

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, November 17, 2015
TIME: 1:00—3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Office Building

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

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	SB 88 Simpson (Similar H 435)	Gold Star License Plates; Including certain individuals as qualified for issuance of a Gold Star license plate, etc. TR 11/04/2015 Favorable MS 11/17/2015 Favorable FP	Favorable Yeas 5 Nays 0
2	SB 404 Garcia (Similar H 263)	Small Business Financial Assistance; Creating the Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program within the Department of Veterans' Affairs; requiring a small business to apply to and enter into an agreement with the corporation to receive grants; requiring the corporation to notify the appropriate regional small business development center of a small business' participation; providing for termination of the program, etc. MS 11/17/2015 Favorable ATD AP	Favorable Yeas 5 Nays 0
3	Overview and update of the Florida Defense Support Task Force		Presented
4	Overview and update of Veterans Florida		Presented

Other Related Meeting Documents

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

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

BILL: SB 88

INTRODUCER: Senator Simpson

SUBJECT: Gold Star License Plates

DATE: November 16, 2015 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Jones	Eichin	TR	Favorable
2.	Sanders	Hrdlicka	MS	Favorable
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

SB 88 allows additional family members related to a servicemember killed while serving in the United States Armed Forces to qualify for issuance of the Gold Star license plate upon payment of the appropriate license tax and fees.

The fiscal impact of the bill is indeterminate (See Section V.).

II. Present Situation:

Gold Star Recognition

Gold Star Families

The term Gold Star family is a modern reference that comes from the Service Flag. The Service Flag was a banner first flown by families during World War I, which included a blue star for every immediate family member serving in the armed forces of the United States. If that loved one died, the blue star was replaced by a gold star. This allowed members of the community to recognize the sacrifice made by the Gold Star Family members.¹

Gold Star Lapel Button

The gold star lapel button is designed and approved by the Secretary of Defense to identify the loved ones of fallen servicemembers of the armed forces of the United States. Family members eligible for the lapel button include the surviving spouse, mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother or father through adoption, foster parents, children, stepchildren, children through adoption, brothers or sisters, and half brothers or sisters.²

¹ Army.Mil Features, *Gold Star Survivors*, available at <http://www.army.mil/goldstar> (last visited Nov. 12, 2015).

² 10 U.S.C. s. 1126

Gold Star License Plate

The Gold Star license plate is a special license plate developed to honor the family members of a servicemember killed while serving in the United States Armed Forces. The plate is currently available to a spouse, legal mother or father, or stepparent currently married to the mother or father of a fallen servicemember who was living in Florida at the servicemember's time of death. The plate is issued, upon payment of the license tax and appropriate fees, without regard to the deceased servicemember's state of residence.³

The surviving spouse and a surviving parent of a servicemember are eligible to receive one Gold Star license plate per household at no charge. An application for a Gold Star license plate requires proof of relationship to the servicemember and documentation from the United States Department of Defense or from its subordinate agencies, such as the Coast Guard, Reserve, or National Guard, deeming a servicemember to have been killed while in service.⁴

As of August 2015, there were 564 active Gold Star registrations statewide.⁵

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill extends eligibility for a Gold Star license plate to a parent through adoption, foster parent, grandparent, child, stepchild, adopted child, brother, sister, half-brother, or half-sister of a fallen servicemember upon payment of the appropriate license tax and fees.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

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.

³ Section 320.0894, F.S.

⁴ Id.

⁵ Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), *SB 88 Agency Bill Analysis*, (Aug. 24, 2015) (on file with the Senate Committee on Transportation).

B. Private Sector Impact:

An eligible family member who chooses to receive a Gold Star license plate will pay the same tax and fees as if he or she were issued a standard license plate.⁶

An individual will pay a \$28 new license plate fee if a Gold Star plate is replacing any plate prior to the 10-year forced replacement of the license plate.⁷

C. Government Sector Impact:

The state will pay a \$2.82 manufacturing fee for each additional Gold Star license plate issued.⁸ The bill may result in significantly more individuals qualifying for and obtaining a Gold Star license plate, however the DHSMV is unable to forecast the potential increase.⁹

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

Tax Collector offices issuing Gold Star license plates may find it difficult to verify some of the added family members' relationship to the deceased service member.¹⁰

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill amends section 320.0894 of the Florida Statutes.

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

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

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

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

⁶ License taxes vary based on type and weight of vehicle. See s. 320.08, F.S.

⁷ Email from the DHSMV (Oct. 27, 2015) (on file with the Senate Committee on Transportation).

⁸ Id. The cost for a regular graphic plate is \$1.57.

⁹ DHSMV Analysis, *supra* note 5.

¹⁰ Id.

By Senator Simpson

18-00071-16

201688__

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to Gold Star license plates; amending
 3 s. 320.0894, F.S.; including certain individuals as
 4 qualified for issuance of a Gold Star license plate;
 5 providing an effective date.
 6
 7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 8
 9 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
 10 320.0894, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 11 320.0894 Motor vehicle license plates to Gold Star family
 12 members.—The department shall develop a special license plate
 13 honoring the family members of servicemembers who have been
 14 killed while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.
 15 The license plate shall be officially designated as the Gold
 16 Star license plate and shall be developed and issued as provided
 17 in this section.
 18 (4) (a) 1.a. The Gold Star license plate shall be issued only
 19 to family members of a servicemember who resided in Florida at
 20 the time of the death of the servicemember.
 21 b. Any family member, as defined in subparagraph 2., of a
 22 servicemember killed while serving may be issued a Gold Star
 23 license plate upon payment of the license tax and appropriate
 24 fees as provided in paragraph (3) (a) without regard to the state
 25 of residence of the servicemember.
 26 2. To qualify for issuance of a Gold Star license plate,
 27 the applicant must be directly related to a fallen servicemember
 28 as spouse, legal mother or father, ~~or~~ stepparent, parent through
 29 adoption, foster parent, grandparent, child, stepchild, adopted

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

18-00071-16

201688__

30 child, brother, sister, half brother, or half sister ~~who is~~
 31 ~~currently married to the mother or father~~ of the fallen
 32 servicemember.
 33 3. A servicemember is deemed to have been killed while in
 34 service as listed by the United States Department of Defense and
 35 may be verified from documentation directly from the Department
 36 of Defense or from its subordinate agencies, such as the Coast
 37 Guard, Reserve, or National Guard.
 38 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

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

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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

11/17/15

Meeting Date

SB 88

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Gold Star License Plates

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Col. Mike Prendergast

Job Title Executive Director

Address Suite 2105, The Capitol

Phone (850) 487-1533

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 FL Dept. 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

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Community Affairs, *Chair*
Environmental Preservation and Conservation,
Vice Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government
Finance and Tax
Judiciary
Transportation

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

SENATOR WILTON SIMPSON

18th District

November 17, 2015

Senator Thad Altman, Chair
Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security
215 Knott Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chairman Altman,

I appreciate you including my legislation, SB 88, relating to Gold Star License Plates, on the November 17th Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security agenda. As you are aware, I will be chairing the Committee on Community Affairs at that time. I respectfully request that you allow my Legislative Assistant Mary Kassabaum to present the bill on my behalf.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you or your staff have any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wilton Simpson".

Wilton Simpson
State Senator, 18th District

cc: Elizabeth Ryon, Staff Director
Lois Graham, Committee Administrative Assistant

REPLY TO:

- 322 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5018
- Post Office Box 938, Brooksville, Florida 34605
- Post Office Box 787, New Port Richey, Florida 34656-0787 (727) 816-1120 FAX: (888) 263-4821

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

ANDY GARDINER
President of the Senate

GARRETT RICHTER
President Pro Tempore

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 404

INTRODUCER: Senator Garcia

SUBJECT: Small Business Financial Assistance

DATE: November 17, 2015 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Sanders	Hrdlicka	MS	Favorable
2.			ATD	
3.			AP	

I. Summary:

SB 404 creates the Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program to encourage small businesses in Florida to hire veterans. The program is created within the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) and is to be administered by Florida Is For Veterans, Inc. (FIFV). Under the program, a small business in Florida that hires a veteran as an employee may receive a one-time grant of \$3,000 for each veteran hired, or \$5,000 for each disabled veteran hired by the small business. These awards may not exceed \$25,000 per fiscal year for a qualifying small business.

To qualify for a grant under the program, a small business must agree to:

- Employ a qualifying veteran for at least one year;
- Provide a report with information on the employment status of each qualifying veteran upon the request of FIFV;
- Pay each qualifying veteran an amount equal to at least 80 percent of the annual median income for veterans in Florida based on the most recent federal census or the most recent American Community Survey 5-year estimated published by the U.S. Census Bureau; and
- Invest any awarded grant moneys into the small business to facilitate further job creation and employment of veterans.

The bill appropriates \$10 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund to the FDVA for transfer to FIFV to implement and administer the program. FIFV may award grant moneys up to a maximum of \$900,000 per fiscal year; FIFV's administrative costs are capped at \$100,000 per fiscal year.

II. Present Situation:

Florida Veterans

A veteran is defined as a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was honorably discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions.¹ In the United States there are over 21 million veterans, of which, over 1.6 million reside in Florida.² This makes Florida the state with the third largest veteran population, behind California and Texas.³ The chart below shows veterans residing in Florida by age range. More than half of Florida’s veterans are age 60 or older. The veteran labor force is generally older due to the fact that 86.1% of active duty servicemembers are under age 40.⁴

Veterans in Florida by Age Range ⁵						
Under 40	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	TOTAL
186,238	187,599	280,743	352,029	312,702	264,385	1,583,696

Florida also has the third largest population of disabled veterans in the nation with more than 249,000.⁶ The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) is the federal agency tasked with making the official determination of the existence of a service-connected disability. The term “disabled veteran” is defined as an individual who has served on active duty in the armed forces, has been separated under honorable conditions, and has established the existence of a service-connected disability or is receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or a pension because of a public statute administered by the USDVA or a military department.⁷

The term “service-connected” is further defined in the U.S. Code to mean that the disability or death suffered by the veteran was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in active military, naval, or air service.⁸ Veterans who have been determined by the USDVA to have a service-connected disability are eligible for monthly disability compensation. There are instances in which a veteran’s service-connected disability is not determined by the USDVA. In this instance, the Department of Defense (DoD) would determine the existence of a disability and provide compensation to the veteran. The secretaries of the military departments have the authority to make the final determination of disability in each case.⁹ When that determination is made the servicemember may decide whether to receive military retirement benefits from the DoD or disability compensation from the USDVA.

¹ Section 1.01(14), F.S.

² U.S. Census Bureau, *A Snapshot of Our Nation’s Veterans*, available at <http://www.census.gov/library/infographics/veterans.html> (last visited Oct. 27, 2015).

³ Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs, *Fast Facts*, available at http://floridavets.org/?page_id=50 (last visited Oct. 27, 2015).

⁴ Military OneSource, *2014 Demographics Report*, available at <http://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Reports/2014-Demographics-Report.pdf> (last visited Nov. 6, 2015).

⁵ United States Department of Veterans Affairs Office of the Actuary, Office of Policy and Planning, *Veteran Population* (Oct. 2014), available at http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp (last visited Oct. 28, 2015).

⁶ Supra note 4.

⁷ 5 USC 2108(2). See also s. 295.07(1)(a)1., F.S.

⁸ 38 USC 101(16).

⁹ 10 USC 1201.

Employment Assistance for Veterans in Florida

The CareerSource Florida network connects employers with qualified, skilled talent and Floridians with employment and career development opportunities. The workforce network is comprised of CareerSource Florida, which is the statewide board charged with setting state workforce policy; the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), the state agency responsible for administrative and fiscal affairs and policy implementation; and 24 Regional Workforce Boards, which oversee the local delivery of workforce services to businesses, job seekers, and workers at nearly 100 One-Stop Career Centers statewide.

Each One-Stop Career Center is equipped to help job seekers connect with businesses in their field, locate training opportunities, and teach skills such as resume writing and interview techniques. Within each career center are Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVER).¹⁰ DVOP specialists focus on intensive case management services for veterans with barriers to employment, particularly disabled veterans.¹¹ LVERs build relationships with employers and engage in advocacy efforts with hiring executives and managers to increase employment opportunities for veterans.¹² They are also responsible for ensuring that veterans receive the full range of priority workforce services in the One-Stop Career Centers.

Veterans may also utilize the Employ Florida Vets website, an online job search engine and portal administered by CareerSource Florida and the DEO and tailored to veterans.¹³ Developed through a series of focus groups with Florida veterans, the Employ Florida Vets Portal translates a veteran's Military Occupational Specialty Code (a code that represents the employment classification for the specialty/job that the military veteran performed while on active duty) into an equivalent civilian job title.¹⁴

Florida's overall unemployment rate for the calendar year 2014 was 6.3 percent.¹⁵ The unemployment rate among Florida veterans was 5 percent compared to 5.3 percent nationally.¹⁶ The unemployment rate among Florida Post-9/11 era veterans averaged 4.8 percent compared to 7.2 percent nationally.¹⁷

¹⁰ In FY 2014-2015, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity was awarded approximately \$11.4 million in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Labor through the Jobs for Veterans' Grant to fund 109 DVOP and 53 LVER positions.

¹¹ Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, *For Veterans*, available at <http://www.floridajobs.org/job-seekers-community-services/job-search-and-career-planning/job-search-resources/for-veterans> (last visited on Oct. 27, 2015).

¹² Id.

¹³ Employ Florida Vets website, <http://www.employflorida.com/portals/veteran/> (last visited Oct. 27, 2015).

¹⁴ See Employ Florida Marketplace (EFM) Veterans' Web Portal FAQ, *How does the website use the Military Occupational Specialty Code to link veterans with jobs that might be a good fit?*, available at [http://www.floridajobs.org/frequently-asked-questions-directory/employ-florida-marketplace-\(efm\)-veterans-web-portal-faq](http://www.floridajobs.org/frequently-asked-questions-directory/employ-florida-marketplace-(efm)-veterans-web-portal-faq) (last visited Oct. 27, 2015).

¹⁵ See Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, *Local Area Unemployment Statistics*, available at <http://www.floridajobs.org/labor-market-information/data-center/statistical-programs/local-area-unemployment-statistics> (last visited Oct. 27, 2015).

¹⁶ United States Congress Joint Economic Committee, *Economic Snapshot: Florida* (Oct. 2015), available at http://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/2cb3bde9-27db-4584-86fc-f2ce46e4bb2e/florida.pdf (last visited Oct. 28, 2015).

¹⁷ Id.

Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.

During the 2014 Regular Session, the Legislature created Florida Is For Veterans, Inc. (FIFV), a non-profit corporation created within the FDVA.¹⁸ The purpose of FIFV is to promote Florida as a veteran-friendly state, encourage retired and recently separated military personnel to keep or make Florida their permanent residence, help equip veterans for employment opportunities, and promote the hiring of veterans.¹⁹ FIFV is governed by a nine-member board of directors in which the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives each appoint three members.

FIFV is responsible for administering the Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS) program for the purpose of connecting veterans and employers.²⁰ Under the VETS program, FIFV will create a grant program for businesses to train veterans to meet a business's workforce-skill needs and will set up a veteran-specific entrepreneur initiative program through a contract with one or more universities in Florida.²¹ Additionally, as part of the VETS program, FIFV is directed to provide one-on-one assistance to veterans seeking employment, which may include skills assessments, resume creation, identification of employment goals, and referrals to One-Stop Career Centers. FIFV must also connect with employers in the state to educate them on the value of a veteran's military experience in the workplace.

Employment Initiatives for Small Businesses in Florida

There are currently no state incentive programs that are targeted to encourage small businesses to hire additional employees or that specifically encourage small businesses to hire veterans. Most of the current state programs are geared towards providing financial and technical assistance to small businesses to grow, which may result in those businesses hiring additional employees.²² Enterprise Florida, Inc., assists small businesses through its Division of Minority & Small Business, Entrepreneurship, and Capital, including export assistance. Small businesses are also eligible for Florida's economic development incentive programs.²³

The Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network is another resource available to small business owners seeking assistance. The SBDC is designated as the principal business assistance organization for small businesses in the state, and links the state's education system with community outreach to aid in the development and education of the state's entrepreneurs and small business community.²⁴ The network provides entrepreneurs and small business owners

¹⁸ Chapter 2014-1, s. 12, Laws of Fla.

¹⁹ Section 295.21(2), F.S.

²⁰ Section 295.22, F.S.

²¹ During the 2014 Regular Session, FIFV was allocated \$2 million for the veterans training grant program and \$1 million for the entrepreneur initiative program. *See* Line items 597A and 597B, ch. 2014-51, Laws of Fla. *See also* ss. 56 and 57, ch. 2015-232, Laws of Fla.

²² For example *see* s. 288.1082, F.S. (the Grow FL program); ss. 288.993-288-9937, F.S. (microfinance programs); and information about the State Small Business Credit Initiative on the DEO website, available at <http://www.floridajobs.org/business-growth-and-partnerships/for-businesses-and-entrepreneurs/business-resources/state-small-business-credit-initiative> (last visited Nov. 2, 2015).

²³ For more information, *see* DEO, Business Resources, available at <http://www.floridajobs.org/business-growth-and-partnerships/for-businesses-and-entrepreneurs/business-resources> (last visited Nov. 2, 2015).

²⁴ Section 288.001(1), F.S.

with one-on-one business development consulting; entrepreneurial, business, and management development training; and business information and research.²⁵

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates s. 295.24, F.S., to establish the Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program (program). The program is created within the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) and is to be administered by Florida Is For Veterans, Inc. (FIFV). This program is an incentive based program created to stimulate investment in the state's economy by providing grants to small businesses that hire honorably discharged veterans or veterans with a service-connected disability.

The bill defines a "small business" as a business that:

- Is independently owned and operated;
- Is for-profit and privately held;
- Employs fewer than 200 persons;
- Generates \$2 million or less in annual revenue; and
- Has maintained its principal place of business in this state for at least the previous 4 calendar years.

A qualifying small business may receive up to \$25,000 per fiscal year for hiring honorably discharged veterans and veterans with service-connected disabilities hired on or after October 1, 2016. A qualifying small business that hires a veteran as an employee may be eligible to receive a one-time grant of:

- \$3,000 for each veteran;²⁶ and
- \$5,000 for each disabled veteran.²⁷

In order to qualify for grant funding, a small business must enter into an agreement with FIFV that requires the small business to:

- Employ a qualifying veteran for at least one year in order to become eligible for grant funding;
- Provide a report with information on the employment status of each qualifying veteran upon the request of FIFV;
- Pay each qualifying veteran an amount equal to at least 80 percent of the annual median income for veterans in Florida based on the most recent federal census or the most recent American Community Survey 5-year estimated published by the U.S. Census Bureau;²⁸

²⁵ America's SBDC FLORIDA Fact Sheet, available at <http://floridasbdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Fact-Sheet.pdf>, (last visited Oct. 28, 2015).

²⁶ Section 1.01(14), F.S.

²⁷ Section 295.07(1)(a)1., F.S.

²⁸ According to the 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, the median income for veterans in Florida is \$35,454 compared to \$23,172 for nonveterans. See U.S. Census Bureau, *Median Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2013 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars) by Veteran Status by Sex for the Civilian Population 18 Years and Over with Income*, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk> (last visited Nov. 17, 2015).

- Invest any awarded grant moneys into the small business to facilitate further job creation and employment of veterans;²⁹ and
- Not rehire a veteran previously claimed as an employee for purposes of receiving funds under the program.

FIFV must notify the appropriate regional small business development center of a small business' participation in the grant program in order to facilitate improved access to the resources of the Florida Small Business Development Center Network.

The bill authorizes the FDVA to develop rules to implement the program including specifying requirements for the application and approval process and the documentation necessary to claim grant funds.

Effective July 1, 2016, the bill appropriates \$10 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund to the FDVA for transfer to FIFV to implement and administer the program. FIFV may award grant moneys up to a maximum of \$900,000 per fiscal year to small businesses and is authorized to expend no more than \$100,000 annually for staffing and administrative costs.

The Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program takes effect on October 1, 2016. The program terminates on the date that all funds appropriated for the program are spent or on October 1, 2026, whichever occurs first. On October 1, 2026, FIFV must transfer any unexpended funds to the FDVA for reversion to the General Revenue Fund.

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.

²⁹ Expenditures for investment into the small business are limited to manufacturing, equipment, and facilities expenses or other operating costs or fixed capital outlay projects.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Businesses that choose to participate in the program created in the bill may be eligible to receive up to \$25,000 per fiscal year for hiring honorably discharged veterans and veterans with service-connected disabilities. Small businesses may apply to receive:

- \$3,000 for hiring an honorably discharged veteran; and
- \$5,000 for hiring a veteran with a service-connected disability.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill appropriates \$10 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund to the FDVA for transfer to FIFV to implement and administer the program. FIFV may award grant moneys up to a maximum of \$900,000 per fiscal year to small businesses and FIFV is authorized to expend no more than \$100,000 annually for staffing and administrative costs.

The bill provides that the grant program terminates on the date that all funds appropriated for the program are expended or on October 1, 2026, whichever occurs first. On October 1, 2026, FIFV must transfer all remaining appropriated funds to the FDVA for reversion to the General Revenue Fund.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

The bill authorizes the FDVA to develop rules to implement the program including specifying requirements for the application and approval process and the documentation necessary to claim grant funds.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates section 295.24 of the Florida Statutes.

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

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

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

By Senator Garcia

38-00326-16

2016404__

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to small business financial
 3 assistance; creating s. 295.24, F.S.; creating the
 4 Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program
 5 within the Department of Veterans' Affairs; directing
 6 Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to administer the
 7 program; defining terms; authorizing the corporation
 8 to accept and administer moneys appropriated for such
 9 grants; specifying grant amounts; limiting the amount
 10 that a small business may receive under the program;
 11 requiring a small business to apply to and enter into
 12 an agreement with the corporation to receive grants;
 13 prescribing minimum criteria for such agreements;
 14 requiring the corporation to notify the appropriate
 15 regional small business development center of a small
 16 business' participation; providing for termination of
 17 the program; authorizing the department to adopt
 18 rules; providing an appropriation; providing effective
 19 dates.

20
 21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22
 23 Section 1. Section 295.24, Florida Statutes, is created to
 24 read:

25 295.24 Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program.—
 26 The Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program is created
 27 within the Department of Veterans' Affairs to be administered by
 28 Florida Is For Veterans, Inc. The purpose of the program is to
 29 stimulate investment in the state's economy by providing grants

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

38-00326-16

2016404__

30 to small businesses that hire and employ honorably discharged
 31 veterans or disabled veterans with service-connected
 32 disabilities.

33 (1) As used in this section, the term:

34 (a) "Corporation" means Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.

35 (b) "Small business" means an independently owned and
 36 operated, for-profit, and privately held business that employs
 37 200 or fewer persons; generates \$2 million or less in annual
 38 revenue; and has maintained its principal place of business in
 39 this state for at least the previous 4 calendar years.

40 (2) The corporation may accept and administer moneys
 41 appropriated to the department, for transfer to the corporation,
 42 for providing grants to encourage small businesses in this state
 43 to hire and employ veterans.

44 (3) A small business that hires a veteran as an employee
 45 may receive a one-time grant of:

46 (a) Three thousand dollars for each veteran, as defined in
 47 s. 1.01(14).

48 (b) Five thousand dollars for each disabled veteran, as
 49 described in s. 295.07(1)(a)1.

50 (4) The grants awarded to a participating small business
 51 under subsection (3) may not exceed \$25,000 per fiscal year.

52 (5) A small business must apply to and enter into an
 53 agreement with the corporation in order to participate in the
 54 program. The agreement must require that the small business:

55 (a) Employ a qualifying veteran for at least 1 year in
 56 order to become eligible for grants awarded under subsection
 57 (3).

58 (b) Upon the request of the corporation, report information

Page 2 of 4

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

38-00326-16 2016404__

59 regarding the employment status of each qualifying veteran.

60 (c) Pay each qualifying veteran an amount equal to at least
 61 80 percent of the annual median income for veterans in this
 62 state, based on the most recent federal census or the most
 63 recent American Community Survey 5-year estimates published by
 64 the United States Census Bureau.

65 (d) Invest any awarded grant moneys in the small business
 66 to facilitate further job creation and employment of veterans.
 67 Expenditures allowed under this subsection are limited to
 68 manufacturing, equipment, and facilities expenses or other
 69 operating costs or fixed capital outlay projects.

70 (e) Not receive an additional grant for rehiring a veteran
 71 previously claimed as an employee by the same small business for
 72 purposes of obtaining funds under the program.

73 (f) Is eligible to receive a grant award only for a veteran
 74 initially hired on or after October 1, 2016.

75 (6) The corporation shall notify the regional small
 76 business development center serving the county in which a
 77 participating small business is located of the small business'
 78 participation in the grant program in order to facilitate
 79 improved access to the resources of the Florida Small Business
 80 Development Center Network.

81 (7) The grant program terminates on the date that all funds
 82 appropriated for the program are expended or on October 1, 2026,
 83 whichever occurs first.

84 (8) The Department of Veterans' Affairs may adopt rules to
 85 implement and administer this section, including, but not
 86 limited to, rules specifying requirements for the application
 87 and approval process and the documentation necessary to claim

38-00326-16 2016404__

88 grant moneys awarded under this section.

89 Section 2. Effective July 1, 2016, for the 2016-2017 fiscal
 90 year, the sum of \$10 million in nonrecurring funds from the
 91 General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the Department of
 92 Veterans' Affairs for transfer to Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.,
 93 to implement and administer the Veterans Employment Small
 94 Business Grant Program. The corporation may award grant moneys
 95 up to a maximum of \$900,000 per fiscal year. The corporation may
 96 spend up to \$100,000 per fiscal year of funds transferred by the
 97 department for staffing and administrative costs associated with
 98 implementation and administration of the program. If any
 99 appropriated funds remain upon termination of the program,
 100 Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., shall transfer those funds to the
 101 Department of Veterans' Affairs to revert to the General Revenue
 102 Fund.

103 Section 3. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
 104 act and except for this section, which shall take effect July 1,
 105 2016, this act shall take effect October 1, 2016.

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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

11/17/15
Meeting Date

404
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic SB404

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Bobby Carbonell

Job Title Executive Director

Address 930 Thomasville Rd Ste 100
Street
Tallahassee FL 32303
City State Zip

Phone 850-898-1331

Email carbonell@veteransFlorida.org

Speaking: For Against Information

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

Representing ~~CEO~~ Veterans Florida

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
State Senator René García
38th District

Please reply to:

District Office:

1490 West 68 Street
Suite # 201
Hialeah, FL 33014
Phone# (305) 364-3100

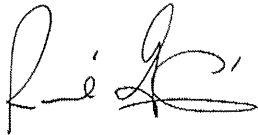
November 17, 2015

The Honorable Senator Thad Altman
Chairman, Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security
415 Knott Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Chairman Altman:

I respectfully request that my aide, Miguel Abad, present **SB 404**, related to **Small Business Financial Assistance**, at the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security committee meeting, due to a scheduling conflict with the Health Policy committee. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



State Senator René García
District 38
RG:AD



Florida Defense Support Task Force

Briefing to Senate Military and Veterans Affairs,
Space and Domestic Security Committee
November 17, 2015

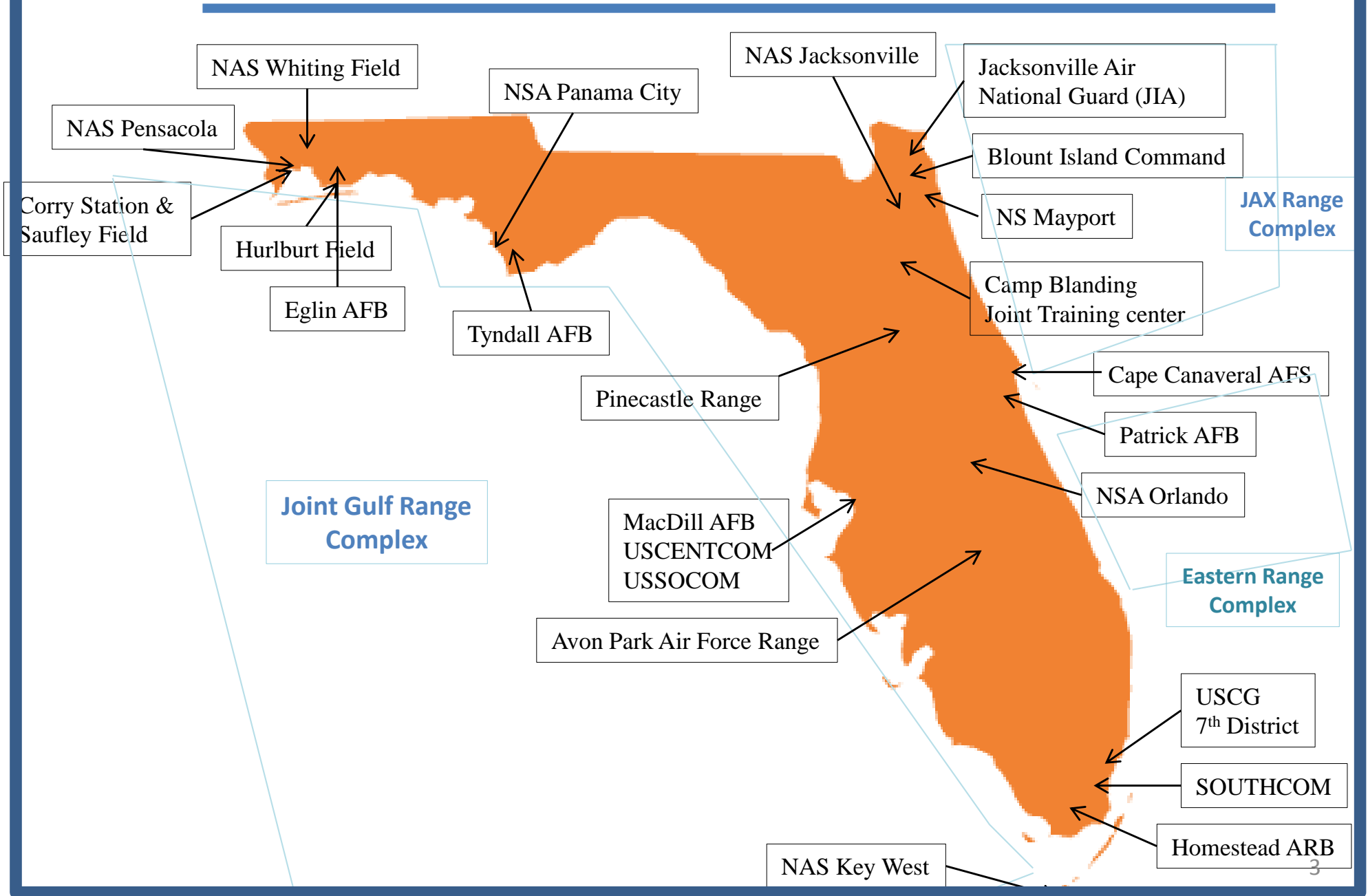


Florida' Military Presence

Overview:

- 20 major military installations.
- \$79.8 billion annual impact from military and defense business presence.
- 775,000 direct and indirect jobs.
- Defense is 4th largest contributor to state economy.
- Military spent \$34.7 billion in FL in 2014.
- Optimum training environment; superb flying weather and extensive ranges.

Florida's Military Installations



History

- Task Force created in 2011 -- F.S. 288.987, with a Sunshine exemption for strategy sessions-- F.S. 288.985
- 13 Members -- appointed by Governor, Senate and House.
- FY 2011-2012 funding -- \$5 million.
- FY 2012-2013 funding -- \$2 million
- FY 2013-2014 funding -- \$4 million
- FY 2014- 2015 funding -- \$3.5 million
- FY 2015- 2016 funding -- \$2 million (recurring)

Members

- **Senator Garrett Richter – Chair -- Senate (New Member)**
- **Mike Bennett – Senate (New Member)**
- J.R. McDonald -- Senate (Reappointed)
- Tom Neubauer -- Senate (Reappointed)
- Rep. Ritch Workman – House (Returning Member)
- Rep. Clay Ingram – House (Returning Member)
- BG Chip Diehl – House (Reappointed)
- **CW5 Derrick Fritts -- House (New Member)**
- Rep. Dana Young – Governor’s Personal Representative
- **Admiral Mark Fitzgerald -- Governor (New Member)**
- MG Michael Calhoun, Adjutant General – Governor (Reappointment)
- Barbara Stewart – Governor (Reappointment)
- MG Joseph Taluto – Governor (Reappointment)

Florida Defense Support Task Force

Governor's Guidance:

***“Keep Florida the most
military-friendly state
in the nation.”***

Task Force Mission:

Preserve, protect and enhance Florida's
military missions and installations

Florida Defense Support Task Force is charged to:

- Maintain and expand the missions of Florida's military installations
- Work with Base Commanders and defense communities to prevent encroachment
- Improve transportation access to Florida's military installations
- Assist installations in meeting DOD renewable energy goals
- Strengthen state support for military families and veterans with a focus on education, health care, employment, and family programs.

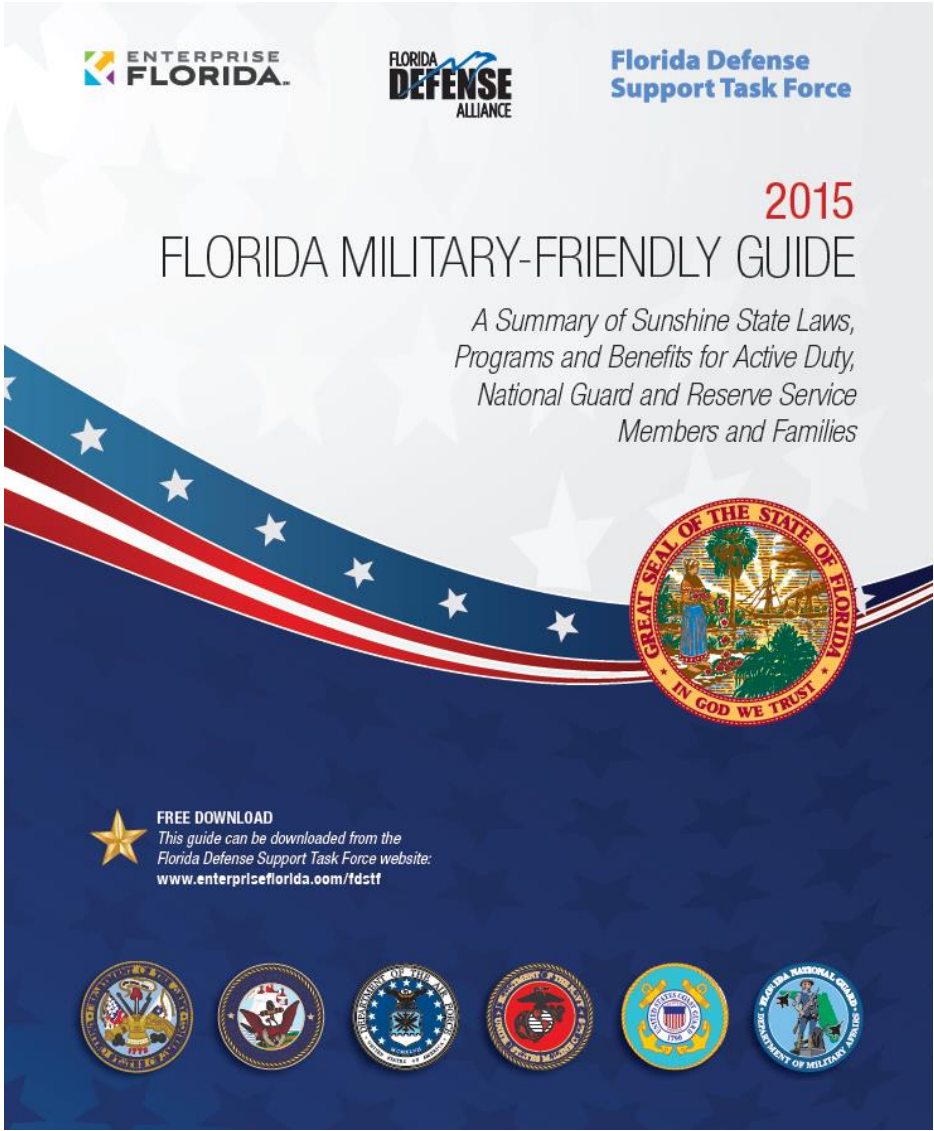
Task Force Successes

- Developed long term strategic plan. (2012)
- Conducted comprehensive evaluation and risk assessment of all military installations in the state. (2012)
- Contracted for full-time first class advocacy services in Washington, DC to assist efforts in protecting and enhancing Florida military bases. (2012-15)
- Implemented a grant program to assist local defense communities improve the military value of their bases. (2012-15)

Task Force Successes (cont.)

- Established program for acquisition of non-conservation lands buffering military installations. (2013)
- Established web site and provided members with weekly updates on military and defense issues. (2012-15)
- Funded '*Economic Impact of Defense Industry*' study and resultant new 2015 Florida Defense Factbook.
- Updated and distributed the 2015 Florida Military Friendly Guide.
- Supported military and veteran friendly legislation. (2012-15)

2015 Military Friendly Guide



Florida Defense Industry Economic Impact Analysis 2015 Florida Defense Factbook



Task Force Grant Award History

FY 2013 -- 9 grants -- \$ 2.41 million

FY 2014 -- 9 grants -- \$ 2.22 million

FY 2015 -- 14 grants -- \$ 2.59 million

FY 2016 -- 4 grants -- \$.736 million

Total \$ 7.96 million

2015 - 2016 Task Force Grant Awards

Bay County – Dredging study for NSA PC --	\$ 120,000
Santa Rosa County – Update land acquisition study/ prevent encroachment --	\$41,310
Clay County – Acquire 420 acres to prevent encroachment on Camp Blanding --	\$400,000
Tampa Bay Defense Alliance – Execute community plan to champion MacDill AFB --	\$175,000

Total	\$736,310
--------------	------------------

2015 Military Friendly Legislation

- Authorizes absent service members to use Federal write in absentee ballot for local and state elections.
- Provides public records exemption for location information for active duty service members on request.
- Provides waiver of minimum age requirement for lodging for military members.
- Provides for ad valorem tax exemption on property owned by the federal government.
- Allows in-state college tuition rates for spouses and children of active duty service members.
- Allows military ID to be accepted as proof of ID for drivers license; adds the word “veteran” on licenses.

FL Base Protection – Recent Actions

Non-Conservation Lands identified to protect military installations:

- Mayport Village -- NS Mayport (Cabinet approved purchase of development rights)
- Florida Rock -- MacDill AFB
- Barefoot Palms – NSA Panama City

Other Actions:

- Team Orlando – Modeling, Simulation and Training Center (Cabinet approved purchase of land and building to reduce the cost of leased office space)

Defense Budget in Washington, D.C.

President signed 2-year budget deal that:

- Sets federal spending through FY 16 and 17.
- Lifts caps on spending with additional \$80 billion (above BCA caps) divided equally between defense and domestic spending.
- Provides \$59 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding for 2 years.
- Omnibus bill will bundle budget (defense and non-defense) for 1 year only
- Avoids debt limit fight and potential government shutdown until after 2016 elections.
- Paves the way for new NDAA.

NDAA and BRAC

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA):

- \$607 Billion (includes \$38 for war funding).
- Authorizes DOD capacity study (precursor to BRAC).
- Extends ban on moving detainees from GITMO.

BRAC:

- No BRAC authority in 2016 NDAA; still possible for 2017.
- The 2016 National election will likely impact future defense spending and potential BRAC.

Florida Defense Support Task Force

Questions ?



Florida Defense Support Task Force

Briefing to Senate Military and Veterans Affairs,
Space and Domestic Security Committee
November 17, 2015



THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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

17 NOV 2015
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic _____

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name BRUCE GRANT

Job Title EXEC DIR, FL DEFENSE SUPPORT TASK FORCE

Address 101 N. MONROE ST SUITE 1000
Street

Phone 878-8726

TALLAHASSEE FL 32301
City State Zip

Email BGRANT@CFLOFLORIDA.COM

Speaking: For Against Information

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

Representing FLORIDA DEFENSE SUPPORT TASK FORCE

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

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

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THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

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11/17/15
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Florida Defense Support Task Force

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name David Clark

Job Title Acting Director

Address 3900 Commonwealth Blvd.

Phone 850-245-2025

Street

Tallahassee FL 32399

City

State

Zip

Email david.a.clark@dep.state.fl.us

Speaking: For Against Information

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

Representing FDEP

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

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VETERANS FLORIDA

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Dom. Sec.
Bobby Carbonell, Veterans Florida

Our Mission

- Attract and retain Veterans and their families by connecting them to employment, training and educational opportunities
- Strengthen Florida businesses by educating them on the value and skillsets Veterans bring to the workforce and providing training resources for their Veteran hires
- Enhance the entrepreneurial skills of Veterans



Overview

1. Governance Structure
2. Entrepreneurship Program
3. Training Grants Program
4. Marketing Campaign and Research
5. Funding



Governance Structure

Veterans Florida is governed by a nine member Board of Directors.

Jim Bagby, Chairman - Senate Appointee

Jim Sampey, Vice-Chairman - Governor's Appointee

Brigadier General (Ret.) John Adams, Secretary (House Appointee)

First Sergeant (Ret.) Tom Rice, Treasurer (Senate Appointee)

Captain (Ret.) Joseph O'Connor (Governor's Appointee)

Courtney Heidelberg (Governor's Appointee)

Jamee Graff (House Appointee)

Lieutenant General (Ret.) Martin Steele (House Appointee)

Prebble Ramswell (Senate Appointee)



Entrepreneurship Program



- \$1 Million appropriated for entrepreneurial programs within the State University System.
- Program designed as a network of Florida Universities serving veterans statewide using a shared curriculum and performance metrics, allows for geographic distribution of resources
- Three phase curriculum:
 - Non-resident/Online phase
 - Boot camp/resident phase
 - Mentoring phase



Business Training Grant Program

- Businesses eligible for up to \$8,000 per Veteran for 50% of training costs
- Florida targeted industries given preference for first 90 days
- Allows for customized training delivered in-house or by a third-party provider
- Simple application process for Businesses. Currently accepting applications at veteransflorida.org/employers



Market Research

Business Research

General Findings:

- ◆ Open to seeking out veterans, but don't necessarily do so now or know where to look
- ◆ Not sure how skills fit into their workforce
- ◆ Training and hiring incentives would help veterans enter their workforce

Veterans Research

General Findings:

- ◆ Open to considering Florida
- ◆ Want assistance with resume, interview prep
- ◆ Not sure how skills fit into civilian workforce
- ◆ Not sure where to go to get all the info/services they need



Marketing Campaign

- New website launched: veteransflorida.org
 - ◆ Connect Veterans to employers, career and entrepreneurial resources, and services
 - ◆ Provide businesses the benefits of hiring veterans and grant information
 - ◆ Deliver key information to veterans looking to relocate to Florida
- Miles Media selected as agency of record. Marketing plan being built now, advertisements start in December 2015.



USA TODAY - Veterans Affairs Issue

WHY VETERANS CHOOSE

FLORIDA

TAX BREAKS!

1 No taxes on personal income, military pensions, inheritance, gifts, or intangible property.

2 Every Florida resident receives \$25,000 homestead property tax exemption.

Additional \$5,000 homestead exemption for veterans with 10% or greater disability.

No property tax on homestead property for veterans with service connected permanent, total disability.

Source: Florida Department of Revenue



1st for aviation/aerospace manufacturing workforce.

2nd for space and defense systems manufacturing, aerospace and products and parts manufacturing, and manufacturing and logistics infrastructure.

3rd for high-tech establishments and pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing businesses.

5th for highest number of logistics & distribution jobs.

STRONG ECONOMY

3 Florida ranks #2 for "best state for business" and is a leader in high growth sectors such as aerospace, manufacturing, logistics, research and development, and technology.

4 2,000 aerospace and aviation companies innovate and manufacture in Florida. They employ 87,000 employees with a total payroll of \$5.5 billion paying an average wage of \$63,303.

5 Florida's high tech economy includes over 750,000 defense related jobs.

Source: Enterprise Florida

VALUABLE EDUCATION

6 In-state tuition rate to all veterans, spouses and dependents of veterans using the GI Bill.

FREE TUITION

7 Florida waives undergraduate tuition for colleges, universities and technical schools for recipients of the Purple Heart or combat decorations in superior precedence.

Source: Florida Department of Veteran Affairs

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

8 Five of Florida's beaches rank on Forbes' Top 10 Beaches in America for 2014.

9 Discounted Passes to Florida State Parks:
- Honorably discharged veterans receive 25% discount.
- Service-connected disabled veterans and surviving families are free!

10 Veterans are eligible for concealed weapons licenses without completing any additional training.

Sources: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Division of Recreation and Parks, Forbes



VETERANS LOVE FLORIDA

11 Florida has the third largest population of Veterans in the nation with over 1.5 million Veterans, and is home to 20 military installations, which include USCENTCOM, USSOCOM, and USSOUTHCOM.

Source: United States Department of Veterans Affairs



WANT TO KNOW MORE? For more reasons why Florida is the right choice visit: veteransflorida.org








Enhanced Website - Coming Soon

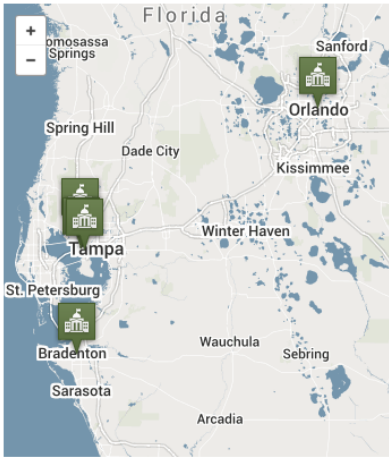
Service Type [Search by Name](#) Location
Employment Florida, United States
 US cities only

Employment Organizations In Florida, United States

Previous 1 2 3 4 5 Next

	Calhoun International, LLC Tampa, Florida	<input type="button" value="Get Assistance"/>
	Florida Career Source Suncoast Bradenton, Florida	<input type="button" value="Get Assistance"/>
	Florida Career Source Central Florida Orlando, Florida	<input type="button" value="Get Assistance"/>
	Florida Career Source Tampa Bay Tampa, Florida	<input type="button" value="Get Assistance"/>
	The Home Depot Inc. Tampa, Florida	<input type="button" value="Get Assistance"/>

Previous 1 2 3 4 5 Next



Connects veterans to resources such as employment, benefits, housing, etc in their local area.

Links employers and providers to each other to increase communication and reduce duplication of efforts.

Streamlines the access to services, reduces veteran frustration and improves outcomes

Funding

Fiscal Year 15-16 Appropriations:

Operations: \$344,106 recurring, General Revenue

Marketing: \$1,000,000 (from Visit Florida) recurring, General Revenue

Training Grants: \$2,000,000 non-recurring, General Revenue

Entrepreneurship Grant: \$1,000,000 non-recurring, General Revenue

Contact Us



Bobby Carbonell
Veterans Florida
Executive Director
Carbonell@veteransflorida.org
(850) 898-1331

Veterans Florida Headquarters
930 Thomasville Rd. Suite 100
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 898-1444
admin@veteransflorida.org



VeteransFlorida.org



Facebook.com/veteransflorida



Linkedin.com/company/veterans-florida



Twitter.com/vetsfl

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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

11/17/15
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Veterans Florida Overview

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Bobby Carbonell

Job Title Executive Director

Address 930 Thomasville Rd Ste 100

Phone 850-321-6010

Street

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32303

Zip

Email Carbonell@veteransflorida.org

Speaking: For Against Information

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

Representing Veterans Florida

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

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S-001 (10/14/14)

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: LL 37

Case No.:

Type:

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

Judge:

Started: 11/17/2015 1:16:00 PM

Ends: 11/17/2015 2:31:50 PM Length: 01:15:51

1:15:59 PM Chairman Altman calls meeting to order
1:16:17 PM Roll call by CAA Lois Graham who announces quorum is present
1:16:25 PM Chairman Altman with opening comments
1:16:50 PM Chairman Altman moves to Tab 1 - SB 88
1:17:00 PM Mary Kassabaum, Aide to Senator Simpson presents the bill
1:17:25 PM Chairman Altman asks for questions appearance cards
1:17:35 PM Colonel Mike Prendergast, FL Department of Veterans' Affairs waives in support of the bill
1:17:47 PM Chairman Altman with comments
1:18:30 PM CAA Lois Graham with roll call on SB 88
1:18:36 PM SB 88 reported favorably
1:18:45 PM Chairman Altman moves to Tab 2 - SB 404
1:18:58 PM Chairman Altman moves to Tab 3-Update on Defense Support Task Force
1:19:13 PM Chairman Altman Returns to Tab 2 - SB 404
1:19:24 PM Senator Garcia's Aide, Miguel Abad presents and explains SB 404
1:21:12 PM Chairman Altman with questions
1:21:24 PM Aide responds
1:21:35 PM Chairman Altman with follow-up
1:21:47 PM Aide explains
1:21:53 PM Chairman Altman with follow-up
1:21:55 PM Aide explains
1:22:17 PM Chairman Altman with comments
1:22:28 PM Aide responds
1:22:35 PM Bobby Carbonell, Executive Director, Veterans Florida with explanation
1:23:10 PM Chairman Altman recognizes Senator Sachs for question
1:23:21 PM Senator Sachs with question on governments -municipalities, school districts, etc.
1:23:35 PM Aide responds
1:23:42 PM Follow-up by Senator Sachs
1:24:01 PM Aide responds
1:24:08 PM Senator Sachs with additional question-who administers
1:24:17 PM Aide responds
1:24:21 PM Senator Sachs with comments
1:24:28 PM Chairman Altman with comments
1:24:41 PM Senator Sachs with comments
1:25:15 PM Chairman Altman with comments
1:25:29 PM Senator Gibson with question on incomes
1:25:48 PM Aide responds
1:26:10 PM Senator Gibson with follow-up - American Community Survey
1:26:14 PM Aide responds
1:26:26 PM Senator Gibson with follow-up
1:26:46 PM Aide responds
1:26:49 PM Senator Gibson with question on annual median income

1:26:57 PM Aide responds
1:27:12 PM Senator Gibson with follow-up
1:27:25 PM Aide responds
1:27:58 PM Senator Gibson with comments
1:28:03 PM Aide responds
1:28:10 PM Senator Gibson with follow-up
1:28:19 PM Aide responds
1:28:21 PM Chairman Altman with comments
1:28:28 PM Aide responds
1:28:42 PM Senator Sachs with comments
1:29:19 PM Chairman Altman with comments
1:29:43 PM Chairman Altman moves to Tab 3
1:29:59 PM Chairman Altman with comments
1:30:14 PM Returns to Tab 2
1:30:25 PM Chairman with comments
1:31:12 PM Senator Sachs with comments
1:31:27 PM Senator Gibson in debate
1:31:57 PM Chairman Altman with comments
1:32:05 PM Aide responds
1:32:14 PM Chairman Altman recognizes Senator Garcia
1:32:30 PM Senator Gibson with comments
1:32:38 PM Chairman Altman with comments
1:32:58 PM Senator Garcia with comments
1:34:50 PM Senator Gibson with comments
1:35:33 PM Senator Garcia with response
1:35:41 PM Senator Gibson with follow-up
1:35:46 PM Senator Garcia responds
1:35:52 PM Senator Gibson with follow-up
1:36:00 PM Chairman Altman with question
1:36:09 PM Senator Garcia with response
1:36:40 PM Bobby Carbonell with comments
1:38:09 PM Chairman Altman with comments
1:38:25 PM Senator Gibson with questions
1:39:26 PM Senator Garcia with response
1:39:44 PM Chairman Altman with comments
1:39:58 PM Senator Garcia responds
1:41:03 PM Chairman Altman with comments
1:41:23 PM Senator Gibson with question
1:41:39 PM Senator Garcia responds
1:42:24 PM Chairman Altman with comments
1:42:34 PM CAA Lois Graham calls the roll on SB 404
1:43:00 PM SB 404 reported favorably
1:43:13 PM Senator Stargel asked to be added as favorable vote on SB's 88 and 404
1:43:23 PM Chairman Altman responds
1:43:27 PM Chairman Altman moves to Tab 3
1:43:33 PM Presentation by Bruce Grant, Executive Director, Florida Defense Support Task Force
1:54:05 PM Chairman Altman with question
1:55:26 PM Mr. Grant responds
1:55:43 PM Chairman Altman with follow-up
1:55:49 PM Mr. Grant responds
1:55:53 PM Chairman Altman with comments
1:56:00 PM Senator Gibson with questions

1:56:12 PM Mr. Grant responds
1:56:54 PM David Clark, Acting Director, DEP responds
1:57:07 PM Senator Gibson with comments
1:57:09 PM Mr. Grant continues presentation
2:00:17 PM Chairman Altman with questions
2:00:35 PM Mr. Grant responds
2:00:55 PM Chairman Altman with comments
2:00:59 PM Mr. Grant responds
2:01:15 PM Chairman Altman with comments
2:01:20 PM Senator Gibson with comments
2:01:44 PM Mr. Grant responds
2:02:35 PM Senator Gibson with follow-up
2:02:51 PM Mr. Grant responds
2:03:55 PM Chairman Altman with comments
2:04:09 PM Mr. Grant responds
2:05:11 PM Chairman Altman with question
2:05:26 PM Mr. Grant responds
2:06:16 PM Chairman Altman with comments
2:06:27 PM Chairman Altman moves to Tab 4
2:06:35 PM Senator Evers asked to be added to favorable votes for SB's 88 and 404
2:06:48 PM Presentation by Bobby Carbonell, Executive Director, Veterans Florida
2:15:16 PM Chairman Altman with question
2:15:22 PM Mr. Carbonell responds
2:15:59 PM Chairman Altman with follow-up
2:16:12 PM Mr. Carbonell with response
2:16:26 PM Chairman Altman with additional question on data
2:16:39 PM Mr. Carbonell responds
2:16:56 PM Senator Sachs with comments
2:17:27 PM Senator Gibson with questions on funding
2:18:39 PM Mr. Carbonell responds
2:19:41 PM Senator Gibson with follow-up
2:19:56 PM Mr. Carbonell responds
2:20:19 PM Senator Gibson with comments
2:20:26 PM Mr. Carbonell comments
2:20:33 PM Senator Gibson with question
2:20:55 PM Mr. Carbonell responds
2:21:02 PM Senator Gibson with follow-up
2:21:09 PM Mr. Carbonell responds
2:21:29 PM Mr. Carbonell continues
2:24:00 PM Senator Gibson with question on marketing campaign and hiring veterans
2:24:13 PM Mr. Carbonell responds
2:24:30 PM Senator Gibson with comments
2:25:10 PM Mr. Carbonell responds
2:26:19 PM Mr. Carbonell continues presentation
2:29:47 PM Chairman comments and recognize members for questions
2:30:24 PM Mr. Carbonell with comments
2:30:34 PM Chairman Altman with comments
2:30:59 PM Senator Sachs requests to be shown as voting favorably on SB 404
2:31:22 PM Chairman Altman with comments
2:31:33 PM Senator Gibson moves to rise
2:31:37 PM Meeting Adjourned