:51 AM Chair Altman speaking

9:34:59 AM Senator Stargel speaking

9:36:09 AM Senator Gibson speaking

9:36:26 AM Chair Altman speaking

9:36:44 AM Senator Stargel speaking

9:36:53 AM Chair Altman speaking

9:37:22 AM Senator Stargel speaking

9:37:43 AM Senator Gibson speaking

9:38:06 AM Chair Altman speaking

9:38:28 AM Senator Stargel speaking

9:39:53 AM Chair Altman speaking

9:39:58 AM Senator Sachs speaking

9:41:11 AM Chair Altman speaking

9:41:45 AM Col. Prendergast speaking

9:43:13 AM Senator Gibson speaking

9:44:16 AM Senator Stargel speaking

9:45:17 AM Col. Prendergast speaking

9:46:37 AM Senator Sachs speaking

9:48:10 AM Senator Evers speaking

9:49:16 AM Chair Altman speaking

9:49:31 AM In Recess

9:49:51 AM Senator Evers speaking; Chair Altman states that we are in recess

10:01:19 AM Chair Altman calls the meeting back to order

10:01:32 AM Chair Altman states that he has a late-filed amendment to offer and ask Vice Chair Gibson to take the chair

10:01:53 AM Chairman Altman explains the late file amendment hand written

10:03:21 AM Vice Chairman Gibson takes chair

10:03:32 AM Senator Sachs speaking

10:04:42 AM Vice Chairman speaking

10:04:55 AM Chairman speaking

10:05:13 AM Vice Chair Gibson states motion to take up the hand-written late-filed amendment by Chair Altman

10:05:38 AM Vice Chair Gibson ask Chair Altman to explain the late-filed amendment

10:05:45 AM Vice Chair Gibson ask for questions on the late-filed amendment

10:05:56 AM Chair Altman waives his closing

10:06:05 AM Vice Chair Gibson states that the amendment passes

10:06:14 AM Chair Altman moves to take the Chair back

10:06:35 AM Chair Altman speaking
10:06:40 AM Chair Altman states that we are back on amendment 44302 as amended
10:06:46 AM Chair Altman ask if there are any questions on the amendment as amended
10:06:52 AM Chair Altman ask if there is any debate on the amendment as amended
10:07:03 AM Chair Altman speaking
10:07:12 AM Chair Altman states that the amendment passes
10:07:21 AM Chair Altman speaking
10:07:42 AM Senator Sachs explains late-filed amendment 574736
10:08:05 AM Chair Altman ask for questions on the amendment
10:08:11 AM Senator Gibson speaking
10:08:40 AM Senator Sachs speaking
10:09:15 AM Senator Gibson speaking
10:09:47 AM Senator Sachs speaking
10:10:08 AM Chair Altman speaking
10:10:17 AM Senator Sachs speaking
10:10:40 AM Chair Altman speaking
10:10:51 AM Senator Sachs waives closing
10:10:59 AM Chair Altman states that the amendment passes
10:11:05 AM Chair Altman states that we are back on bill as amended
10:11:17 AM Chair Altman ask for debate
10:11:22 AM Senator Gibson speaking
10:12:13 AM Chair Altman speaking
10:12:32 AM Rep. Steube speaking
10:13:10 AM Chair Altman speaking
10:13:49 AM Senator Sachs speaking
10:14:36 AM Chair Altman speaking
10:14:44 AM Rep. Steube closing on the bill as amended
10:14:59 AM Chair Altman ask Lois to call the roll on CS for SB 1296
10:15:04 AM Roll call by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham
10:15:11 AM Chair Altman states by your vote CS for SB 1296 is reported favorably
10:15:22 AM Chair Altman states that there is no other business before the committee
10:15:31 AM Chair Altman states that Senator Gibson moves we rise without objection