

The Florida Senate  
**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**

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

**Senator Gibson, Chair  
Senator Broxson, Vice Chair**

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017

**TIME:** 10:30 a.m.—12:00 noon

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

**MEMBERS:** Senator Gibson, Chair; Senator Broxson, Vice Chair; Senators Bradley, Stargel, and Torres

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	<b>SB 152</b> Garcia (Similar H 197)	Small Business Financial Assistance; Creating the Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program within the Department of Veterans' Affairs; authorizing the corporation to accept and administer moneys appropriated for such grants; requiring a small business to apply to and enter into an agreement with the corporation to receive grants, etc.  MS 03/14/2017 Fav/CS AHS AP	Fav/CS Yeas 4 Nays 0
2	<b>SB 1202</b> Montford (Similar CS/H 263, Compare H 25, S 768)	Veterans' Annual Sales Tax Holiday; Creating an annual sales tax holiday for veterans; specifying items that are eligible for the sales tax holiday; authorizing certain retailers to elect not to participate in the sales tax holiday, etc.  MS 03/14/2017 Fav/CS AFT AP	Fav/CS Yeas 4 Nays 0

TAB	OFFICE and APPOINTMENT (HOME CITY)	FOR TERM ENDING	COMMITTEE ACTION
<b>Senate Confirmation Hearing:</b> A public hearing will be held for consideration of the below-named executive appointment to the office indicated.			
<b>Executive Director of Department of Veterans' Affairs</b>			
3	Sutphin, Glenn W., Jr. (Tallahassee)	Pleasure of Governor and Cabinet	Recommend Confirm Yeas 4 Nays 0

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
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Other Related Meeting Documents

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

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

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

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BILL: CS/SB 152

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

SUBJECT: Small Business Financial Assistance

DATE: March 16, 2017

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

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Sanders	Ryon	MS	Fav/CS
2.			AHS	
3.			AP	

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

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 152 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 Economic Opportunity (DEO) 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 \$1,500 for each veteran hired, or \$3,000 for each disabled veteran hired by the small business. These awards may not exceed \$10,500 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 90 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;
- Invest any awarded grant moneys into the small business to facilitate further job creation and employment of veterans; and
- Not rehire a veteran previously claimed as an employee in order to receive funds under the program.

FIFV is required to submit a report by December 31, 2020 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the grant program's progress and outcomes for the preceding three fiscal years.

Beginning July 1, 2017, and for the 2017-2018 through 2021-2022 fiscal years, the bill appropriates \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds from the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund to the DEO for transfer to FIFV to implement and administer the program. FIFV may award grant moneys up to a maximum of \$500,000 per fiscal year to small businesses and is authorized to expend no more than \$25,000 annually for staffing and administrative costs.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2017.

## 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.<sup>1</sup> In the United States there are nearly 21 million veterans, of which, over 1.5 million reside in Florida.<sup>2</sup> This makes Florida the state with the third largest veteran population, behind California and Texas.<sup>3</sup> The chart below shows veterans residing in Florida by age range. More than half of Florida's veterans are age 60 or older.

Veterans in Florida by Age Range <sup>4</sup>						
Under 40	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	TOTAL
186,238	187,598	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 291,000.<sup>5</sup> 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 present 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.<sup>6</sup>

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,

<sup>1</sup> Section 1.01(14), F.S.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Profiles*, available at [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_15\\_5YR\\_DP02&prodType=table](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_5YR_DP02&prodType=table) (last visited March 9, 2017).

<sup>3</sup> Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, *Fast Facts*, available at [http://floridavets.org/?page\\_id=50](http://floridavets.org/?page_id=50) (last visited March 9, 2017).

<sup>4</sup> 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](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp) (last visited March 9, 2017).

<sup>5</sup> Supra note 2.

<sup>6</sup> 5 USC 2108(2). See also s. 295.07(1)(a)1., F.S.

naval, or air service.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup> When that determination is made the servicemember may decide whether to receive military retirement benefits from the DoD or disability compensation from the USDVA.

### **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 local workforce development boards, which oversee the local delivery of workforce services to businesses, job seekers, and workers at nearly 100 career centers statewide.

Each 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). DVOP specialists focus on intensive case management services for veterans with barriers to employment, particularly disabled veterans.<sup>9</sup> LVERs build relationships with employers and engage in advocacy efforts with hiring executives and managers to increase employment opportunities for veterans.<sup>10</sup> They are also responsible for ensuring that veterans receive the full range of priority workforce services in the 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.<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> 38 USC 101(16).

<sup>8</sup> 10 USC 1201.

<sup>9</sup> 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).

<sup>10</sup> Id.

<sup>11</sup> Employ Florida Vets website, <http://www.employflorida.com/portals/veteran/> (last visited Oct. 27, 2015).

<sup>12</sup> 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).

Florida's overall unemployment rate in December 2016 was 4.9 percent.<sup>13</sup> The unemployment rate among Florida veterans during the 2015 calendar year was 5.4 percent compared to 4.6 percent nationally.<sup>14</sup> The unemployment rate among Florida Post-9/11 era veterans during the 2015 calendar year averaged 6.7 percent compared to 5.8 percent for Post-9/11 era veterans nationally.<sup>15</sup>

### **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.<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> 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. In April 2015, the FIFV board of directors selected "Veterans Florida" as the organization's brand name.<sup>18</sup>

FIFV is responsible for administering the Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS) program for the purpose of connecting veterans and employers.<sup>19</sup> Under the VETS program, FIFV administers a grant program for businesses to train veterans to meet a business's workforce-skill needs and operates a veteran-specific entrepreneur initiative program through a partnership with Florida's state universities.<sup>20</sup> 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 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 do not appear to be any 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 help small businesses grow, which may result in those businesses hiring additional

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<sup>13</sup> Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics, *Florida employment and unemployment release* (Jan. 2017), available at <http://www.floridajobs.org/labor-market-information/labor-market-information-data-releases/monthly-data-releases> (last visited March 9, 2017).

<sup>14</sup> United States Congress Joint Economic Committee, *State Economic Snapshots* (Jan. 27, 2017), available at, [https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/\\_cache/files/323f046b-3e87-477f-9f96-0d0ac8f1e90f/jec-state-economic-snapshots-january-2017.pdf](https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/323f046b-3e87-477f-9f96-0d0ac8f1e90f/jec-state-economic-snapshots-january-2017.pdf) (last visited March 9, 2017).

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> Chapter 2014-1, s. 12, Laws of Fla.

<sup>17</sup> Section 295.21(2), F.S.

<sup>18</sup> See FIFV press release available at <http://floridavets.org/florida-is-for-veterans-inc-brands-as-veterans-florida/> (last visited Nov. 24, 2015); and Florida Department of State fictitious name registration information available at <http://sunbiz.org/scripts/ficidet.exe?action=DETREG&docnum=G15000027981&rdocnum=G15000027981> (last visited Nov. 24, 2015). The organization's website is: <http://www.veteransflorida.org/> (last visited Nov. 24, 2015).

<sup>19</sup> Section 295.22, F.S.

<sup>20</sup> During the 2016 Regular Session, FIFV was allocated \$1 million for the veterans training grant program and \$500,000 for the entrepreneur initiative program. See Line items 596A and 597, ch. 2016-66, Laws of Fla.

employees.<sup>21</sup> 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.<sup>22</sup>

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.<sup>23</sup> The network provides entrepreneurs and small business owners with one-on-one business development consulting; entrepreneurial, business, and management development training; and business information and research.<sup>24</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates s. 295.231, F.S., to establish the Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program (program). The program is created within the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) 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 and veterans with a service-connected disability.

The bill defines a "small business" as an independently owned and operated, for-profit, privately held business that employs fewer than 50 persons; generates \$1 million or less in annual revenue; and has maintained its principal place of business in this state for at least the previous four calendar years.

A qualifying small business may receive up to \$10,500 per fiscal year for hiring honorably discharged veterans and veterans with a service-connected disability hired on or after July 1, 2017. A qualifying small business that hires a veteran as an employee may be eligible to receive a one-time grant of:

- \$1,500 for each honorably discharged veteran;<sup>25</sup> and
- \$3,000 for each veteran with a service-connected disability.<sup>26</sup>

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;

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<sup>21</sup> 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 March 9, 2017).

<sup>22</sup> 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 March 9, 2017).

<sup>23</sup> Section 288.001(1), F.S.

<sup>24</sup> *America's SBDC FLORIDA Fact Sheet*, available at <http://floridasbdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Fact-Sheet.pdf>, (last visited March 9, 2017).

<sup>25</sup> As defined in section 1.01(14), F.S.

<sup>26</sup> As defined in section 295.07(1)(a), F.S.

- 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 90 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;<sup>27</sup>
- Invest any awarded grant moneys into the small business to facilitate further job creation and employment of veterans;<sup>28</sup> and
- Not rehire a veteran previously claimed as an employee for purposes of receiving an additional grant.

FIFV must notify the appropriate regional small business development center of a small business's 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 DEO to develop rules to implement the program including specifying requirements for the application and approval process and the documentation necessary to claim grant funds.

By December 31, 2020, FIFV must provide a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the grant program's progress and outcomes for the preceding three fiscal years. The report must include:

- Aggregate information on the total number of veterans and small businesses assisted by the program;
- An accounting of how the corporation used the state funds it received for the grant program;
- A description of the nature of the participation in the program by the Florida Small Business Development Center Network;
- The number of small businesses receiving grant funds;
- The number of veterans employed by each small business receiving grant funds;
- The salary paid to each veteran employed;
- The period of time for which the small business employed each veteran;
- The grant program's economic benefit to the state; and
- All performance-based metrics and methodologies used to calculate the grant program's economic benefit to the state.

Beginning July 1, 2017, and for the 2017-2018 through 2021-2022 fiscal years, the bill appropriates \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds from the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund to the DEO for transfer to FIFV to implement and administer the program. FIFV may award grant moneys up to a maximum of \$500,000 per fiscal year to small businesses and is authorized to expend no more than \$25,000 annually for staffing and administrative costs.

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<sup>27</sup> According to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, the median income for veterans in Florida is \$35,572 compared to \$23,629 for nonveterans.

<sup>28</sup> Expenditures for investment into the small business are limited to manufacturing, equipment, and facilities expenses or other operating costs or fixed capital outlay projects.

The Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program takes effect on July 1, 2017 and terminates on July 1, 2022. On July 1, 2022, FIFV must transfer any unexpended funds to the DEO for reversion to the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust 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.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Businesses that choose to participate in the program created in the bill may be eligible to receive up to \$10,500 per fiscal year for hiring honorably discharged veterans and veterans with service-connected disabilities. Small businesses may apply to receive:

- \$1,500 for hiring an honorably discharged veteran; and
- \$3,000 for each veteran with a service-connected disability.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill appropriates \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds from the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund to the DEO for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 through Fiscal Year 2021-2022, for transfer to FIFV to implement and administer the program. FIFV may award grant moneys up to a maximum of \$500,000 per fiscal year to small businesses and FIFV is authorized to expend no more than \$25,000 annually for staffing and administrative costs.

The bill provides that the grant program terminates on July 1, 2022. On July 1, 2022, FIFV must transfer all remaining appropriated funds to the DEO for reversion to the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.



**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates section 295.231 of the Florida Statutes.

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

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

**CS by Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security on March 14, 2017:**

The CS:

- Establishes the grant program within the Department of Economic Opportunity rather than the Department of Veterans' Affairs;
- Narrows the definition of "small businesses" to those that employ 50 or fewer persons and generate \$1 million or less in annual revenue;
- Reduces the length of the grant program from 10 years to 5 years;
- Changes the grant program's funding source from the General Revenue Fund to the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund;
- Reduces the total grant amount a business can receive each fiscal year from \$25,000 to \$10,500;
- Reduces the grant amount awarded to a business for each veteran hired;
- Reduces the total appropriation for the lifetime of the grant program to \$2.5 million. (\$500,000 for five years);
- Reduces Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.'s cap on administrative costs from \$100,000 to \$25,000 per fiscal year to implement the program; and
- Requires Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31, 2020, on the program's progress and outcomes.

**B. Amendments:**

None.



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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/14/2017	.	
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The Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security (Garcia) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Section 295.231, Florida Statutes, is created to  
read:

295.231 Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program.—  
The Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program is created  
within the Department of Economic Opportunity to be administered  
by Florida Is For Veterans, Inc. The purpose of the program is



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11 to stimulate investment in the state's economy by providing  
12 grants to small businesses that hire and employ honorably  
13 discharged veterans or disabled veterans with service-connected  
14 disabilities.

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

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

17 (b) "Small business" means an independently owned and  
18 operated, for-profit, privately held business that employs 50 or  
19 fewer persons; generates \$1 million or less in annual revenue;  
20 and has maintained its principal place of business in this state  
21 for at least the previous 4 calendar years.

22 (2) The corporation may accept and administer moneys  
23 appropriated to the department for transfer to the corporation  
24 to provide grants to encourage small businesses in this state to  
25 hire and employ veterans.

26 (3) A small business that initially hires a veteran on or  
27 after July 1, 2017, as an employee may receive a one-time grant  
28 of:

29 (a) Fifteen hundred dollars per newly hired veteran, as  
30 defined in s. 1.01(14).

31 (b) Three thousand dollars for each newly hired disabled  
32 veteran, as that term is described in s. 295.07(1)(a).

33 (4) The total of grants awarded to a participating small  
34 business under subsection (3) may not exceed \$10,500 per fiscal  
35 year.

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

39 (a) Employ a qualifying veteran for at least 1 year before



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becoming eligible for a grant awarded under subsection (3).

(b) Report information regarding the employment status of each qualifying veteran, if requested to do so by the corporation.

(c) Pay each qualifying veteran an amount equal to at least 90 percent of the annual median income for veterans in this state, based on the most recent federal census or the most recent American Community Survey 5-year estimates published by the United States Census Bureau.

(d) Use any awarded grant moneys to facilitate the small business' creation of additional jobs for and employment of veterans; however, grant moneys may be used only for manufacturing, equipment, and facility expenses or other operating costs or fixed capital outlay projects.

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

(f) Is eligible to receive a grant award only for a veteran initially hired on or after July 1, 2017.

(6) The corporation shall notify the regional small business development center that serves the county in which a participating small business is located of the small business's participation in the grant program in order to facilitate improved access to the resources of the Florida Small Business Development Center Network.

(7) The Department of Economic Opportunity may adopt rules to implement and administer this section, including, but not limited to, rules specifying requirements for the application and approval process and the documentation necessary to claim



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grant moneys awarded under this section.

(8) By December 31, 2020, the corporation shall provide a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the grant program's progress and outcomes for the preceding 3 fiscal years. The report must include aggregate information on the total number of veterans and small businesses assisted by the program; an accounting of how the corporation used the state funds it received for the grant program; and a description of the nature of the participation in the program by the Florida Small Business Development Center Network. The report must also contain specific information on the number of small businesses receiving grant funds; the number of veterans employed by each small business receiving grant funds; the salary paid to each veteran employed; the period of time for which the small business employed each veteran; the grant program's economic benefit to the state; and all performance-based metrics and methodologies used to calculate the grant program's economic benefit to the state.

(9) The grant program terminates July 1, 2022.

Section 2. Beginning July 1, 2017, and for the 2017-2018 through the 2021-2022 fiscal years, the sum of \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds from the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund is appropriated to the Department of Economic Opportunity for transfer to Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to contract with the Department of Economic Opportunity to implement and administer the Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program. The corporation may award grant moneys up to a maximum of \$500,000 per fiscal year. The corporation may spend



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up to \$25,000 per fiscal year of funds transferred by the department for staffing and administrative costs associated with implementation and administration of the program. If any appropriated funds remain upon termination of the program, Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., shall transfer those funds to the Department of Economic Opportunity for deposit in the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

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

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause  
and insert:

A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to small business financial assistance; creating s. 295.231, F.S.; creating the Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program within the Department of Economic Opportunity; directing Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to administer the program; defining terms; authorizing the corporation to accept and administer moneys appropriated for such grants; specifying grant amounts; limiting the amount that a small business may receive under the program; requiring a small business to apply to and enter into an agreement with the corporation to receive grants; prescribing minimum criteria for such agreements; requiring the corporation to notify the appropriate regional small business development center of a small business'



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127 participation; authorizing the department to adopt  
128 rules; prescribing reporting requirements; providing  
129 for termination of the program; providing  
130 appropriations; providing an effective date.

By Senator Garcia

36-00167-17

2017152\_\_

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to small business financial assistance; creating s. 295.231, F.S.; creating the Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program within the Department of Veterans' Affairs; directing Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to administer the program; defining terms; authorizing the corporation to accept and administer moneys appropriated for such grants; specifying grant amounts; limiting the amount that a small business may receive under the program; requiring a small business to apply to and enter into an agreement with the corporation to receive grants; prescribing minimum criteria for such agreements; requiring the corporation to notify the appropriate regional small business development center of a small business' participation; providing for termination of the program; authorizing the department to adopt rules; providing an appropriation; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Section 295.231, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

295.231 Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program.—  
The Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program is created  
within the Department of Veterans' Affairs to be administered by  
Florida Is For Veterans, Inc. The purpose of the program is to  
stimulate investment in the state's economy by providing grants  
to small businesses that hire and employ honorably discharged  
veterans or disabled veterans with service-connected  
disabilities.

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

36-00167-17

2017152\_\_

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

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

(b) "Small business" means an independently owned and operated, for-profit, privately held business that employs 200 or fewer 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.

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

(3) A small business that initially hires a veteran on or after October 1, 2017 as an employee may receive a one-time grant of:

(a) Three thousand dollars per newly hired veteran, as defined in s. 1.01(14).

(b) Five thousand dollars for each newly hired disabled veteran, as that term is described in s. 295.07(1)(a)1.

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

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

(a) Employ a qualifying veteran for at least 1 year before becoming eligible for a grant awarded under subsection (3).

(b) Report information regarding the employment status of each qualifying veteran, if requested to do so by the corporation.

Page 2 of 4

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



36-00167-17

2017152\_\_

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

(d) Use any awarded grant moneys to facilitate the small business' creation of additional jobs for and employment of veterans; however, grant moneys may be used only for manufacturing, equipment, and facility expenses or other operating costs or fixed capital outlay projects.

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

(f) Is eligible to receive a grant award only for a veteran initially hired on or after October 1, 2017.

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

(7) The grant program terminates on the date that all funds appropriated for the program are expended or on October 1, 2027, whichever occurs first.

(8) The Department of Veterans' Affairs may adopt rules to implement and administer this section, including, but not limited to, rules specifying requirements for the application and approval process and the documentation necessary to claim grant moneys awarded under this section.

Page 3 of 4

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

36-00167-17

2017152\_\_

Section 2. Effective July 1, 2017, for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the sum of \$10 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for transfer to Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to implement and administer the Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program. The corporation may award grant moneys up to a maximum of \$900,000 per fiscal year. The corporation may spend up to \$100,000 per fiscal year of funds transferred by the department for staffing and administrative costs associated with implementation and administration of the program. If any appropriated funds remain upon termination of the program, Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., shall transfer those funds to the Department of Veterans' Affairs to revert to the General Revenue Fund.

Section 3. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect July 1, 2017, this act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

Page 4 of 4

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

**The Florida Senate**  
State Senator René García  
36<sup>th</sup> District

Please reply to:

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

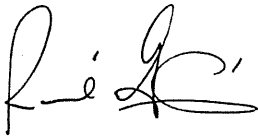
February 10, 2017

The Honorable Audrey Gibson  
Chair, Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security  
215 Knott Building  
404 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Gibson,

Please have this letter serve as my formal request to have **SB 152: Small Business Financial Assistance**, be heard during the next scheduled Military and Veteran Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee Meeting. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



State Senator René García  
District 36

CC: Elizabeth Ryon  
Lois Graham

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

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

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

---

BILL: CS/SB 1202

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

SUBJECT: Veterans' Annual Sales Tax Holiday

DATE: March 16, 2017

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

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Sanders	Ryon	MS	Fav/CS
2.			AFT	
3.			AP	

---

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

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 1202 establishes an annual, one-day sales tax holiday for veterans on November 11. During the holiday, clothing items under \$60 are exempt from the tax levied under ch. 212, F.S. A retailer may elect not to participate if less than five percent of the retailer's gross sales of tangible personal property in the prior calendar year is comprised of clothing items as defined by the bill.

The Revenue Estimating Conference estimates that the bill reduces General Revenue receipts by \$1.4 million in Fiscal Year 2017-2018, with a \$1.4 million recurring reduction. It reduces local revenue by \$0.3 million in Fiscal Year 2017-2018, with a \$0.3 million recurring reduction.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2017.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Florida Sales and Use Tax**

Florida levies a six percent state sales and use tax on the sale or rental of most tangible personal property, admissions, rentals of transient accommodations, rental of commercial real estate, and a limited number of services.<sup>1</sup> In addition to the six percent state sales tax, Florida law authorizes

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter 212, F.S.

counties to levy discretionary sales surtaxes.<sup>2</sup> Sales tax is added to the price of taxable goods or services and the tax is collected from the purchaser at the time of sale.

Chapter 212, F.S., contains statutory provisions that authorize the levy and collection of Florida's sales and use tax, as well as the exemptions and credits applicable to certain items or uses under specified circumstances. There are currently more than 200 different exemptions, exclusions, deductions, and credits from sales and use tax.<sup>3</sup>

Since 1998, the Legislature has enacted 19 temporary periods (commonly called "sales tax holidays") during which certain household items, household appliances, clothing, footwear, books, and/or school supply items were exempted from the state sales tax and county discretionary sales surtaxes. The Florida Legislature has not previously authorized a sales tax holiday for veterans.

Opportunities for veterans to shop tax free currently exist at eight of Florida's 20 major military installations that have a military exchange on base.<sup>4</sup> Military exchanges sell consumer goods and services tax free. However, not all veterans have exchange privileges. Recently, the Department of Defense announced a policy change in January 2017 that will extend limited online military exchange shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans starting on November 11, 2017.<sup>5</sup>

### **Proof of Veteran Status**

Florida has the third largest population of veterans in the nation after California and Texas with more than 1.5 million veterans.<sup>6</sup> Currently, there is no single veteran identification card that is available to all veterans and that can be used as proof of veteran status.

There are various forms of identification issued by the Federal government and the state of Florida that can be used as proof of veteran status. The most common types of identification include the following:

- **DD Form 2 (Retired), Uniformed Services ID:**<sup>7</sup> This card is issued by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to retired members of the U.S. Uniformed Services<sup>8</sup> entitled to retired

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<sup>2</sup> Sections 212.054 and 212.055, F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Florida Revenue Estimating Conference, *Florida Tax Handbook*, (2016), available at <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/revenues/reports/tax-handbook/taxhandbook2016.pdf> (last visited March 9, 2017).

<sup>4</sup> Military Exchange store locator, available at: <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/exchange-stores> (last visited January 30, 2017).

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Defense press release, *Department of Defense Extends Online Military Exchange Shopping Privileges to Veterans*, available at <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/1049503/departments-of-defense-extends-online-military-exchange-shopping-privileges-to-v> (last visited January 30, 2017).

<sup>6</sup> Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, *Our Veterans*, available at: <http://floridavets.org/our-veterans/>

<sup>7</sup> The design of the Uniformed Services ID cards include a picture, branch affiliation, paygrade/rank, expiration date, Department of Defense identification number, date of birth, benefits number, blood type, Geneva Convention category, and date of issue. See Department of Defense, Common Access Card, *Uniformed Services ID Card*, available at <http://www.cac.mil/uniformed-services-id-card/> (last visited March 9, 2017).

<sup>8</sup> The uniformed services includes the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. See 10 U.S.C. §101(a)(5).

pay,<sup>9</sup> members on the Temporary Disability Retired List, and members on the Permanent Disability Retired List;<sup>10</sup>

- **DD Form 2 (Reserve Retired), Uniformed Services ID:** This card is issued by the DoD to retired members of the Reserves and the National Guard who are under the age of 60;<sup>11</sup>
- **DD Form 2765, Uniformed Services ID and Privilege Card:** This card is issued by the DoD to Medal of Honor recipients, 100-percent disabled veterans, former members in receipt of retired pay, and other limited benefits-eligible categories described in DoD policy;<sup>12</sup>
- **DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty:** This form is issued by the DoD to each military servicemember upon separation from active duty service. The DD Form 214 contains the veteran's dates of service, last duty assignment, pay grade and rank, awards received, and characterization of service (i.e., honorable, general under honorable conditions, dishonorable, etc.).<sup>13</sup>
- **Veteran Health Identification Card:** This card is issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) to veterans who are enrolled in the USDVA health care system for identification and check-in at USDVA appointments.<sup>14</sup>
- **100-percent Disabled Veterans State ID Card:** This card is issued by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs to any Florida veteran who has a 100-percent total and permanent service-connected disability rating from the USDVA or the DoD;<sup>15</sup>
- **Veteran Designation on Florida Driver License or ID Card:** Florida veterans can receive a capital "V" printed on a driver license or ID card issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to indicate an individual's veteran status.<sup>16</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill establishes an annual, one-day sales tax holiday on November 11 for veterans purchasing clothing items with a sales price of \$60 or less. The bill defines the term "veteran" to mean a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service who has been honorably discharged or released or who later received an upgraded honorable discharge or release.

Clothing eligible for the tax exempt holiday includes:

- Any article of wearing apparel intended to be worn on or about the human body, excluding watches, watchbands, jewelry, umbrellas, and handkerchiefs; and
- All footwear, excluding skis, swim fins, roller blades, and skates.

<sup>9</sup> This includes retired members of the Reserves and National Guard age 60 or above who are entitled to retired pay.

<sup>10</sup> Supra note 7.

<sup>11</sup> Id.

<sup>12</sup> Other groups eligible for issuance of a DoD Form 2765 include Transitional Health Care Members, full-time paid personnel of the USO when serving outside the U.S., United Seaman's Service personnel when serving outside the U.S., officers and crews of MSC Vessels deployed to foreign countries, Select Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve personnel, and other benefits-eligible categories as described in Department of Defense policy. See supra note 7.

<sup>13</sup> Department of Defense Instruction 1336.01 *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty* (Dec. 29, 2014)

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, *Health Benefits: Veterans Health Identification Card*, available at <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic/index.asp> (last visited March 15, 2017).

<sup>15</sup> See s. 295.17, F.S.

<sup>16</sup> See ss. 322.14(1)(d) and 322.051(8)(b), F.S.

To be eligible for the sales tax holiday, a veteran must show proof of military status at the time of purchase by presenting one of the following forms of identification:

- DD Form 2, Uniformed Services Identification Card, issued by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD);
- DD Form 2765, Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card, issued by the DoD;
- DD Form 214, displaying the term “Honorable,” issued by the DoD;
- Veteran Health Identification Card, issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs;
- Veteran identification card, issued by the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs under s. 295.17, F.S.;
- A valid driver license or identification card with a “V” or the word “veteran” designation on it issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV); or
- Any other proof of veteran status, issued by the DHSMV.

Retailers that make tax-exempt sales pursuant to the provisions of this bill must report to the Department of Revenue (DOR) the amount of its gross sales on the retailer’s sales and use tax return.

The bill allows a retailer to opt out of the sales tax holiday if less than five percent of the retailer’s gross sales of tangible personal property in the prior calendar year is comprised of clothing items, as defined by the bill. If the retailer chooses not to participate in the tax holiday, by August 1, annually, the retailer must notify the DOR in writing and post a copy of the notice in a conspicuous location at the place of business.

The DOR is authorized to adopt rules, including emergency rules, to implement the provisions of this bill.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2017.

#### **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 estimates that the bill reduces General Revenue receipts by \$1.4 million in Fiscal Year 2017-18, with a \$1.4 million recurring reduction.<sup>17</sup> It reduces local revenue by \$0.3 million in Fiscal Year 2017-2018, with a \$0.3 million recurring reduction.<sup>18</sup>

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

Indeterminate, but positive. Individuals eligible for the sales tax holiday will see a reduction in the cost of purchasing clothing items.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The Department of Revenue (DOR) estimates the cost associated with notifying businesses of the sales tax exemption, by printing and mailing a Tax Information Publication (TIP), will be approximately \$133,128.<sup>19</sup>

Beginning September 2018, and each year thereafter, the DOR will mail a TIP to businesses as a reminder of the sales tax holiday at an estimated cost of \$121,398.<sup>20</sup> The cost to send the TIP in subsequent years may need to be adjusted to include potential increases in the postage and vendor print rates.<sup>21</sup>

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates an unnumbered section of Florida law.

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<sup>17</sup> Revenue Estimating Conference, *Annual Sales Tax Holiday for Veterans, Veteran's Day, Nov 11: Proposed Language*, January 27, 2017.

<sup>18</sup> Id.

<sup>19</sup> Fla. Dep't of Revenue, *Senate Bill 1202 Fiscal Analysis* (March 8, 2017) (on file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security).

<sup>20</sup> Id.

<sup>21</sup> Id.

**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 14, 2017:**

The CS:

- Adds the Veteran Health Identification Card as a form of identification that can be used as proof of veteran status; and
- Clarifies the eligibility requirement for retailers who may elect not to participate in the sales tax holiday.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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

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163664

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/14/2017	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

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

**Senate Amendment**

Delete lines 47 - 53  
and insert:

(d) Veteran health identification card, issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

(e) Veteran identification card, identifying the veteran as having a 100-percent disability, issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs under s. 295.17, Florida Statutes;

(f) Valid driver license or identification card, displaying



163664

11 the letter "V" or the term "Veteran," issued by the Department  
12 of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; or  
13 (g) Any other proof of veteran status issued by the



693622

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/14/2017	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

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

**Senate Amendment**

Delete lines 61 - 62  
and insert:  
prior calendar year is comprised of clothing, as defined in  
subsection (1). If a qualifying retailer chooses not to

By Senator Montford

3-01313A-17

20171202\_\_

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to a veterans' annual sales tax holiday; creating an annual sales tax holiday for veterans; specifying items that are eligible for the sales tax holiday; defining the term "veteran" for purposes of the sales tax holiday; specifying documents that demonstrate proof of military status; specifying reporting requirements of retailers; authorizing certain retailers to elect not to participate in the sales tax holiday; specifying procedures for a retailer to opt out; authorizing the Department of Revenue to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Sales tax holiday for veterans of the United States Armed Forces.—

(1) The tax levied under chapter 212, Florida Statutes, may not be collected from a veteran, as defined in subsection (2), during the period from 12:01 a.m. on November 11 through 11:59 p.m. on November 11, annually, on the retail sale, as defined in s. 212.02(14), Florida Statutes, of clothing with a sales price of \$60 or less per item. As used in this subsection, the term "clothing" means:

(a) Any article of wearing apparel intended to be worn on or about the human body, excluding watches, watchbands, jewelry, umbrellas, and handkerchiefs.

(b) All footwear, excluding skis, swim fins, roller blades,

3-01313A-17

20171202\_\_

and skates.

(2) Notwithstanding any action by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs relating to dishonorable discharges, the term "veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service who was honorably discharged or released or who later received an upgraded honorable discharge or release. To be eligible for the sales tax holiday, a veteran must show proof of military status at the time he or she purchases the eligible items. The veteran may show proof of military status by presenting his or her:

(a) DD Form 2, Uniformed Services Identification Card, issued by the United States Department of Defense;

(b) DD Form 2765, Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card, issued by the United States Department of Defense;

(c) DD Form 214, displaying the term "Honorable," issued by the United States Department of Defense;

(d) Veteran identification card, identifying the veteran as having a 100-percent disability, issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs under s. 295.17, Florida Statutes;

(e) Valid driver license or identification card, displaying the letter "V" or the term "Veteran," issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles; or

(f) Any other proof of veteran status issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

(3) A retailer making tax-exempt sales under this section shall report to the Department of Revenue the amount of its gross sales on the retailer's sales and use tax return.

(4) The tax exemptions provided in this section apply at

3-01313A-17

20171202\_\_

59 the option of a retailer if less than 5 percent of the  
60 retailer's gross sales of tangible personal property in the  
61 prior calendar year is comprised of items that would be exempt  
62 under this section. If a qualifying retailer chooses not to  
63 participate in the sales tax holiday, by August 1, annually, the  
64 retailer must notify the Department of Revenue in writing of its  
65 election to collect sales tax during the holiday and must post a  
66 copy of that notice in a conspicuous location at its place of  
67 business.

68 (5) The Department of Revenue may, and all conditions are  
69 deemed met to, adopt rules pursuant to the authority granted  
70 under s. 212.18(2), Florida Statutes, including emergency rules  
71 under s. 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, to administer this  
72 section.

73 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.



The Florida Senate

## Committee Agenda Request

**To:** Senator Audrey Gibson, Chair  
Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

**Subject:** Committee Agenda Request

**Date:** March 8, 2017

---

I respectfully request that **Senate Bill #1202**, relating to Veterans' Annual Tax Holiday, be placed on the:

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Montford".

---

Senator Bill Montford  
Florida Senate, District 3

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

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

3/14/17  
Meeting Date

1202  
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic SEN MONTFORD'S BILL

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name MIKE MASON

Job Title CHAIRMAN FL VETERANS FOUNDATION

Address 400 S MONROE

Phone 813 258 4794

Street

TALLAHASSEE FL

City

State

Zip

Email

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

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

Representing

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

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

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

S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

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

3/14/17  
Meeting Date

1202  
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic VET TAX HOLIDAY

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name DENNIS BAKER

Job Title PRESIDENT, FL VETERANS FOUNDATION

Address CAPITOL '2107  
Street

Phone 545-6668

City State Zip Email

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

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

Representing FLORIDA VETERANS FOUNDATION

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

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

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

S-001 (10/14/14)



2365

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Division of Elections**

I, Ken Detzner, Secretary of State,  
do hereby certify that

*Glenn W. Sutphin, Jr.*

is duly appointed

**Executive Director,  
Department of Veterans' Affairs**

for a term beginning on the Second day of August, A.D., 2016,  
to serve at the pleasure of the Governor and Cabinet and is  
subject to be confirmed by the Senate during the next regular  
session of the Legislature.

*Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the  
State of Florida, at Tallahassee, the Capital, this  
the First day of November, A.D., 2016.*

*Ken Detzner*

Secretary of State



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

RECEIVED  
16 OCT 20 AM 10:04  
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS  
SECRETARY OF STATE

August 2, 2016

Secretary Kenneth W. Detzner  
Secretary of State  
State of Florida  
R. A. Gray Building, Room 316  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Detzner:

Please be advised that the Cabinet and I have made the following appointment under provisions of Section 20.37, Florida Statutes:

Lieutenant Colonel Glenn Sutphin

as Executive Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, succeeding Michael Prendergast, subject to confirmation by the Senate. This appointment was approved by the Florida Cabinet on August 2, 2016, for a term ending at the pleasure of the Governor and Florida Cabinet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott".

Rick Scott  
Governor

RS/aa

# OATH OF OFFICE

(Art. II, § 5(b), Fla. Const.)

STATE OF FLORIDA

16 OCT 31 PM 3:35

County of LEON

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS  
SECRETARY OF STATE

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of

Executive Director of Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

(Title of Office)

on which I am now about to enter, so help me God.

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words "so help me God." See § 92.52, Fla. Stat.]

Glenn W. Sutphin, Jr.  
Signature

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2016.

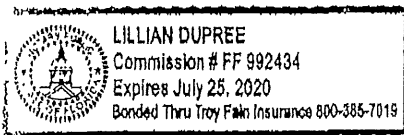
Lillian Dupree  
Signature of Officer Administering Oath or of Notary Public

Lillian Dupree  
Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

Personally Known ☒ OR

Produced Identification ☐

Type of Identification Produced \_\_\_\_\_



## ACCEPTANCE

I accept the office listed in the above Oath of Office.

Mailing Address: ☐ Home ☒ Office

400 S. Monroe St., The Capitol Suite 2105

Street or Post Office Box

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

City, State, Zip Code

Glenn W. Sutphin, Jr.

Print name as you desire commission issued

Glenn W. Sutphin, Jr.  
Signature

**The Florida Senate  
Committee Notice Of Hearing**

IN THE FLORIDA SENATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

IN RE: Executive Appointment of  
Glenn W. Sutphin Jr.  
Executive Director of Department of Veterans' Affairs

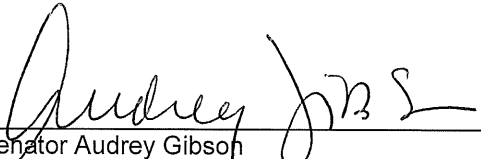
**NOTICE OF HEARING**

TO: Lieutenant Colonel Glenn W. Sutphin Jr.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security of the Florida Senate will conduct a hearing on your executive appointment on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, in the Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Office Building, commencing at 10:30 a.m., pursuant to Rule 12.7(1) of the Rules of the Florida Senate.

Please be present at the time of the hearing.  
DATED this the 13th day of March, 2017

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Audrey Gibson  
As Chair and by authority of the committee

cc: Members, Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security  
Office of the Sergeant at Arms



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

*Honoring those who served U.S.*

## **Glenn Sutphin**

Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Glenn Sutphin was appointed Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs by Gov. Rick Scott and the Cabinet Aug. 2, 2016. The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, on behalf of the Governor and Cabinet, is the premier point of entry for Florida veterans to access earned services, benefits and support.

Colonel Sutphin served as Legislative Affairs Director and Chief of Staff for the Florida Department of Military Affairs from March 1999 until his appointment as FDVA Interim Executive Director on April 26, 2016.

He entered active duty service as an enlisted soldier in 1969, received his commission as a Field Artillery Officer, and finished his military service in the Florida National Guard. The colonel, who is qualified in five branches of the Army, led soldiers in seven operational deployments during his 30 years in uniform before retiring in 1999.

The colonel's civilian education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from the University of South Florida and a Master of Science degree in Business Management from Central Michigan University.

His personal awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, three Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, an Army Achievement Medal and four Humanitarian Service Medals. He is a recipient of several National Guard decorations, including the Florida Cross, the Florida National Guard's highest award. In addition, he is a recipient of the Order of Saint Barbara from the U.S. Field Artillery Association and the Bronze Order of Mercury from the Signal Corps Regimental Association.

Glenn and his wife, Kay, have one grown daughter, Katrina.

(As of August 2016)

## APPEARANCE RECORD

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

3/14/17

**Meeting Date**

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic CONFIRMATION

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Col. Glenn Sutphin

Job Title EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Address Suite 2105, The Capitol

*Street*

Tallahassee

FL

32399

City

State

*Zip*

Phone (850) 487-1533

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 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.***

S-001 (10/14/14)

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

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

3/14/2017  
Meeting Date

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

Topic GLEN SUTPHIN FOR EXEC. DIRECTOR OF FDVA

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

Name MIKE MASON

Job Title CHAIRMAN, FLORIDA VETERANS FOUNDATION

Address 400 S. MONROE ST

Phone 863 258 6794

Street

TALLAHASSEE

City

State

Zip

Email MASONM@FDVA.STATE.FL.US

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

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

Representing \_\_\_\_\_

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

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

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

S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

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

3/14/17

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Confirmation LTC(R) Sutphin

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Joe Marino

Job Title COO

Address 930 Thomasville Rd #100

Phone 850 898 1452

Street

Tall

FL

32303

City

State

Zip

Email: marino@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

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

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

S-001 (10/14/14)



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

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

3/14/17  
Meeting Date

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

Topic Col. Sutphin Confirmation

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

Name EMMETT REED

Job Title EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Address 307 W. PARK AVE

Phone 251.1051

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32312

City

State

Zip

Email ereed@fhc.org

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

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

Representing Florida Health Care Association

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

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

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

S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

# COMMITTEE WITNESS OATH

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**CHAIR:**

**Please raise your right hand and be sworn in as a witness.**

**Do you swear or affirm that the evidence you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?**

**WITNESS'S NAME:** Lt. Col. Glenn Sutphin (Ret.)

**ANSWER:** Yes

Pursuant to §90.605(1), Florida Statutes: "The witness's answer shall be noted in the record."

**COMMITTEE NAME:** military and Veterans Affairs, Space, &

Domestic Security  
**DATE:** 3-14-17

The Florida Senate  
**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON  
EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT**

**COMMITTEE:** Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security  
**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017  
**TIME:** 10:30 a.m.—12:00 noon  
**PLACE:** Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Office Building

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**TO:** The Honorable Joe Negron, President

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

The committee was referred the following executive appointment subject to confirmation by the Senate:

**Office:** Executive Director of Department of Veterans' Affairs

**Appointee:** Sutphin Jr., Glenn W.

**Term:** 8/2/2016-Pleasure of Governor and Cabinet

After inquiry and due consideration, the committee recommends that the Senate **confirm** the aforesaid executive appointment made by the Governor.

# CourtSmart Tag Report

**Room:** LL 37

**Case No.:**

**Type:**

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

**Judge:**

**Started:** 3/14/2017 10:30:08 AM

**Ends:** 3/14/2017 10:48:32 AM **Length:** 00:18:25

**10:30:07 AM** Meeting called to order by Chair Gibson

**10:30:08 AM** Roll Call

**10:30:30 AM** Sen. Stargill - Excused Absence

**10:30:51 AM** Pledge of Allegiance

**10:30:53 AM** Comments by Chair

**10:31:14 AM** Tab 1 - SB 152 by Sen. Garcia

**10:32:48 AM** Chair

**10:33:04 AM** AM 868820

**10:33:18 AM** AM 868820 adopted

**10:33:21 AM** On bill as amended

**10:33:34 AM** Chair

**10:33:50 AM** Sen. Broxson

**10:34:08 AM** Chair

**10:34:13 AM** Sen. Torres

**10:34:37 AM** Chair

**10:34:39 AM** Roll Call on SB 152 as amended

**10:34:54 AM** SB 152 reported Favorable as Amended

**10:35:11 AM** Tab 3 Confirmation Hearing - Exec. Dir. of Dept. of Veterans' Affairs, Glenn W. Sutphin, Jr.

**10:35:40 AM** Comments by Chair

**10:36:08 AM** Col. Sutphin sworn in

**10:36:21 AM** Col. Sutphin speaks

**10:42:10 AM** Chair

**10:42:16 AM** Sen. Bradley

**10:42:44 AM** Speaker Waives in Support: Mike Mason, Chair, FL Veterans Foundation

**10:42:54 AM** Speaker Waives in Support: Joe Marino, representing Veterans Florida

**10:42:59 AM** Speaker Waives in Support: Emmett Reed, Exec. Dir., FL Health Care Assoc.

**10:43:14 AM** Col. Sutphin

**10:43:46 AM** Chair

**10:43:50 AM** Sen. Bradley motion to Recommend Confirm Tab 3 - Glenn W. Sutphin, Jr.

**10:44:00 AM** Chair

**10:44:03 AM** Roll Call on recommendation to confirm

**10:44:21 AM** Tab 3 - Confirmation of Col. Sutphin recommended favorable

**10:44:29 AM** Tab 2 - SB 1202 by Sen. Montford

**10:44:42 AM** Sen. Montford

**10:45:20 AM** AM 163664

**10:45:39 AM** AM 163664 adopted

**10:45:47 AM** AM 693622

**10:46:08 AM** AM 693622 adopted

**10:46:27 AM** Sen. Torres

**10:46:49 AM** Sen Montford

**10:47:08 AM** Chair

**10:47:10 AM** Speaker Waives in Support: Dennis Baker, Pres., FL Veterans' Foundation

**10:47:26 AM** Speaker Waives in Support: Mike Mason, Chair, FL Veterans' Foundation

**10:47:34 AM** Chair

**10:47:36 AM** Sen. Montford to close

**10:47:47 AM** Roll Call on SB 1202 as amended

**10:47:56 AM** SB 1202 reported Favorable as Amended

**10:48:06 AM** Chair

**10:48:18 AM** Sen. Bradley moves to Adjourn



## THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

### COMMITTEES:

Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax, *Chair*  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, *Vice Chair*  
Appropriations  
Children, Families, and Elder Affairs  
Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities  
Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

### SENATOR KELLI STARGEL

*Deputy Majority Leader*  
22nd District

March 13, 2017

The Honorable Audrey Gibson  
Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs,  
Space, and Domestic Security, Chair  
215 Knott Building  
404 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chair Gibson:

I am requesting to be excused from attending the March 14 meeting for the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security. I will be presenting two of my own bills in separate committees during that time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelli Stargel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Senator Kelli Stargel  
District 22

Cc: Elizabeth Ryon / Staff Director  
Lois Graham / AA  
Lily Tysinger / MO analyst

### REPLY TO:

- ☐ 2033 East Edgewood Drive, Suite 1, Lakeland, Florida 33803 (863) 668-3028
- ☐ 322 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5022

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

JOE NEGRON  
President of the Senate

ANITERE FLORES  
President Pro Tempore