

Tab 1	SB 232 by Harrell (CO-INTRODUCERS) Gibson ; (Identical to H 00115) State Park Fee Discounts
Tab 2	SB 254 by Brodeur (CO-INTRODUCERS) Perry ; (Identical to H 00215) Religious Institutions
Tab 3	SM 302 by Burgess (CO-INTRODUCERS) Book, Gibson, Harrell ; (Similar to H 00063) Recognizing Veteran Suicide

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

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

Senator Wright, Chair
Senator Harrell, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, November 30, 2021
TIME: 3:30—6:00 p.m.
PLACE: *Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building*

MEMBERS: Senator Wright, Chair; Senator Harrell, Vice Chair; Senators Burgess, Cruz, Gibson, Rodriguez, and Torres

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	SB 232 Harrell (Identical H 115)	State Park Fee Discounts; Providing certain entrance passes for specified military members and veterans at no charge, etc. MS 11/30/2021 Favorable EN AP	Favorable Yeas 6 Nays 0
2	SB 254 Brodeur (Identical H 215)	Religious Institutions; Defining the term “religious institution”; providing that an emergency order may not expressly prohibit religious services or activities; providing an exception under certain circumstances, etc. MS 11/30/2021 Favorable RC	Favorable Yeas 6 Nays 0
3	SM 302 Burgess (Similar HM 63)	Recognizing Veteran Suicide; Urging Congress to recognize the epidemic of suicide among veterans and to fully fund suicide prevention efforts of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, etc. MS 11/30/2021 Favorable RC	Favorable Yeas 6 Nays 0
4	Presentation by Kevin Guthrie, Director, Division of Emergency Management		Presented
5	Presentation by Ron Draa, Chief of Staff, Florida Department of Law Enforcement		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 232

INTRODUCER: Senator Harrell

SUBJECT: State Park Fee Discounts

DATE: November 14, 2021 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Brown	Caldwell	MS	Favorable
2.			EN	
3.			AP	

I. Summary:

SB 232 revises the current benefit on state park fees provided to active duty members and honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces (U.S.A.F.), National Guard, or reserve components of the U.S.A.F. or National Guard. State park fees generated are deposited into the State Park Trust Fund, to support the administration, improvement, and maintenance of state parks. Current law provides a qualifying servicemember or veteran with a 25 percent discount on an annual entrance pass. This bill limits the benefit to Florida residents and increases the monetary value to that of a lifetime family annual entrance pass at no charge.

A fiscal impact is expected from a reduction in revenue from this bill.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.

II. Present Situation:

Recreation Benefits for Servicemembers and Veterans, Overall

The following discounts on state park fees apply with written documentation to:

- Active duty members and honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces (U.S.A.F), National Guard, or reserve components, 25-percent discount on annual entrance passes.
- Honorably discharged veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lifetime family annual entrance passes at no charge.
- Surviving spouses and parents of deceased members of the U.S.A.F., National Guard, or reserve components who died in combat, lifetime family annual entrance passes at no charge.¹

¹ Section 258.0145, F.S.

A partial or full discount on county park fees applies to:

- Current members of the U.S.A.F., their reserve components, or the National Guard.
- Honorably discharged veterans of the U.S.A.F., a reserve component, or the National Guard, and those veterans with a service-connected disability.
- Surviving spouses and parents of a deceased member of the U.S.A.F, a reserve component, or the National Guard, who died in combat.²

A member of the U.S.A.F. stationed in the state, or a residing family member is considered a resident for purposes of applying for a hunting, fishing, or other recreational license.³ A resident pays reduced fees on licenses, such as paying \$15.50 for an annual freshwater or saltwater fishing license, rather than \$45.50; \$15.50 for an annual hunting license to take game, rather than \$150; and \$46.50 for the option of an annual combined hunting, freshwater fishing, and saltwater fishing license (no option is available for a combination license for a nonresident).⁴

Additionally, a licensure exemption is provided for an outdoor hunting, freshwater fishing, or saltwater fishing recreational event designed to foster rehabilitation or enjoyment among disabled veterans or active duty or reserve duty servicemembers, a participating servicemember or veteran, immediate family, and an assistant to the member. This benefit applies to a disabled veteran or an active duty or reserve duty servicemember of the U.S.A.F., the Coast Guard, military reserves, or the Florida National Guard.⁵

An Annual Military Gold Sportsmen's License is available to a resident active or retired member of the U.S.A.F., U.S.A.F. Reserve, the National Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard, or the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. An annual military gold sportsman's license costs \$18.50, rather than the \$98.50 charged for the annual gold sportsman's license. The annual military gold sportsman's license authorizes the same activities as the annual gold sportsman's license.⁶ Authorized activities are the taking of freshwater fish, saltwater fish, and game, subject to state and federal law, rules, and regulations. Other eligible activities include those authorized by a management area permit, a muzzle-loading gun season permit, a crossbow season permit, a turkey permit, a Florida waterfowl permit, a deer permit, an archery season permit, a snook permit, and a spiny lobster permit.⁷

Fees for Entrance to State Parks

The Division of Recreation and Parks, Department of Environmental Protection, may charge reasonable fees, rentals, or charges for the use or operation of facilities and concessions in state parks.⁸ All fees, rentals, and charges collected are deposited in the State Treasury for the benefit of the State Park Trust Fund (trust fund). Monies collected in the trust fund are to be used for the

² Section 125.029, F.S.

³ Section 379.101(30)(b)1., F.S.

⁴ Section 379.354(4) and (5), F.S.

⁵ Section 379.353(2)(q), F.S.

⁶ Section 379.354(4)(i) and (j), F.S.

⁷ Section 379.354(4)(i), F.S.

⁸ Section 258.014(1), F.S.

administration, improvement, and maintenance of state parks and for purchasing and developing land for state park purposes.⁹

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 232 revises the current benefit on state park fees provided to active duty members and honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces (U.S.A.F.), National Guard, or reserve components of the U.S.A.F. or National Guard. Current law provides a qualifying servicemember or veteran with a 25-percent discount on an annual entrance pass. This bill limits the benefit to Florida residents and increases the monetary value to that of a lifetime family annual entrance pass at no charge.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

Yes, see C. Government Sector Impact below.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Active duty servicemembers and veterans and their families who are Florida residents will pay no annual fee, rather than a 25-percent discounted fee, for entrance to state parks.

⁹ *Id.*

C. Government Sector Impact:

In Fiscal Year 2020-2021, Florida State Parks received more than \$660,000 in revenue associated with entrance passes for active duty servicemembers and honorably discharged veterans who receive the current 25 percent discount. For the past five years, the average annual revenue collected was \$580,000. Based on this amount, the Department of Environmental Protection (department) estimates an annual reduction of revenue into the State Parks Trust Fund to be between \$500,000 to \$650,000.¹⁰ Additionally, an indeterminate impact could result from a loss of revenue from day use entry fees of park users who availed themselves of the program that were not previously annual pass holders. The department also anticipates an increased workload due to park staff having to issue additional annual passes to this user group.¹¹

The fiscal impact does not include, however, cost savings from limiting the military benefit to residents. Out-of-state residents who currently qualify for the 25-percent discount should not be included in the estimate.¹²

The Revenue Estimating Conference also reviewed the bill for fiscal impact. The conference estimated a \$700,000 recurring impact from the bill. An insignificant negative impact to sales tax is also expected, as sales tax is currently included in an annual pass.¹³

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends 258.0145 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.

¹⁰ Dep't of Environmental Protection, *2022 Legislative Session, HB 115* (on file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² Email from Zach Good, Dep't of Environmental Protection (Nov. 1, 2021) (on file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security).

¹³ 2022 Regular Session Revenue Estimating Conference, *Impact Conference Results* (Nov. 19, 2021) (on file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security).

B. Amendments:

None.

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

By Senator Harrell

25-00458-22

2022232__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to state park fee discounts; amending s. 258.0145, F.S.; providing certain entrance passes for specified military members and veterans at no charge; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 258.0145, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

258.0145 Military, law enforcement, and firefighter state park fee discounts.—The Division of Recreation and Parks shall provide the following discounts on park fees to persons who present written documentation satisfactory to the division which evidences their eligibility for the discounts:

(1) Active duty members and honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard, or reserve components thereof who are Florida residents shall receive lifetime family ~~a 25-percent discount on~~ annual entrance passes at no charge.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

SENATOR GAYLE HARRELL
25th District

COMMITTEES:
Transportation, *Chair*
Military and Veterans Affairs, Space,
and Domestic Security, *Vice Chair*
Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and
Human Services
Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
Finance and Tax
Reapportionment

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE:
Select Subcommittee on Congressional
Reapportionment

October 18, 2021

Senator Wright
320 Senate Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Chair Wright,

I respectfully request that **SB 232** – Veterans Park Bill be placed on the next available agenda for the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee Meeting.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gayle".

Senator Gayle Harrell
Senate District 25

Cc: Diana Caldwell, Staff Director
Lois Graham, Committee Administrative Assistant

REPLY TO:

- 215 SW Federal Highway, Suite 203, Stuart, Florida 34994 (772) 221-4019 FAX: (888) 263-7895
- 322 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5025

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

WILTON SIMPSON
President of the Senate

AARON BEAN
President Pro Tempore

11/30/2021

Meeting Date

Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

Committee

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

SB 232

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Christian Cochran

Phone 850-487-1533

Address 400 S. Monroe Street Suite 2105

Email CochranC@FDVA.STATE.FL.US

Street

Tallahassee

Florida

32399

City

State

Zip

Speaking: For Against Information **OR** Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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

S-001 (08/10/2021)

Brown, Cindy

From: Brown, Cindy
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 3:22 PM
To: Graham, Lois
Subject: SB 232 Document to Upload for Meeting

From: Good, Zach <Zach.Good@FloridaDEP.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 2:07 PM
To: Brown, Cindy <BROWN.CINDY@flsenate.gov>
Cc: Bickley, Alex M. <Alex.Bickley@floridadep.gov>
Subject: RE: SB 232

Cindy,

The estimate in the fiscal impact analysis is based on the total revenue of the annual passes purchased on the current 25% discount for Active Duty and Honorably Discharged Veterans.

However, we currently do not track whether purchasers of annual passes are Florida residents vs. non-Florida residents. We are working on enhancements to the Parks Business System and are hopeful that the resident vs. non-resident functionality will be available later this fiscal year.

Thanks,
Zach

From: Brown, Cindy <BROWN.CINDY@flsenate.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 12:02 PM
To: Good, Zach <Zach.Good@FloridaDEP.gov>
Cc: Bickley, Alex M. <Alex.Bickley@floridadep.gov>
Subject: RE: SB 232

EXTERNAL MESSAGE

This email originated outside of DEP. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email.

Zach,

Does the estimate on reduced revenue take into account that the bill, in limiting the benefit to Florida residents, removes the 25 percent discount on entrance fees for non-Florida resident active duty members and veterans (which would thereby proportionally increase revenue from those visitors)? The DEP analysis correctly notes this in the impact section, and I just wanted to make sure that the difference is reflected in the numbers.

Thanks very much,

Cindy

2022 Legislative Session



Bill #/Title: HB 115 – State Park Fee Discounts

Sponsor: Casello

Companion Bill (if applicable): SB 232 Harrell (Identical)

Program(s): Division of Recreation and Parks

OVERVIEW

HB 115 amends section 258.0145, F.S., to provide active duty members and honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard or reserve components thereof who are Florida residents Lifetime Family Annual Entrance Passes to Florida State Parks at no charge. The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2022.

PRESENT SITUATION

Section 258.014, F.S., authorizes DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks to charge reasonable fees for the use or operation of state park facilities. Revenue collected is deposited in the State Park Trust Fund, which is used for the administration, improvement and maintenance of state parks.

Although Florida State Parks collect fees, discounted or free annual entrance passes, as well as discounts on base campsite fees, are authorized in statute for specific groups.

Section 258.0145, F.S. –

- Active Duty and Honorably Discharged Veterans – 25% discount on Annual Entrance Passes
- Honorably Discharged Veterans with Service-Connected Disabilities – Free Lifetime Family Annual Entrance Passes
- Surviving Spouses and Parents of Deceased Veterans – Free Lifetime Family Annual Entrance Passes
- Surviving Spouses and Parents of Florida Law Enforcement Officers and Florida Firefighters – Free Lifetime Family Annual Entrance Passes

Section 258.0142, F.S. –

- Licensed Family Foster Homes – Free Family Annual Entrance Passes; 50% discount on base campsite fees
- Families Who Adopt Special Needs Children – One-time Free Family Annual Entrance Pass

Section 258.016, F.S. –

- Florida residents aged 65 and older and Florida residents with 100% disability – 50% discount on base campsite fees

All discounted or free annual entrance passes, which allow park entrance in place of the daily entrance fee and do not provide discounts or waive any other park fees, are available at Florida State Park Ranger Stations and Museums. Those who are eligible for discounted or free annual entrance passes are required to present satisfactory written documentation demonstrating their eligibility.

IMPACTS

This bill would replace the current 25% discount on annual entrance passes for active duty members and honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard or reserve components regardless of residency, with instead free Lifetime Family Annual Entrance Passes for active duty members and honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard or reserve components who are Florida residents only. The 25% discount on annual entrance passes would no longer apply to active duty members and honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard or reserve components who are not Florida residents.

Does the bill have a fiscal impact to the agency?

Y N

If yes, please briefly explain:

In FY 2020-21, Florida State Parks received over \$660,000 in revenue associated with the passes for Active Duty and Honorably Discharged Veterans that receive the 25% discount under the existing statute. Revenue received from these passes has averaged over \$580,000 annually over the past five years. By offering these currently discounted passes for free, the Division of Recreation and Parks anticipates the annual reduction of revenue into the State Park Trust Fund to be between \$500,000 - \$650,000 each year.

Additionally, there could be an expected loss of revenue from day use entry fees of park users who availed themselves of this program that were not previously annual pass holders (amount indeterminate).

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The Division of Recreation and Parks can also expect to issue additional annual passes to this user group over what has been issued in the past due to passes being offered for free versus at a 25% discount. This will impact park staff workload. Park staff will be required to review documentation to verify eligibility – documentation verifying military connection as well as proof of residency.

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 254

INTRODUCER: Senators Brodeur and Perry

SUBJECT: Religious Institutions

DATE: November 12, 2021 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Lloyd	Caldwell	MS	Favorable
2.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 254 would disallow emergency orders issued under the State Emergency Act which prohibited a religious organization from conducting regular religious services or activities. However, such emergency orders would be permitted to restrict religious activities if such a restriction was part of a general provision which applied uniformly to all entities in an affected jurisdiction and the restriction served a compelling governmental interest and was the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2022.

II. Present Situation:

COVID-19

Since early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically affected the state of Florida. According to data reported by the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Florida Department of Health, over three-and-a-half million positive COVID-19 cases have been diagnosed in the state and more than 58,000 Florida residents have died of the virus.^{1,2}

As of November 5, 2021, Florida's infection rate, the number of COVID cases per 100,000, is below the national average and for its region at 51 per 100,000.³ These numbers represent a

¹ Department of Health and Human Services, *COVID-19 Reported Patient Impact and Hospital Capacity by State Timeseries (Data set report generated on October 26, 2021)*, available at <https://healthdata.gov/browse?tags=hhs+covid-19> (last visited October 26, 2021).

² Florida Department of Health, Division of Disease Control and Health Protection, *COVID-19 Weekly Situation Report: State Overview*, available at [Home - Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Outbreak \(floridahealthcovid19.gov\)](https://www.floridahealth.gov/covid-19/outbreaks) (last visited Oct. 19, 2021).

³ The national average for the week of November 5, 2021 is 150 per 100,000 and for the state's designated HHS region, the new COVID-19 case rate per 100,000 is 84. Department of Health and Human Services, *COVI-19 Community Profile Report*

decline over past infection rates. Florida has also recently shown a significant decrease in COVID-19 death rates and reports a death rate per 100,000 individuals (0.1) that is significantly lower than the national rate (2.3) and the regional rate (4.1).⁴ At least 69 percent of Florida's population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccination including 81 percent of those over the age of 18.

Stay at Home Orders – Florida

In response to the pandemic, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 20-52 on March 9, 2020, declaring a state of emergency and issuing guidelines to halt, mitigate, or reduce the spread of the outbreak.⁵ More than 50 supplemental executive orders addressing specific conditions followed the initial order.^{6,7} One order provided that certain essential businesses and establishments could operate at diminished capacities at various times during the public health emergency. Essential activities were defined as:

- Attending religious services conducted in churches, synagogues, and houses of worship;
- Participating in recreational activities (consistent with social distancing guidelines) such as walking, biking, hiking, fishing, hunting, running, or swimming;
- Taking care of pets; and
- Caring for or otherwise assisting a loved one or friend.⁸

The emergency order was extended seven times before ending on May 3, 2021. Executive Order No. 21-102, which was effective immediately, directed a return to normal, everyday life and prohibited local political subdivisions and local municipalities from enacting any new emergency orders or restrictions that imposed restrictions or mandates on businesses or individuals because of the COVID-19 emergency.⁹

A second Executive Order, No, 21-101, issued on May 3, 2021 and effective July 1, 2021, suspended any remaining local orders by political subdivisions related to COVID-19 which restricted the rights or liberties of individuals or businesses.¹⁰ In issuing this Executive Order, the Governor stated that the remaining local emergency orders were “not narrowly tailored to serve a

– Florida, available at <https://healthdata.gov/Community/COVID-19-State-Profile-Report-Florida/ht94-9tjc> (last visited November 10, 2021).

⁴ Department of Health and Human Services, *COVID-19 Community Profile Report – Florida*, available at <https://healthdata.gov/Community/COVID-19-State-Profile-Report-Florida/ht94-9tjc> (last visited November 10, 2021).

⁵ A state of emergency declared under the State Emergency Management Act may not last for more than 60 days unless it is renewed by the Governor. Section 252.36(2), F.S.

⁶ See List of 2020 Executive Orders, Executive Officer of Governor Ron DeSantis available at <https://www.flgov.com/2020-executive-orders/> (last visited on November 10, 2021).

⁷ See List of 2021 Executive Orders, Executive Officer of Governor Ron DeSantis available at <https://www.flgov.com/2021-executive-orders/> (last visited on November 10, 2021).

⁸ Governor Ron DeSantis, Executive Order 2020-91 (effective April 3, 2021), available at <https://www.flgov.com/2020-executive-orders/> (last visited on November 10, 2021).

⁹ Governor Ron DeSantis, Executive Order 2021-102 (effective May 3, 2021), available at https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/orders/2021/EO_21-102.pdf (last visited on November 10, 2021).

¹⁰ Governor Ron DeSantis, Executive Order 2021 – 101 (effective July 1, 2021), available at [LG-BIZHUB-20210503024737 \(flgov.com\)](https://www.flgov.com/LG-BIZHUB-20210503024737) (last visited on November 10, 2021).

public health or safety purpose and unnecessarily restrict individual rights and liberties, including the economic and commercial rights and liberties of business owners in this State.”¹¹

Stay at Home Orders – National Review

On March 16, 2020, President Donald Trump and the White House Coronavirus Task Force issued recommendations to the public on how to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, which built upon previously released CDC guidance. These recommendations advised the public to:

- Follow the instructions of their state and local authorities;
- Stay at home if they felt sick;
- Keep children at home if they are ill;
- Keep the entire household at home, if someone in the household tests positive for the Coronavirus;
- Stay home and away from other people if you are an older American; and
- Stay home and away from other people if you are a person with a serious underlying health condition.¹²

The guidelines further encouraged the public to work or engage in schooling from home whenever possible, to avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people, use pickup or delivery options for food pick-ups, avoid discretionary travel, and to not visit nursing homes or long-term care facilities.

During the “Stay at Home” time period, some other states and local municipalities enacted more restrictive orders and established specific requirements for unique types of gatherings, such as religious services. In March 2020, a pastor in Hillsborough County, Florida, was arrested after holding an in-person church service for hundreds of his members in violation of a local ordinance prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 persons, including at religious institutions.¹³ The charges were eventually dropped and Governor DeSantis issued a modified Executive Order to include religious services as an essential service.

In May 2020, President Trump called on the nation’s governors to re-open religious institutions under new guidance issued by the CDC. At the time, it was estimated that more than 90 percent of houses of worship had been closed to in-person worship.¹⁴ Archived materials from the CDC from February 2021 for *Communities in Faith* encouraged worshippers to practice the same general hygiene and social distancing standards as in any other workplace or business location, suggested limits on the sharing of materials such as hymnals, prayer books, or other frequently

¹¹ See Governor Ron DeSantis, Executive Order 2021-101 (effective July 1, 2021), available at https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/orders/2021/EO_21-101.pdf (last visited November 10, 2021).

¹² The White House and Centers for Disease Control, *The President’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America* (March 16, 2020), available at https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus-guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf (last visited on October 21, 2021).

¹³ CNN, *Police arrest Florida pastor for holding church services despite stay-at-home order* (March 30, 2020), available at <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/30/us/florida-pastor-arrested-river-church/index.html> (last visited on October 21, 2021).

¹⁴ National Public Radio, *President Trump Sides with Churches Asserting a Right to Reopen* (May 23, 2020), <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/05/23/861386816/president-trump-sides-with-churches-asserting-a-right-to-reopen> (last visited on October 21, 2021).

touched books, provided modified methods for the collection of financial contributions to reduce contact, recommended limited physical contact, and asked worshippers to consider pre-packaged food options if meals were offered.¹⁵

Federal and State Law Pertaining to Religious Liberty

Provisions in the Constitutions of Florida and the United States

The relationship between religion and government in the United States is governed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which prevents the government from establishing religion and protects privately initiated expression and activities from government interference and discrimination.¹⁶ Both the U.S. Constitution and the Florida Constitution contain an Establishment Clause, Free Exercise Clause, and protect individual freedom of speech and expression.¹⁷

The First Amendment's Equal Protection Clause provides:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Similarly, Article I, section 3 of the Florida Constitution states:

There shall be no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting or penalizing the free exercise thereof. Religious freedom shall not justify practices inconsistent with public morals, peace or safety.

Establishment Clause

The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires the government to maintain neutrality in its treatment of religion. Quoting from its decision in *Sherbert v. Verner*, the U.S. Supreme Court notes that the “door of the Free Exercise Clause stands tightly closed against any governmental regulation of religious beliefs as such,”¹⁸ and a regulation may appear to be neutral on its face may, in its application, nonetheless offend the constitutional requirement for governmental neutrality if it unduly burdens the free exercise of religion.¹⁹

The incorporation of the Fourteenth Amendment into the First Amendment protections extended the Congressional prohibition from making any law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise of religion to also include actions by the states. The first court case

¹⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Considerations for Communities of Faith (Updated February 19, 2021)*, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html> (last visited on October 21, 2021).

¹⁶ U.S. CONSTITUTION. Amend. I.

¹⁷ U.S. CONSTITUTION. Amend. I; FLA. CONSTITUTION, Art. 1, sections 3 and 4.

¹⁸ Quoting from *Cantwell v. Connecticut*, 310 U.S. 296, 303 (1940).

¹⁹ *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205, 220. In *Yoder*, the respondents had been convicted of violating the state's compulsory school attendance law which required all children to attend school until the age of 16. The Yoders and other respondents had withdrawn their children after the eighth grade in accordance with their Amish religious beliefs.

appeared in 1931, *Stromberg v. California*, and additional protections were presented in *Cantwell v. Connecticut* in 1940.²⁰ The *Cantwell* court said:

The Fourteenth Amendment has rendered the legislatures of the states as incompetent as Congress to enact such laws. The constitutional inhibition of legislation on the subject of religion has a double aspect. On the one hand, it forestalls compulsion by law of the acceptance of any creed or the practice of any form of worship. Freedom of conscience and freedom to adhere to such religious organization or form of worship as the individual may choose cannot be restricted by law. On the other hand, it safeguards the free exercise of the chosen form of religion. Thus the Amendment embraces two concepts – freedom to believe and freedom to act. The first is absolute but, in the nature of things, the second cannot be. Conduct remains subject to regulation for the protection of society. The freedom to act must have appropriate definition to preserve the enforcement of that protection. In every case, the power to regulate must be so exercised or not, in attaining a permissible end, unduly to infringe the protected freedom.²¹

Free Speech and Expression

However, the right to practice religious freedom is not absolute. In the United States Supreme Court case, *Reynolds v. United States*, 98 U.S. 145 (1879), a case which addressed a federal statute outlawing bigamy and some worshippers under the Church of Latter Day Saints which believed their religion mandated the practice, the Court upheld his conviction and the authority that Congress had to outlaw bigamy. The Court said, “Can a man excuse his practices to the contrary because of his religious belief? To permit this would be to make the professed doctrines of religious belief superior to the law of the land, and, in effect permit every citizen to become a law unto himself. Government could exist only in name under such circumstances.”²² Additional precedent which applied protection under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment was decided in *Prince v. Massachusetts* during the October 1943 term, when the United States Supreme Court further recognized that the right to practice religion was not an unlimited privilege, however; stating, “the right to practice religion freely does not include liberty to expose the community or the child to communicable disease or the latter to ill health or death.”²³ The court stated that while “religious training and activity, whether performed by adult or child, are protected by the Fourteenth Amendment against interference by state action, except insofar as they violate reasonable regulations adopted for the protection of the public health, morals and welfare.”²⁴

During the issuance of *Stay at Home Orders* by state officials and local governments during the COVID-19 pandemic, churches and religious organizations challenged some of those orders

²⁰ See *Stromberg v. California*, 283 U.S. 359. In *Stromberg*, a young camp counselor was charged with violating the state penal code for displaying a red flag in a public place under one of three conditions related to government opposition or incitement of violence. After being found guilty, she appealed on the grounds that the conviction was a violation of her free speech. The majority opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court stated that free speech, including certain nonverbal expressive conduct such as waving a red flag, was protected under the First Amendment and made clear that the First Amendment applied to state actions. States could place limits on speech which incited violence or threatened the overthrow of the government.

²¹ *Cantwell, et al v. Connecticut*, 310 U.S. 296, 303-304 (1940).

²² *Reynolds v. United States*, 98 U.S.145, 166-167. (1879)

²³ *Prince v. Massachusetts*, 321 U.S.158, 166-167 (1943).

²⁴ *Prince v. Massachusetts*, 321 U.S. 158, 172 (1943).

which had resulted in the suspension of in-person religious services or those which limited in-person services or gatherings in general to a certain number of persons or households. These challenges alleged that such orders were unconstitutional on several grounds: The free exercise of religion, right to assembly, and the equal protection clause under the First Amendment and the Fourteenth Amendment.

In some states, social distancing standards, group sizes, or meeting limitations varied based on essential or non-essential services, the type of entity (commercial, non-commercial, religious, bar, or restaurant), or the infection levels in a given area. Concerns were raised in different court filings and orders which specifically identified what the parties believed were unique situations for religious gatherings as opposed to other gatherings such as the potential length of services and extended contact between worshippers, exposure to singing or chanting, clusters of large groups in enclosed spaces, multiple households from within and without the area in a confined indoor area, and the ability to deliver religious services through alternative means.²⁵ State or local governments often argued that the pandemic warranted unique actions and that such actions met a compelling governmental interest.

However, a law that burdens religious practices need not be justified by a compelling governmental interest if it is neutral and of general applicability, meaning that the provision would apply uniformly to all similarly situated entities.²⁶ If such laws do restrict or infringe solely upon religious practices, then the law will be subject to strict scrutiny as to whether it can be justified by a compelling state interest and is it narrowly drawn to satisfy that state interest or is there another less restrictive means available to further the government's compelling interest. One of the first applications of strict scrutiny and review for a compelling governmental interest was the U.S. Supreme Court case, *Jacobson v. Massachusetts* in 1905, which recognized that the state acting under its police powers could require individuals to be vaccinated for smallpox or face a fine. "The possession and enjoyment of all rights are subject to such reasonable conditions as may be deemed by the governing authority of the country essential to the safety, health, peace, good order and morals of the community."²⁷

COVID-19 Legal Challenges

California, Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, New York, and New Mexico are examples of states which imposed restrictions on various types of gatherings during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, including some restrictions which were unique to religious gatherings. Injunctions were filed with disparate outcomes from Spring 2020 through the Summer 2021. Several cases reached the United States Supreme Court. In California, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth District, initially found in favor of the Governor's COVID-19 in-person restrictions as they applied to worship services in an October 2020 ruling finding that the restrictions did not treat secular and religious activities differently; however, this ruling was then appealed to the United States Supreme Court. At that time, California was the only state to ban all indoor

²⁵ See *South Bay United Pentecostal Church, et al v. Newsom*, 592 U.S. ____ (2021), *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, New York v. Cuomo*, 592 U.S. ____ (2020), *Calvary Chapel Dayton Valley v. Sisolak*, 591 U.S. ____ (2020), and *Legacy Church v. Kunkel*, 455 F.Supp. 3d 1100 (D.N.M. 2020).

²⁶ *Church of the Lukumi Babulu Aye, Inc. v. et al v. City of Hialeah*, 508 U.S. 520, 531 (1993), citing *Employment Div., Dept. of Human Resources of Ore. v. Smith*, 494 U.S. 872 (1990).

²⁷ *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, 197 U.S. 11 (1905).

religious activities. Restrictions in New Mexico were also upheld in federal court in the Spring of 2020 as the court found that the state's orders did not violate the free exercise of religion because the order was neutral and generally applicable with no evidence of religious animus, was in the public's interest to achieve limits in the state's COVID-19 outbreak, and met a compelling state interest.²⁸ These factors had to be balanced against the public's right to gather.

In November 2020, the United State Supreme Court enjoined enforcement of executive orders in the state of New York relating to specific attendance limits at religious services based on certain areas classified as red or orange zones. The government classified these zones based on their COVID-19 infection rates. In a red zone, for example, religious services were capped at no more than 10 persons and in an orange zone, the limit was 25.²⁹ However, in the same red zone where a religious organization was limited to 10 individuals, a business that was identified as "essential" was permitted to admit as many persons as they wished and in an orange zone, a non-essential business could admit as many patrons as they determined was appropriate.³⁰ The court found that because these restrictions were not rules of general applicability, they must satisfy "strict scrutiny" and must be "narrowly tailored to serve a compelling state interest."³¹ While the court admitted to not being public health experts, the opinion stated:

Members of this Court are not public health experts, and we should respect the judgment of those with special expertise and responsibility in this area. But even in a pandemic, the Constitution cannot be put away and forgotten. The restrictions at issue here, by effectively barring many from attending religious services, strike at the very heart of the First Amendment's guarantee of religious liberty. Before allowing this to occur, we have a duty to conduct a serious examination of the need for such a drastic measure.³²

The United States Supreme Court in *Harvest Rock, et al v. Newsom, Governor of Ca.*, remanded the case to the Ninth District Court of Appeals for further consideration in light of the court's ruling in *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, New York v. Cuomo*, 592 U.S. ____ (2020). A subsequent court ruling in February 2021 under *South Bay United Pentecostal Church, et al, v. Newsom*, 592 U.S. ____ (2021) was also taken into consideration when the Ninth District Court of Appeals re-heard the *Harvest Rock* request for injunctive relief on remand. Speaking in *South Bay*, Justice Barrett said in her concurring statement, "The whole point of strict scrutiny is to test the government's assertions, and our precedents make plain that it has always been a demanding and rarely satisfied standard. Even in times of crisis - perhaps especially in times of crisis - we have a duty to hold governments to the Constitution."³³ By April 2021, the United States Supreme Court had noted in *Tandon v. Newsom*, that this case was the fifth time the Court had summarily rejected the California's Blueprint System and COVID-19 restrictions on religious exercises.³⁴

²⁸ *Legacy Church, Inc. v. Kathyleen M. Kunkel and the State of New Mexico*, 455 F.Supp.3d 1100(D.N.M. 2020).

²⁹ *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, v. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of New York*, 592 U.S. ____ (2020) (slip op., at 3).

³⁰ *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, v. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of New York*, 592 U.S. ____ (2020) (slip op., at 3).

³¹ *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, v. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of New York*, 592 U.S. ____ (2020) (slip op., at 4).

³² *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, v. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of New York*, 592 U.S. ____ (2020) (slip op., at 6).

³³ *South Bay United Pentecostal Church v. Newsom*, 592 U.S. ____ (2021); Justice Barrett concurring opinion.

³⁴ *Ritesh Tandon, et al v. Gavin Newsom, Governor of California, et al*, 593 U.S. ____ (2021) (slip op., at 4).

Religious Freedom Restoration Acts

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993

In 1993, Congress passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) to establish rights which exceeded those found under the free exercise of religion clause of the United States Constitution.³⁵ The legislation created a heightened standard of review for government actions that substantially burden an individual's right to practice his or her religion. The legislation further prohibits a substantial burden on an individual's right to practice religion even if the burden is the result of a rule of general applicability unless the rule fulfills a compelling governmental interest and it represents the least restrictive means of achieving that compelling government interest.³⁶ Congress acted in 1993 following the Supreme Court's decision in *Employment Division v. Smith* whereby two members of a Native American tribe were denied unemployment benefits after they were fired for using peyote, a Schedule I controlled substance, as part of a religious ceremony.³⁷ In upholding the denial of benefits to the two members of the Native American tribe, the Court discussed how it would not apply the balancing test of *Sherbert* to require exemptions saying that such exceptions were better handled through an individualized government assessment process and not the courts.³⁸

The original federal legislation included all government action – federal, state, and local. However, the reach of RFRA was reduced following a decision in *City of Boerne v. Flores* in 1997 when the Court held that the federal statute could not reach beyond the federal government.³⁹ In 2000, Congress passed the *Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000* which implemented a compelling interest test for specific types of state actions on land use regulations or the development of land. Additional regulations are also extended to any state or local government who accepts federal assistance to prohibit substantial burdens on individuals who are in institutions and their exercise of religious freedom. An institution is defined as a jail, prison, correctional facilities, or institutions for the mentally ill or for juveniles awaiting trial.⁴⁰

Florida Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1998

Additionally, Florida adopted the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (FRFRA), in 1998 following the *City v. Boerne* decision, to specifically protect an individual's right to the free exercise of religion and to create a cause of action for infringement by the state on an individual's free exercise of religion similar to the one created under the federal RFRA.⁴¹

The FRFRA provides that, as a general matter, the government may not substantially burden a person's free exercise of religion. However, the government may substantially burden a person's exercise of religion if the government demonstrates that the burden is in furtherance of a

³⁵ *Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993*, Pub. L. 103-141(1993).

³⁶ *Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993*, Pub. L. 103-141, §2 (1993).

³⁷ See *Employment Division v. Smith*, 494 U.S. 872 (1990).

³⁸ *Employment Division v. Smith*, 494 U.S. 872, 883-884 (1990).

³⁹ *City of Bourne v. Flores*, 521.U.S. 507 (1997).

⁴⁰ *Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000*, Pub.L. 106-274, §8 (2000).

⁴¹ Section 761.03, Florida Statutes. See also Chapter Law 98-412. s. 3.

compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering that interest. The “Whereas clauses” of the FRFRA legislation establish through several paragraphs the legislative intent to confirm that Florida uses the compelling interest test set forward in *Sherbert v. Verner* and *Wisconsin v. Yoder* in situations where the free exercise of religion is substantially burdened.⁴²

State Health Officer

In Florida, the State Health Officer⁴³ is exclusively responsible for declaring a “public health emergency,” which includes natural or manmade occurrences that result or may result in substantial injury or harm to the public health from infectious disease, chemical agents, nuclear agents, biological toxins, or situations involving mass casualties or natural disasters.⁴⁴ Before declaring a public health emergency, the State Health Officer must, to the extent possible, consult with the Governor and notify the Chief of Domestic Security.⁴⁵ A public health emergency may not continue longer than 60 days unless the Governor concurs in the renewal of the declaration.⁴⁶

Upon declaration of a public health emergency, the State Health Officer is required to establish by order, the method and procedure for the identification and report of cases and deaths involving the infectious disease or other basis for the declared public health emergency. The declaration empowers the State Health Officer to take actions necessary to protect the public health, including, but not limited to:

- Directing manufacturers of prescription drugs or over-the-counter drugs to give priority shipping of specified drugs to certain pharmacies and hospitals;
- Directing pharmacies to compound bulk prescription drugs;
- Temporarily reactivating inactive licenses of certain healthcare professionals; and
- Ordering an individual to be examined, tested, treated, isolated, or quarantined.⁴⁷

State Emergency Management Act

The State Emergency Management Act, ch. 252, F.S., was enacted to be the legal framework for this state’s emergency management activities, recognizing the state’s vulnerability to a wide range of emergencies, including natural, technological, and manmade disasters.⁴⁸ The act creates the Division of Emergency Management (division) within the Executive Office of the Governor and grants the division with powers and duties necessary to mitigate the vulnerability of life, property, and economic prosperity due to natural and manmade disasters.⁴⁹ The responsibilities of the division include:

- Carrying out the State Emergency Management Act;

⁴² Chapter Law 98-412, Laws of Florida.

⁴³ The head of the Department of Health is the Surgeon General and the State Health Officer. Section 20.43(2), F.S.

⁴⁴ Section 381.00315, F.S.

⁴⁵ The Chief of Domestic Security is the executive director of the Department of Law Enforcement or his or her designee. Section 943.0311(1), F.S.

⁴⁶ Section 381.00315(2)(b), F.S.

⁴⁷ Section 381.00315(2)(d), F.S. This section was amended during the 2021 Special Session B to remove the power to vaccinate from the Surgeon General. *See* Chapter Law 2021-275.

⁴⁸ Section 252.311(1), F.S.

⁴⁹ Sections 252.32(1)(a) and 252.34(3), F.S.

- Preparing for and efficiently responding to public health emergencies;
- Minimizing the negative effects of a pandemic or other extended state of emergencies. These negative effects include school and business closures, which can negatively impact families and the economy;
- Ensuring transparency of all aspects of emergency preparedness, response, and recovery;
- Incorporating a shelter component that includes specific regional and interregional planning provisions to ensure adequate public shelter space in every region of the state;
- Developing and maintaining a postdisaster response and recovery component for minor, major, and catastrophic levels of disaster; include a communications plan and rapid impact assessment teams and systems for acceptance of donations;
- Maintaining a comprehensive statewide program of emergency management;
- Addressing the need to coordinate state resources such as the National Guard, statewide urban search and rescue teams, mutual aid agreements, and a comprehensive communications plan; and
- Coordinating with efforts of the federal government with other departments and agencies of state government, with county and municipal governments and school boards, and with private entities that have a role in emergency management.⁵⁰

The act also delineates the Governor’s authority to declare a state of emergency, issue executive orders, and otherwise lead the state during emergencies. This authority is subject in some aspects to the Legislature’s authority. For example, the Legislature may pass a concurrent resolution to end a state of emergency declared by the Governor. During the 2021 Legislative Session, the act was amended to specifically address Florida’s vulnerability to public health emergencies and to emergencies of an extended nature, including identifying the department’s role in public health emergencies, and adding specific definitions for “personal protective equipment” and “public health emergency.”⁵¹

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 creates Section 252.64, Florida Statutes, to prohibit emergency orders from restricting religious institutions from conducting religious services or activities during a state of emergency. However, an emergency order may prohibit religious institutions from conducting activities if there is a general provision in the emergency order which applies uniformly to all entities in a jurisdiction and such action fulfills a compelling governmental interest and it is the least restrictive means to fulfill that governmental interest.

Section 2 provides an effective date of July 1, 2022.

⁵⁰ Section 252.35(1) and (2), F.S.

⁵¹ Section 252.34 (9) and (11), F.S.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

Local subdivisions and counties that may issue their own local emergency orders would be prohibited from issuing any orders which included criteria or conditions which were more restrictive or which are not consistent with the components contained in this bill.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

The bill addresses federal and state constitutional rights to freedom of religion and speech and appears to be consistent with current provisions of federal law, state law, and court opinions interpreting the right to these freedoms under the federal and state constitutions. These laws and court opinions were addressed under the present situation section.

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

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Religious institutions may incur an indeterminate fiscal impact if an emergency order expressly prohibited religious services or activities. Rather than meeting in-person, such institutions may incur costs to establish alternative means of gathering to deliver religious services or activities to their members.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The fiscal impact of this bill indeterminate. The degree of possible fiscal impact will vary according to the extent of increased litigation. To the extent increased litigation against a governmental entity results from the modifications to this Act, then state and local governments will have to defend against such litigation. Litigation involves expenses, including attorneys' fees. Furthermore, any relief granted against the state may have a fiscal impact. This indeterminate amount of resulting litigation will have a fiscal impact on the courts.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates section 252.64 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 Brodeur

9-00018-22

2022254__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to religious institutions; creating s. 252.64, F.S.; defining the term "religious institution"; providing that an emergency order may not expressly prohibit religious services or activities; providing an exception under certain circumstances; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 252.64, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

252.64 Protection of religious institutions.-

(1) For purposes of this section, the term "religious institution" has the same meaning as in s. 496.404.

(2) An emergency order authorized by this part may not expressly prohibit a religious institution from conducting regular religious services or activities. However, a general provision in an emergency order which applies uniformly to all entities in the affected jurisdiction may be applied to a religious institution if the provision is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.



The Florida Senate

Committee Agenda Request

To: Senator Tom A. Wright, Chair
Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

Subject: Committee Agenda Request

Date: October 13, 2021

I respectfully request that **Senate Bill 254**, relating to **Religious Institutions**, be placed on the:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Brodeur".

Senator Jason Brodeur
Florida Senate, District 9

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

254

11-30-21

Meeting Date

Bill Number or Topic

Military Veterans Affairs

Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Ken Kniepman (Ka-nee-p-man)

Phone 850-310-0552

Address 201 W. Park Ave

Street

Email

Tallahassee FL

City

State

32301

Zip

Speaking: [] For [] Against [] Information OR Waive Speaking: [X] In Support [] Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

[] I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

[X] I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

[] I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

FLORIDA CONFERENCE CATHOLIC BISHOPS

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

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

S-001 (08/10/2021)

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: SM 302

INTRODUCER: Senator Burgess

SUBJECT: Recognizing Veteran Suicide

DATE: November 29, 2021 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Brown</u>	<u>Caldwell</u>	<u>MS</u>	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	<u>RC</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SM 302 is a memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to recognize the epidemic of suicide among veterans and to fully fund suicide prevention activities of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Both state and national statistics show a greater than 40 percent higher rate of suicide among veterans compared to the general population.

The memorial requires copies to be dispatched to the President of the United States, the President of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation of the U.S. Congress.

A memorial is an official legislative document addressed to Congress, the President of the United States, or some other governmental entity that expresses the will of the Legislature on a matter within the jurisdiction of the recipient. A memorial requires passage by both legislative houses but does not require the Governor’s approval nor is it subject to a veto.

II. Present Situation:

Veteran Population and Demographics

As of 2017, 20 million veterans live in the United States, of which nearly 2 million are women.¹ Only about half of veterans nationally receive or access at least one benefit from the Veterans Administration.²

¹ U.S. Dep’t of Veterans Affairs, *National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide, 2018-2028*, available at https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/docs/Office-of-Mental-Health-and-Suicide-Prevention-National-Strategy-for-Preventing-Veterans-Suicide.pdf (pg. 5).

² *Id.*

Third to only California and Texas, Florida has more than 1.5 million veterans.³ Of these:

- 1.17 million are wartime veterans;
- 350,000 are peacetime veterans;
- 31,000 are World War II veterans;
- 105,000 are Korean War veterans;
- 498,000 are Vietnam-era veterans;
- 188,000 are Gulf War veterans; and
- 177,494 are Post-9/11 veterans.⁴

Mental Health of Veterans

Veterans are known to have higher levels of mental distress than non-veterans. In a 2014 study, almost 1 in 4 veterans showed symptoms of mental illness.⁵ Predominant mental health diagnoses among veterans are:

- Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) at a rate of 15 times that of the general population;
- Depression at a rate of 5 times that of the general population; and
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).⁶

Veterans who have a diagnosable mental health illness are at a much higher risk of suicide than veterans without mental illness. A 2017 study of Veterans Health Administration patients (VHA) shows a more than double rate of suicide among veterans with a mental health or substance use disorder than persons without these diagnoses.⁷

Substance Use Disorder by Veterans

Substance use is considered to constitute a substance use disorder if the:

Recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes clinically significant impairment, including health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home.⁸

Substance use disorder is marked among veterans, the most prevalent being alcohol binge drinking and at a higher rate of use than by non-veterans.⁹ The rate of illegal drug use, primarily marijuana (marijuana use for recreational purposes is still illegal in most states) is about the same

³ Florida Dep't of Veterans' Affairs, *Fast Facts*, available at <https://www.floridavets.org/our-veterans/profilefast-facts/> (last visited Oct. 21, 2021).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ National Institute on Mental Illness (NAMI); *Veterans & Active Duty* (pg. 1), available at <https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Veterans-Active-Duty> (last visited Oct. 25, 2021).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ The rate of suicide among VHA patients with mental health illness at the time of the study was 57 patients per 100,000. Rand Corporation, *Suicide Among Veterans/Veterans' Issues in Focus*, available at <https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PEA1363-1.html> (last visited Oct. 22, 2021) (pg. 4).

⁸ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Dep't of Health and Human Services, *Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders*, available at <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disorders> (last visited Oct. 25, 2021).

⁹ National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), U.S. National Library of Medicine, *Substance Use Disorders in Military Veterans: Prevalence and Treatment Challenges*, available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5587184/> (pg. 3).

for veterans and the general population.¹⁰ Despite efforts by the VHA and other agencies in recent decades to reduce substance use disorder among veterans, rates continue to increase.¹¹ This is especially so for prescription opioid use.¹² Substance use disorder is correlated to medical ailments, other psychiatric disorders, relationship and employment impairment, and increased rates of suicidal ideation, attempts, and completion.¹³ In a study on military personnel, researchers found that 30 percent of suicides were preceded by alcohol or drug use, while 20 percent of high-risk behavior deaths were attributed to alcohol or drug overdose.¹⁴

Military Sexual Trauma

Military sexual trauma is an occurrence or occurrences of sexual harassment or sexual assault that has taken place during military service.¹⁵ Researchers have found a clear association between military sexual trauma and suicide.¹⁶ Early data finds that 1 of 4 survivors of military sexual trauma report non-suicidal self-injury.¹⁷ Relatedly, non-suicidal self-injury correlates to suicidal ideation, planning, and attempts.¹⁸

Suicide Rates Attributed to Service During Post 9/11 Conflict

An estimated cumulative 7,057 servicemembers have died in service throughout the Post 9/11 era. A much higher rate of 30,000 active duty personnel and veterans who previously served during the Post-9/11 era have died by suicide, or 4 times as many that died in service.¹⁹ Identified causes vary.

There are clear contributors to suicidal ideation like high exposure to trauma [(mental, physical, moral, and sexual),] stress and burnout, the influence of the military's hegemonic masculine culture, continued access to guns, and the difficulty of reintegrating into civilian life. ... [W]e must also examine unique elements of the U.S. post-9/11 wars. ... [W]e have seen a tremendous rise of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in warfare, significantly increasing the number of traumatic brain injuries (TBIs), and polytrauma cases among service members.²⁰

¹⁰ *Id.* at 4.

¹¹ *Id.* at 2.

¹² *Id.* at 4.

¹³ *Id.* at 2.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ U.S. Dep't of Veterans Affairs, *Military Sexual Trauma -- A Risk Factor for Suicide*, available at https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/docs/Literature-Review-Military-Sexual-Trauma-CLEARED-3-5-19.pdf.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ Thomas Howard Suitt, III, Watson Institute, International & Public Affairs, Brown University, *High Suicide Rates among United States Service Members and Veterans of the Post-9/11 Wars*, available at https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2021/Suitt_Suicides_Costs%20of%20War_June%2021%202021.pdf (June 21, 2021) (pgs. 1, 3).

²⁰ *Id.* at 3-4.

As many as 20 percent of post-9/11 servicemembers have experienced TBI's, with many exposed to repetitive damage.²¹

Suicide Rates Disparity between Veterans and Non-Veterans

From the latest data reported for 2019, 553 veterans died by suicide in Florida, 524 men and 29 women, while nationally, 6,261 veterans died by suicide.²² Suicide rates are highest among the youngest veterans, aged 18-29 years of age.²³ In comparing suicide rates between the veteran and non-veteran population, in 2019 the rate of suicide by the general population in Florida is 19.6 per 100,000 persons while that for Florida veterans, is 35.7.²⁴ A similar disparity applies at the national level, 18.0 per 100,000 for the general population and 31.6 for veterans.²⁵ More than 70 percent of the time, a firearm was used to die by suicide.²⁶

That the Covid pandemic contributed to a significant increase in feelings of loss, anxiety, and depression is well-documented.²⁷ Lesser known is the impact of the pandemic on suicide and if there is one, any changes that occur over a period of time. Also unknown at this time is whether the marked disparity in rates of suicide between veterans and non-veterans will trend differently in coming years.

Suicide Intervention Programs

Suicide prevention is a top clinical priority of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In 2018, the department implemented a 10-year strategy for preventing veteran suicide.²⁸ This approach to suicide prevention involves a veteran's family, peers, and community. The plan also includes specific outreach to veterans who do not access services of the VA.²⁹

Initiatives include:

- Enhancing mental health services for veterans who are women;
- Broadening telehealth;
- Developing free-of-charge mobile applications for veterans and their families;
- Improving access to mental health care; and
- Helping families of veterans by telephone.³⁰

²¹ *Id.* at 4.

²² U.S. Dep't of Veterans Affairs, *Florida Veteran Suicide Data Sheet, 2019*, available at <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2019/2019-State-Data-Sheet-Florida-508.pdf>.

²³ U.S. Dep't of Veterans Affairs, *National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide, 2018-2028*, *supra* note 1 at 7.

²⁴ U.S. Dep't of Veterans Affairs, *Florida Veteran Suicide Data Sheet, 2019*, *supra* note 22.

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ KFF, *The Implications of COVID-19 for Mental Health and Substance Use* (Feb. 10, 2021), available at <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/the-implications-of-covid-19-for-mental-health-and-substance-use/> (last visited Nov. 3, 2021).

²⁸ U.S. Dep't of Veterans Affairs, *National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide, 2018-2028*, *supra* note 1.

²⁹ *Id.* at 1.

³⁰ *Id.* at 11.

In implementing its plans, the VA partners with other government agencies and organizations at both the national and local level to share information and training on suicide prevention.³¹ To reach suicide prevention at the state level, the VA, along with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA), initiated the “Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families.”³² The goal of this program is to implement a uniform comprehensive suicide prevention plan, from the national to the state level. To date, 35 states have joined the challenge.³³ Florida is a member.³⁴

The Veterans COMPACT Act of 2020 enables the Veterans Administration to implement programs providing mental health assistance to transitioning servicemembers and improving services for veterans who are women. The law also authorizes a non-VA facility to get reimbursed for providing a veteran emergent suicide care.³⁵

Most recently, in November 2021, the White House unveiled a plan to advance a comprehensive, cross-sector, evidence-based strategy for reducing suicide rates among servicemembers and veterans.³⁶ This plan adds several priority goals to the existing and ongoing comprehensive plan, which are:

- Improving lethal means safety, by inserting time and distance between a person in crisis and access to lethal means, such as a firearm or medication;
- Enhancing crisis care and facilitating care transitions, including stabilization services;
- Increasing access to and delivery of evidence-based treatment;
- Addressing upstream risk (leading up to crisis) and protective factors in furthering prevention efforts; and
- Bridging interagency coordination.³⁷

Memorial

A memorial is an official legislative document addressed to Congress, the President of the United States, or some other governmental entity that expresses the will of the Legislature on a matter within the jurisdiction of the recipient. A memorial requires passage by both legislative houses but does not require the Governor’s approval nor is it subject to a veto.

³¹ *Id.*

³² U.S. Dep’t of Veterans Affairs, *2021 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Report* (Sept. 2021) (pg. 13), available at <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2021/2021-National-Veteran-Suicide-Prevention-Annual-Report-FINAL-9-8-21.pdf>.

³³ *Id.* at 14.

³⁴ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S.. Dep’t of Health & Human Services, *Governor’s and Mayor’s Challenges to Prevent Suicide Among Servicemembers, Veterans, and their Families*, available at <https://www.samhsa.gov/smvf-ta-center/mayors-governors-challenges> (last visited Nov. 5, 2021).

³⁵ Veterans COMPACT Act of 2020 (Pub. L. No. 116-214).

³⁶ The White House, *Reducing Military and Veteran Suicide: Advancing a Comprehensive, Cross-sector, Evidence-informed Public Health Strategy*, available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Military-and-Veteran-Suicide-Prevention-Strategy.pdf>

³⁷ *Id.* at 8-9.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SM 302 is a memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to recognize the epidemic of suicide among veterans and to fully fund suicide prevention activities of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Both state and national statistics show a greater than 40 percent higher rate of suicide among veterans in comparison to the general population.

The memorial requires copies to be dispatched to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation of the United States Congress.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

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

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

None.

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 Burgess

20-00472-22

2022302__

Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to recognize the epidemic of suicide among veterans and to fully fund suicide prevention efforts of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

WHEREAS, according to the 2020 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report published by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, there was an average of 17.6 veteran suicides per day in 2018, totaling 6,435 veteran suicides that year, and

WHEREAS, the department has found that veterans who die by suicide are more likely than the civilian population to have experienced sleep disorders, chronic pain, or traumatic brain injuries or to have received diagnoses of mental health conditions such as posttraumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, personality disorder, substance use disorder, schizophrenia, depression, and anxiety, and

WHEREAS, some veterans have reported difficulty in transitioning to civilian employment, as their highly developed skills obtained during military service may not translate to higher level civilian jobs, and the resulting economic struggles, which may include unemployment, poverty, and homelessness, are shown to be risk factors for veteran suicide, and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' Veteran Crisis Line is the world's largest provider of crisis call, text, and chat services for veterans, receiving

Page 1 of 3

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

20-00472-22

2022302__

approximately 650,000 calls per year, and

WHEREAS, the department has made significant progress in the area of suicide prevention through clinical research, the development and testing of evidence-based psychotherapy methods and medications, and behavioral, complementary, and alternative approaches to treating veterans with posttraumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions, and

WHEREAS, the department is partnered with hundreds of national and local organizations and corporations, including veterans service organizations, professional sports teams, and major employers, in order to raise awareness of its suicide prevention resources and to educate the public about supporting veterans and servicemembers in their communities, and

WHEREAS, although RAND Corporation studies have found that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs outperforms other systems in the area of mental health care, the rising trend in veteran suicides continues to plague the men and women who selflessly served in the United States Armed Forces and devastate their families, friends, and loved ones, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the Congress of the United States is urged to recognize the current crisis of veteran suicide and to fully fund suicide prevention efforts undertaken by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the

Page 2 of 3

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

20-00472-22

2022302__

59 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
60 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
61 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.



The Florida Senate

Committee Agenda Request

To: Senator Tom Wright, Chair
Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

Subject: Committee Agenda Request

Date: October 18, 2021

I respectfully request that **Senate Bill #302**, relating to Recognizing Veteran Suicide, be placed on the:

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Danny".

Senator Danny Burgess
Florida Senate, District 20

11/30/2021

Meeting Date

Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

Committee

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

SB 302

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Christian Cochran

Phone 850-487-1533

Address 400 S. Monroe Street Suite 2105

Email CochranC@FDVA.STATE.FL.US

Street

Tallahassee

Florida

32399

City

State

Zip

Speaking: For Against Information **OR** Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

302

Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

11/30/21 Meeting Date
military & veteran affairs, space, and domestic security Committee

Name Natalie Kelly

Phone 850-895-1313

Address 122 S Calhoun St Street

Email natalie@flmanagingentities.com

Tallahassee Florida 32301 City State Zip

Speaking: For Against Information OR Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

Florida Association of Managing Entities

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

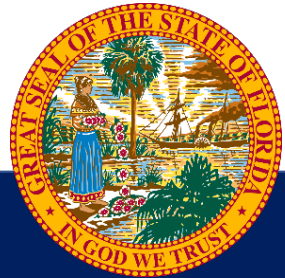
This form is part of the public record for this meeting.



Florida Division of Emergency Management

Overview of FDEM and 2021 Hurricane Season Response
Tuesday, November 30, 2021

KEVIN GUTHRIE, DIRECTOR



Overview of FDEM Core Programs

Mitigation

- State Coordinating Agency of the National Flood Insurance Program
- Administers FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.
- Administers FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program
- Provides technical assistance to counties developing and implementing local mitigation strategies

Preparedness

- Administers Florida's All-Hazards planning programs to ensure the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) is prepared:
 - For prompt and efficient response and recovery
 - To protect lives and property impacted by disasters
 - Coordinate training courses for counties and first responders

Response

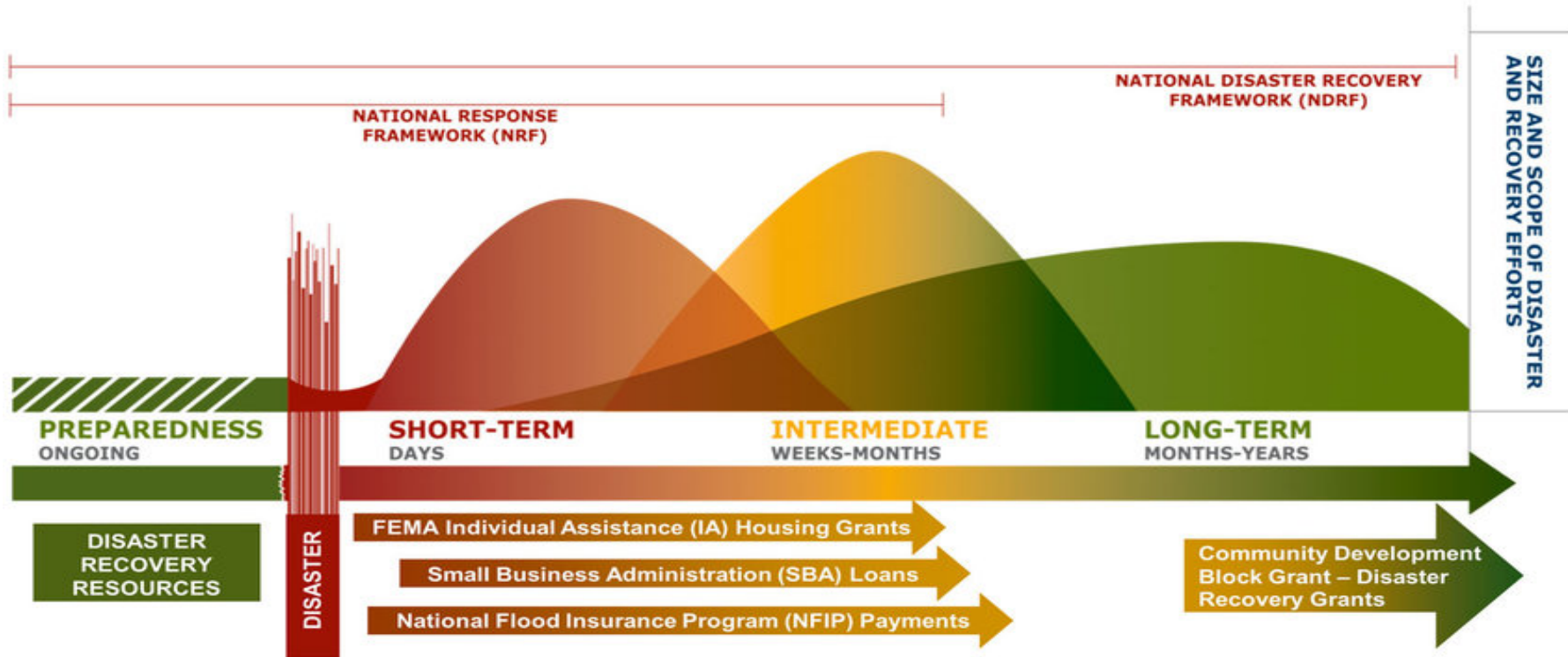
- Monitors incidents that may require State response
- Manages 24/7 State Watch Office
- Oversees Logistics vendor management and resource deployment
- Supports State Emergency Response Commission through Tech Hazards Unit– *Nuclear Power Plants*

Recovery

- Works to maximize federal disaster assistance to eligible public-sector partners and residents.
- Administers recovery funding such as Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, CARES Act and American Recovery Plan Act.
- Paid out nearly \$6 billion in recovery funding to local governments in less than three years



Disaster Life Cycle



Overview of FDEM Activation Levels

1

Level 1 - Full Scale Activation of State Emergency Response Team - In a full scale activation, all primary and support agencies under the state plan are notified. The State Emergency Operations Center will be staffed by Division of Emergency Management personnel and all Emergency Support Functions.

2

Level 2 - Activation of State Emergency Response Team - This is an agency activation that may not require activation of every section, branch or Emergency Support Functions. All primary, or lead, Emergency Support Functions are notified. The State Emergency Operations Center will be staffed by Division of Emergency Management personnel and necessary Emergency Support Functions

3

Level 3 - Monitoring Activation - Level 3 is typically a "monitoring" phase. Notification will be made to those state agencies and Emergency Support Functions who would need to take action as part of their everyday responsibilities. The State Emergency Operation Center will be staffed with State Warning Point Communicators and Division of Emergency Management staff.





Overview of FDEM Surfside Response

Response -

As part of the State's response to this tragedy, the division:

- Supported 13 Urban Search & Rescue Teams (USAR), **including 8 Florida Teams and 5 Federal Teams.**
- Deployed staff to assist with **on-scene coordination** between responding state and federal agencies.
- Provided **facilities support** for response operations.



Recovery -

As part of the State's response to this tragedy, the division:

- Deployed the State Recovery Mental Health Coordinator to the scene to **coordinate mental health services**
- Coordinated with the County to establish the Family Assistance Center and facilitated the delivery of Individual Assistance programs;
- Deployed Recovery Subject Matter Experts to the site to **provide technical assistance to responding agencies**



Overview of FDEM 2021 Hurricane Season

Tropical Storm Elsa

- **Prepare:** In preparation for the storm's impact, the division coordinated the fulfillment of **more than 90 resource requests** by counties in the path of the storm.
- **Recover:** After the storm, the division **coordinated damage assessment operations** with affected counties and worked to facilitate eligible reimbursements from FEMA. The division also coordinated with the Small Business Administration to secure an Administrative Disaster Declaration for eligible counties

Tropical Storm Fred

- **Prepare:** In anticipation of the storm's impact, the division activated to a Level 2 to **enhance coordination between federal, state and local emergency management agencies.**
- **Recover:** After the storm, the division **coordinated damage assessment operations** with affected counties and worked to facilitate eligible reimbursements from FEMA.



Overview of FDEM 2021 Hurricane Season

Hurricane Ida

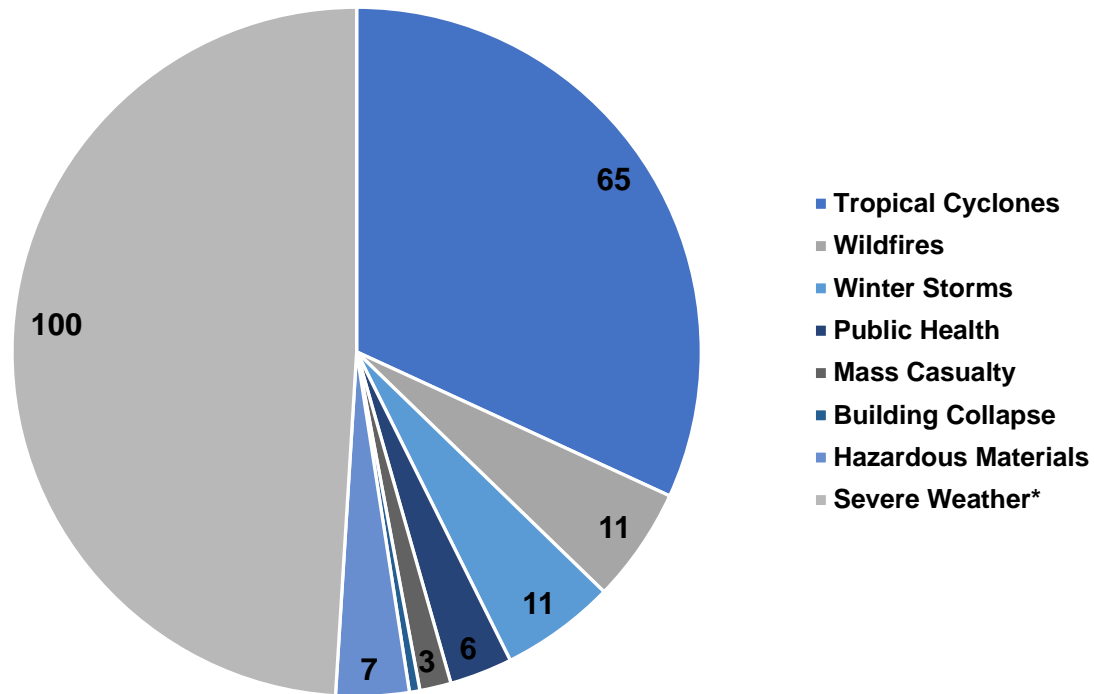
The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is an **interstate mutual aid agreement** that facilitates the sharing of resources during an emergency or disaster, like Hurricane Ida. Through this compact, the division was able to:

- Work closely with Louisiana and Mississippi to identify any unmet needs. This included coordinating with food banks in Louisiana that served residents displaced by the storm.
- Deploy utility restoration personnel and equipment to support Louisiana's crews through State of Florida industry partners.
- Deploy Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 4 (FL-4) and the Florida State University Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones) team to provide additional assistance to our neighboring states.


The division also **houses two Incident Management Teams**, comprised of state and local experienced emergency management professionals who are **prepared to support disaster responses in neighboring states**, as necessary.





Recent Disasters Monitored & Responded to Since 1992



Non-Declared Events and Year-Round Monitoring


	Rip Current Fatalities	173
	Yearly Average	22


	Lightning Fatalities	52
	Yearly Average	5

	Wildfires	28,873
	Yearly Average	2,625

	Earthquakes	14
	Yearly Average	1

	Weeks in Drought	330
	Yearly Average	30


	Freeze Events	89
	Yearly Average	8


	Confirmed Tornadoes	425
	Yearly Average	39

	Wind Reports	4,437
	Yearly Average	403

	Large Hail Reports	577
	Yearly Average	52

	Flood Reports	2,554
	Yearly Average	232

 **25%**
of all days had a severe weather risk

 **33%**
of all days had a flash flood risk



Recent Disaster Responses

Since January 2019, the division has distributed **more than \$6 billion in disaster recovery** funding to local governments across Florida – setting a record in the Division’s history for the most funding paid out in less than three years.

- **\$3,786,281,490 billion** in FEMA Public Assistance
- **\$1,255,051,377 billion** through the Coronavirus Relief Fund to local communities
- **\$305,726,276 million** for the Florida Citrus Recovery Block Grant Program
- **\$161,693,641 million** for the Florida Timber Recovery Block Grant Program
- **\$707,476,688 million** in American Rescue Plan Act funding



Small Business Administration (SBA)

The U.S. Small Business Administration offers disaster assistance in the form of low interest loans to businesses, nonprofit organizations, homeowners, and renters located in regions affected by declared disasters. Currently, there are three active SBA Declarations and eighteen counties eligible to apply for this program, including:

- Alachua County and the adjacent counties of Putnam, Clay, Bradford, Union, Columbia, Gilchrist, Levy and Marion.
- Citrus County and the adjacent counties of Hernando, Levy, Marion and Sumter.
- Taylor County and the adjacent counties of Jefferson, Madison, Suwannee, Lafayette, and Dixie.



FDEM Recovery staff on-site to provide technical assistance to residents applying for SBA loans.



Hazard Mitigation Assistance

In addition to preparing for, responding to and recovering from disasters, the division's Mitigation Bureau is dedicated to helping our state mitigate against any potential future disasters that may have an adverse impact.

The division manages \$1.6 billion in Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs including the:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program (HLGP)



11/30/21

Meeting Date

Military, Vet Affairs & Dem. Sec.

Committee

The Florida Senate APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Kevin Gurnie

Phone 850-591-9542

Address 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd

Street

Email Kevin.gurnie@em.myflorida.com

Tallahassee FL

City

State

32309

Zip

Speaking: For Against Information

OR

Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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11/30/21

Meeting Date

The Florida Senate APPEARANCE RECORD

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Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Military, Vet Affairs, Space & ^{Dom.} sec.
Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Laura Duhme

Phone 850 - 815 - 4000

Address 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd
Street

Email Laura.Duhme@em.myflorida.com

Tallahassee, FL 32399
City State Zip

Speaking: For Against Information **OR** Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

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compensation or sponsorship.

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representing:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

11/30/21

Meeting Date

Military, Vetr Affairs, Space + Dm-
Sec.
Committee

Name Melissa Shirah

Phone 850-893-9000

Address 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd.

Email melissa.shirah@em.myfloridol.com

Street

Tallahassee, FL

32399

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

For

Against

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

In Support

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

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11/30/21

The Florida Senate APPEARANCE RECORD

Meeting Date

Military, Vet Affairs, Space & ^{Dom.} _{Sec.}
Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to
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Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Ryan Lock

Phone 850 - 875 - 4000

Address 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd
Street

Email Ryan.Lock@em.myflorida.com

Tallahassee FL 32399
City State Zip

Speaking: For Against Information **OR** Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

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

S-001 (08/10/2021)



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

November 30, 2021



Florida's Domestic Security Mandate

FS 943.03(14)

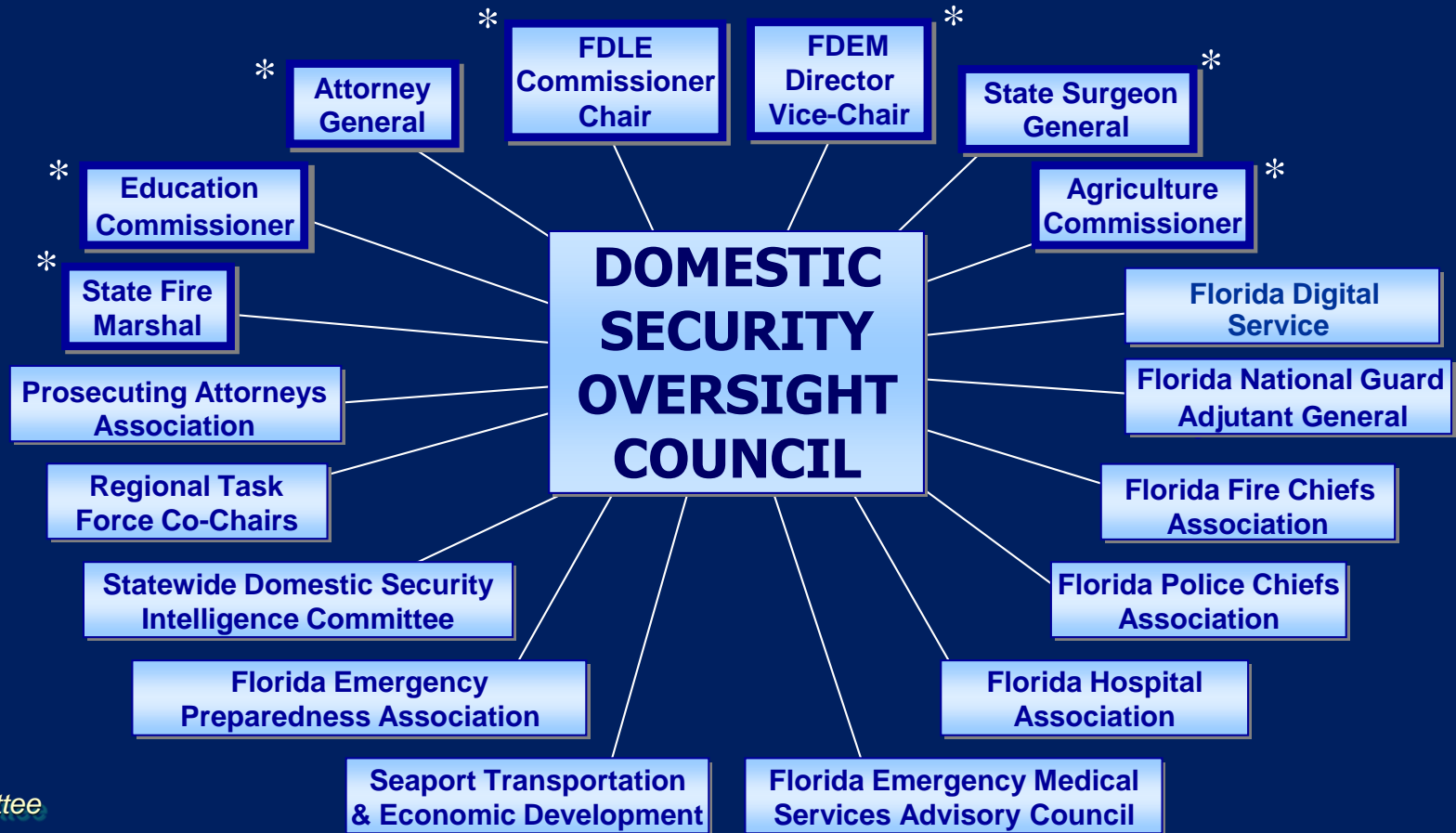
Mandates responsibility for coordinating responses to acts of terrorism and other matters related to the domestic security of Florida to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, working closely with the Division of Emergency Management; and further recognizes the importance of many public and private multi-disciplinary partners in accomplishing the domestic security mission.



Florida's Domestic Security Strategic Goals

- Prepare** for domestic security incidents and events.
- Prevent** and deter acts of terrorism.
- Protect** our residents, visitors, and critical infrastructure against acts of terrorism.
- Mitigate** the impact of an incident to preserve life, property, and the environment.
- Respond** utilizing the NIMS framework in an immediate and coordinated manner focused on saving lives, stabilizing community life-lines, protecting property and the environment, and meeting basic human needs.
- Recover** quickly and effectively following an incident.

Florida's Domestic Security Oversight Governance

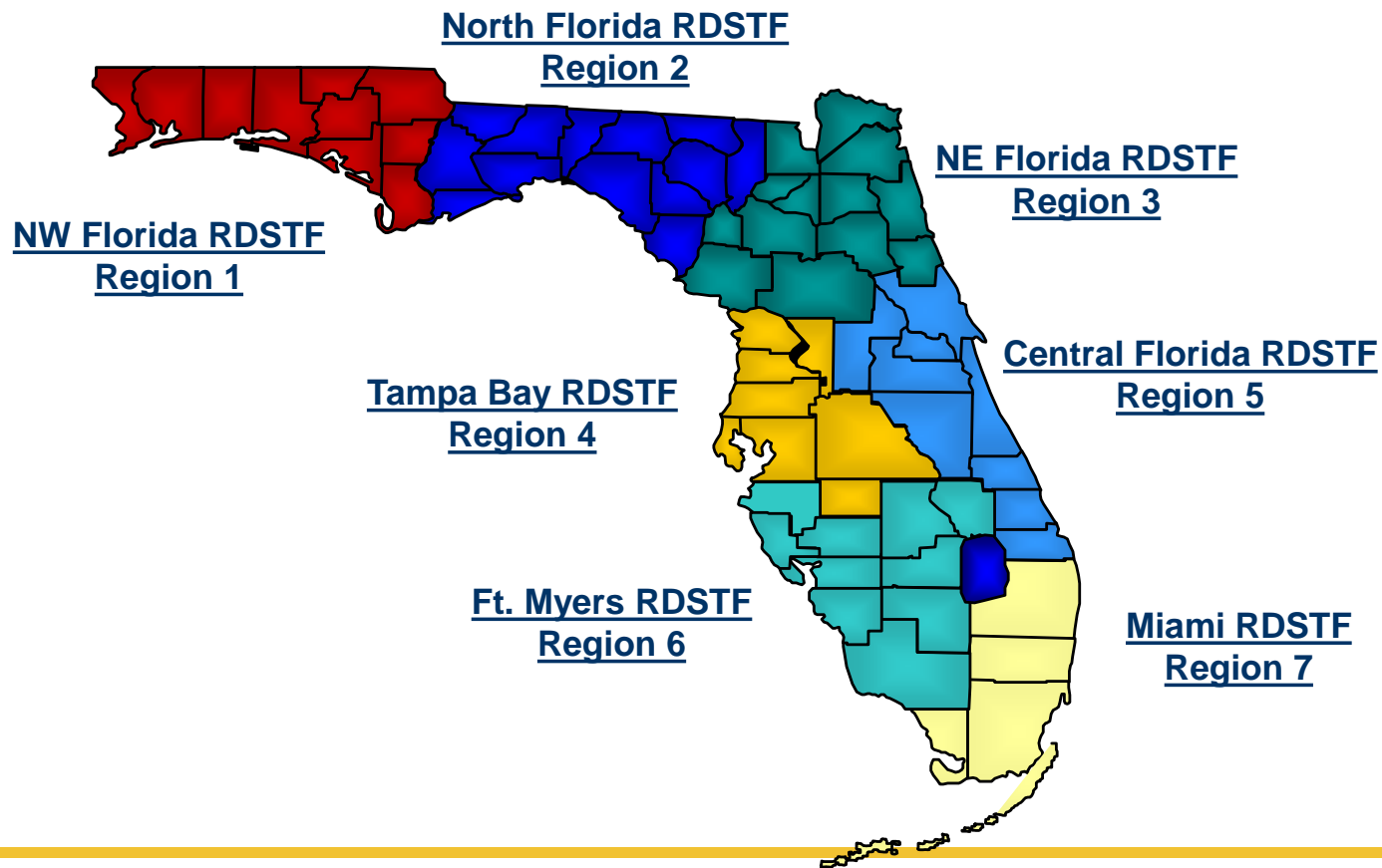


*Executive Committee



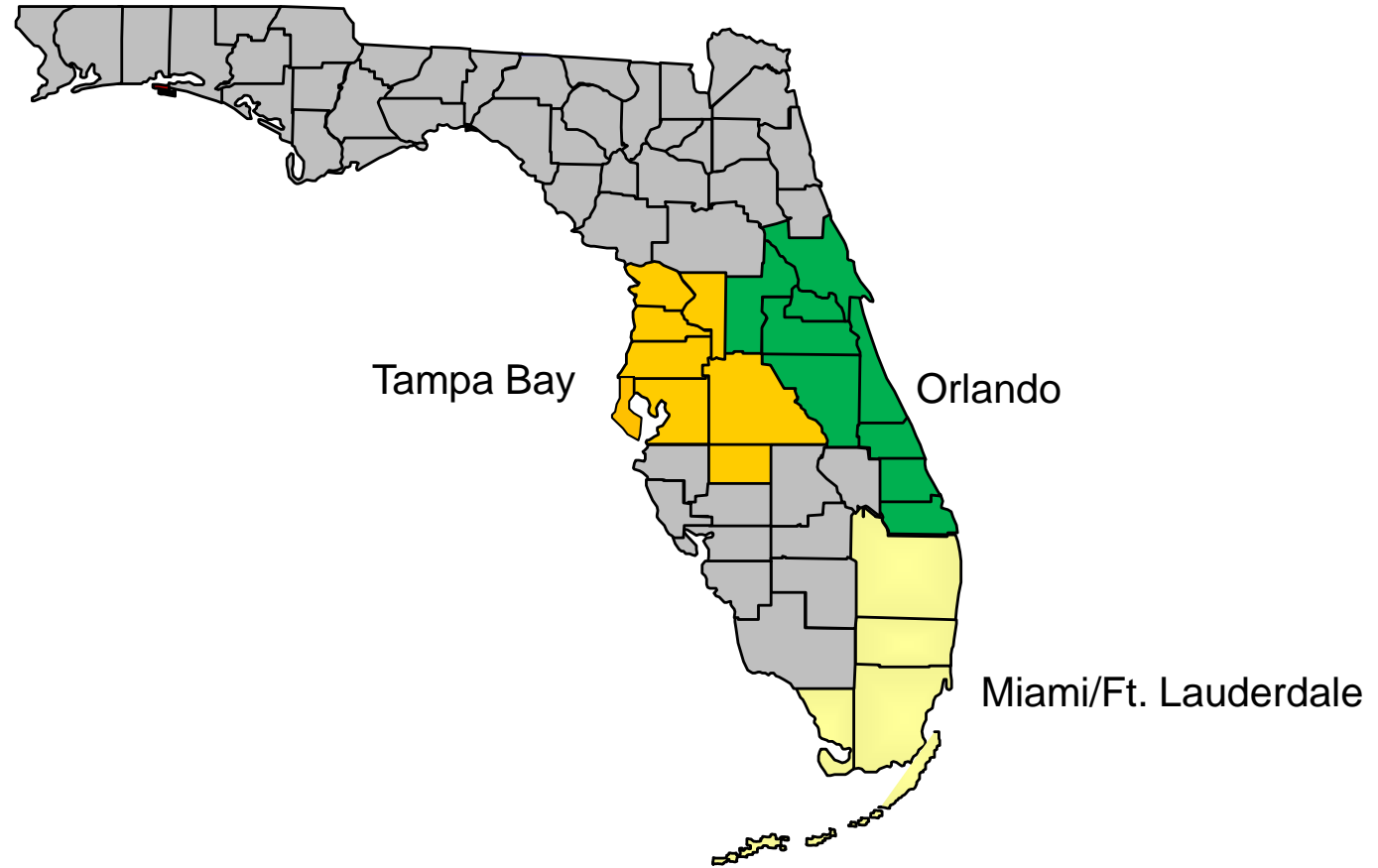
Regional Domestic Security Task Forces

Foundation of Florida's Domestic Security Model





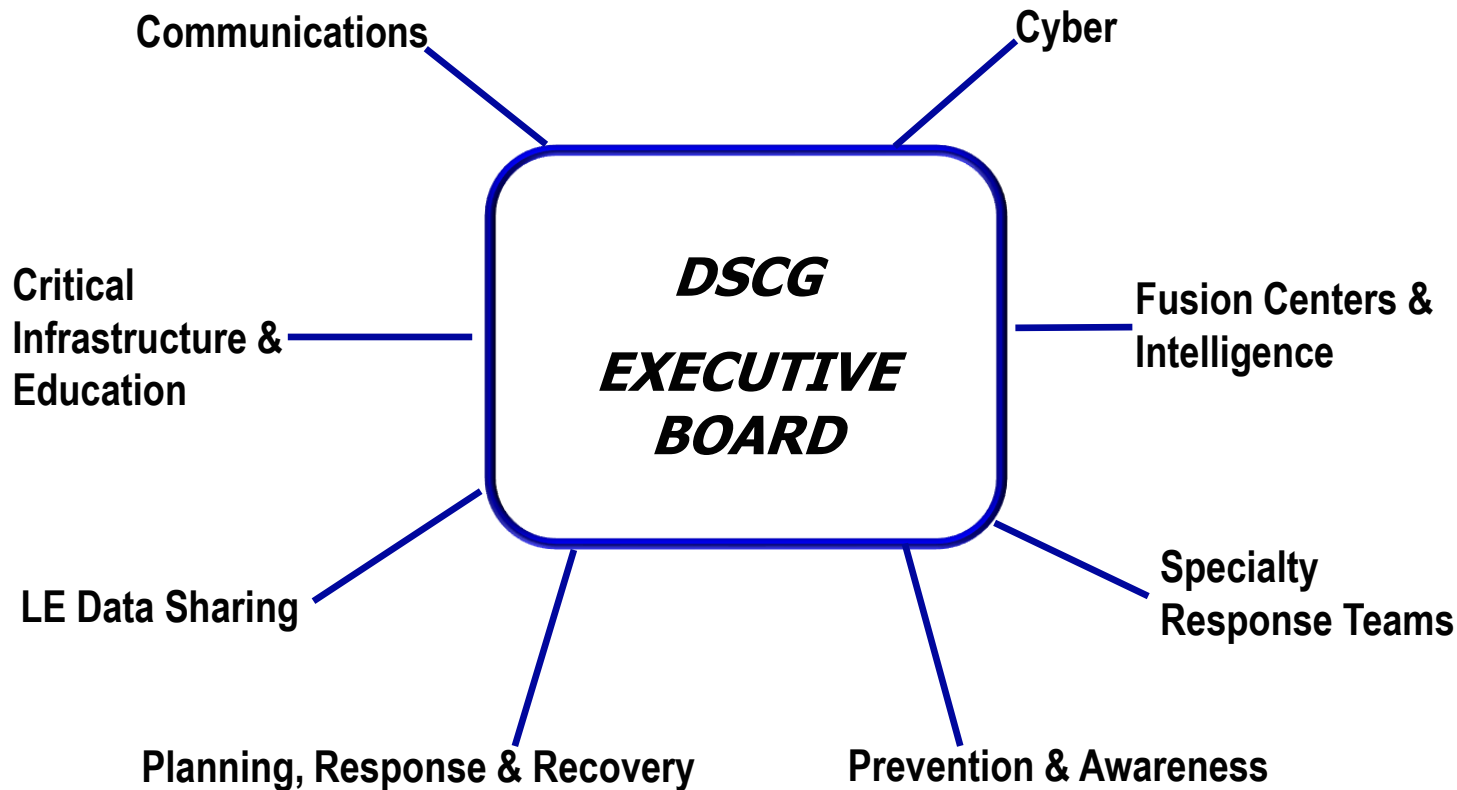
Federally Designated Urban Areas





Florida's Domestic Security Partnerships

Domestic Security Coordinating Group





Summary of Homeland Security Funding

Requested by Florida

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)	\$10,892,953
Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)	\$24,374,451
Miami	\$14,750,000
Orlando	\$ 4,483,355
Tampa Bay	\$ 5,141,096



Information and Intelligence Coordination



Office of Statewide Intelligence

Florida Fusion Center

Intelligence Watch
& Warning (24/7)

External Partners

Security
Management &
Counter Intelligence

Florida Intelligence Center

Domestic Security
Intelligence

Cyber Intelligence

Major Crime
(Drugs, Gangs,
Violent Crime,
Financial Crime)

Fortify Florida MSD

Counter Terrorism
Intelligence Center
(CTIC)

Financial Crime
Analysis Center
(FCAC)

Multi State Intelligence
Group

Targeted Violence
Prevention Program

NETWORK OF FLORIDA FUSION CENTERS

Areas of Responsibility



Florida Fusion Center (FFC)
Tallahassee, FL
FloridaFusionCenter@fdle.state.fl.us
(850) 410-7645



Northwest Florida Fusion Center (NWFFC)
Pensacola, FL
nwfloridafusion@fdle.state.fl.us
(850) 595-2100



North Florida Fusion eXchange (NFFX)
Tallahassee, FL
nffx@flcfn.net
(850) 410-8889



Northeast Florida Fusion Center (NEFLFC)
Jacksonville, FL
Contact@NortheastFloridaFusion.org
(904) 256-5950



Tampa Bay Regional Intelligence Center (TBRIC)
Tampa, FL
TBRIC@fdle.state.fl.us
(813) 318-5600



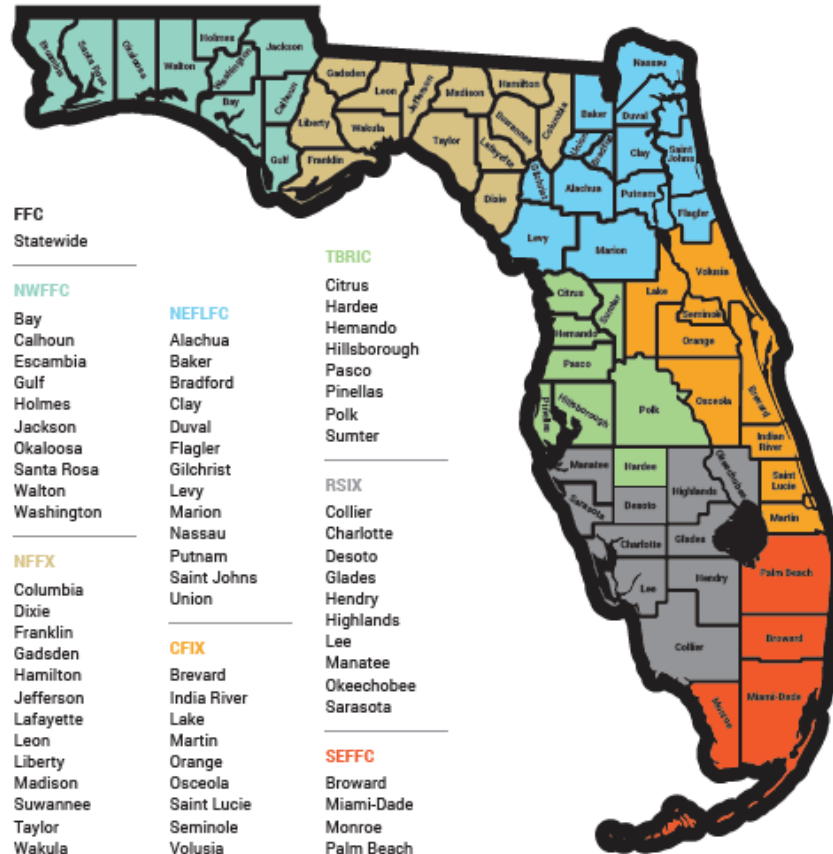
Central Florida Intelligence eXchange (CFIX)
Orlando, FL
CFIX@ocfl.net
(407) 858-3950



Southwest Florida Fusion Center (RSIX)
Ft. Myers, FL
RSIX@colliersheriff.org



Southeast Florida Fusion Center (SEFFC)
Miami, FL
seffc@mdpd.com
(305) 470-3880
Palm Beach, FL
pbregionalfusion@pbso.org
(561) 688-3700



Fusion Center Partnerships

- FEDERAL GOVERNMENT -

- ❖ Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- ❖ CSX Railroad Police
- ❖ Federal Bureau of Investigation
- ❖ U.S. Attorney's Office
- ❖ U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
- ❖ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- ❖ U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 - ❖ Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency
 - ❖ Federal Protective Service
 - ❖ Homeland Security Investigations
 - ❖ Immigrations and Customs Enforcement
 - ❖ Office of Intelligence and Analysis
 - ❖ Transportation Security Administration
- ❖ U.S. Forest Service
- ❖ U.S. Marshals

- FLORIDA ASSOCIATIONS -

- ❖ Fire Chief's Association
- ❖ Police Chief's Association
- ❖ Sheriff's Association

- TRIBAL ASSOCIATIONS -

- ❖ Miccosukee Police Department

- FLORIDA GOVERNMENT -

- ❖ Agency for Healthcare Administration
- ❖ Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- ❖ Agency for State Technology
- ❖ Agriculture and Consumer Services
- ❖ Attorney General's Office
- ❖ Board of Governors
- ❖ Business and Professional Regulation
- ❖ Corrections
- ❖ Children and Families
- ❖ Economic Opportunity
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Elder Affairs
- ❖ Emergency Management
- ❖ Florida Highway Patrol
- ❖ Financial Regulation
- ❖ Financial Services
- ❖ Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Law Enforcement
- ❖ Lottery
- ❖ Juvenile Justice
- ❖ Military Affairs, Florida National Guard
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ State





Florida Intelligence Center

Florida Intelligence Enterprise

- Domestic Security Intelligence
- Counter Terrorism Intelligence Center
- Financial Analysis Center
- Multi-state Intelligence Group
- Cyber Intelligence Group
- Major Crime Intelligence: Drugs, Gangs, Violent Crime, Financial Crimes
- Fortify Florida/Marjory Stoneman Douglas Commission
- Targeted Violence Prevention Program

NO ONE CAN DO IT ALONE

21 million residents / 116.5 million visitors

- 300 hospitals
- 160 water facilities (serving 15,000 or more)
- 3 nuclear power plants
- 20 major theme parks
- 31 stadiums
- 14 major seaports
- 20 commercial/international airports
- 298 general aviation fields
- 21 military bases
- 1,500 miles of international coastline
- 120 million miles of public roadways
- 2,900 miles of rail
- 6,800 schools





Drug Trends in Florida

- 11% increase in arrests for the distribution, manufacturing, possession, sale, smuggling and/or trafficking of meth (Jan - June).
- 13% increase in meth seizures (Jan – June). 26 additional seizures reported by other states or countries destined for Florida.
- Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations are the primary producers of meth and transport it across the southwest border.
- 20% increase in arrests for opioid-related offenses related to heroin, fentanyl or opium (Jan – June).
- One growing concealment trend related to fentanyl is to disguise and sell it as oxycodone or Percocet.



Cyber Trends in Florida

- Ransomware continues to plague both the private and public sectors in Florida. 165% increase in incidents compared with 2020.
- Attacks spanned multiple sectors. Trends appear to show bad actors are targeting victims based on the likelihood of payment and/or the high negative impact to the victims business or reputation.
- Companies have experienced significant financial losses due to successful business email compromise.



Domestic Security Trends in Florida

- Domestic Terrorist(s)/Extremists (DT) - are U.S. person(s) who commit violent criminal acts in furtherance of their political, religious, or social ideology.
- No list of Domestic Terrorism Organizations exists.
- FDLE monitors and/or investigates any DT group identified that is involved in or reasonably believed to be involved in criminal activities.
- Category examples include: Racially Motivated Violent Extremists, Anti-Government/Anti-authority Extremists, Animal Rights/Environmental Extremists and Abortion Extremists.
- Groups are often decentralized and hard to detect or monitor due to the use of encrypted communications.



Domestic Security Trends in Florida

- Florida has seen multiple active shooters and targeted violence events in recent years, including:
 - 2016 Pulse Night Club - Orlando
 - 2017 Ft. Lauderdale Airport
 - 2018 MSDHS – Parkland
 - 2019 Sun Trust Bank in Sebring
 - 2019 NAS Pensacola
 - 2020 Catholic Church - Ocala
 - 2020 Women's Health Clinic – Fort Myers
- Perceived increase in both the frequency and lethality of mass targeted violence attacks throughout the nation, particularly in Florida.



FDLE's Targeted Violence Prevention Program

- Governor Ron DeSantis directed FDLE to develop and implement a unified, statewide and comprehensive law enforcement strategy to counter targeted violence, including terrorism throughout Florida.
- Legislature funded Florida's Strategy for Targeted Violence Prevention.
- Mitigate and prevent targeted violence, especially mass targeted violence, to strengthen domestic security and promote public safety.
- Shared responsibility for countering all forms of targeted violence, especially mass targeted violence.
- Integrated systems approach to ensure collaborative, multidisciplinary and multijurisdictional teams.
- Recognize that criminal arrest and prosecution are not the only, or best, tools to mitigate and prevent targeted violence.



Targeted Violence Prevention Program

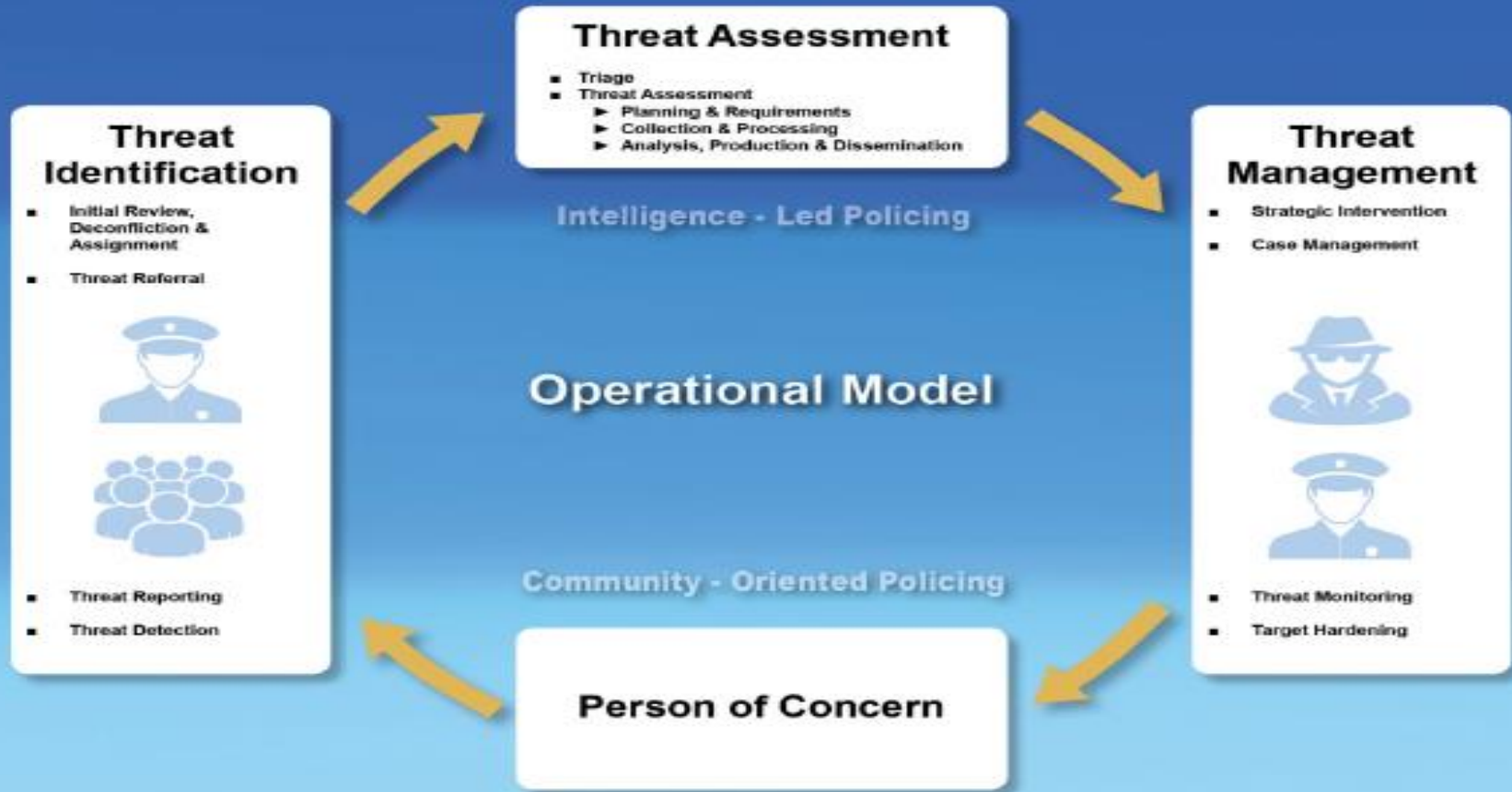
- Common operational language, knowledge and process for statewide consistency, proficiency and continuity.
- Oversight and coordination by FDLE.
- Statewide implementation began November 1, 2021.
- More than 200 law enforcement officers, analysts and non-law enforcement partners have been trained in the BTAM practitioner course.
- Additional training courses set for January and March 2022.
- Continue to expand the multi-disciplinary teams to other facets of the community.

Florida's Strategy for Targeted Violence Prevention

Regional BTAM Teams

Local Law Enforcement Agencies

Local Communities



Appendix C – Figure 1



Questions?

Mike Phillips

Special Agent in Charge

Office of Statewide Investigative Services

MikePhillips@fdle.state.fl.us

850-410-8320

Shane Desguin

Special Agent in Charge

Office of Statewide Intelligence

ShaneDesguin@fdle.state.fl.us

850-410-8257

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

11.30.21

Meeting Date

Military / Vets Affairs

Committee

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Ron Drze

Phone 850.410.7020

Address 2331 Phillips Rd

Street

Email RONALDDRZE@FDLE.STATE.FL.US

Tall

City

FL

State

32309

Zip

Speaking: For Against Information

OR

Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Domestic Security
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

11/30/21
Meeting Date
Military/Vets Affairs
Committee

Name Mike Phillips Phone (850) 410-8320

Address 2331 Phillips Rd. Email mikephillips@fldc.state.fl.us
Street

Tall. FL 32308
City State Zip

Speaking: For Against Information **OR** Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.
- I am a registered lobbyist, representing:
- I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

11/30/2021
Meeting Date

Bill Number or Topic

Military + Vet Spaw 3 DS
Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Joyce Burroughs

Phone 850-410-7019

Address 2331 Phillips Rd
Street

Email joyceburroughs@falc.state.fl.us

Tallahassee FL 32308
City State Zip

Speaking: For Against Information **OR** Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

11/30/21

Meeting Date

Military and Veterans Affairs
Committee

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Shane Desquin

Phone

850-410-7000

Address

2331 Phillips Road
Street

Email

ShaneDesquin@fde.state.fl.us

Tallahassee, FL
City State

32308
Zip

Speaking:

For

Against

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

In Support

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

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

S-001 (08/10/2021)



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Finance and Tax, *Vice Chair*
Appropriations Subcommittee on Education
Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,
Tourism, and Economic Development
Community Affairs
Health Policy
Military and Veterans Affairs, Space,
and Domestic Security

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

SENATOR JANET CRUZ
18th District

November 29, 2021

The Honorable Tom Wright, Chair
Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security
531 Knott Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Chair Wright,

I respectfully request an excused absence from the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, November 30.

Please let me know if I may be of any further assistance with this request.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janet Cruz", written over a large, stylized blue flourish.

Senator Janet Cruz
District 18

REPLY TO:

- 210A S. MacDill Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33609 (813) 348-1017 FAX: (888) 263-3681
- 216 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5018

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

WILTON SIMPSON
President of the Senate

AARON BEAN
President Pro Tempore

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 37

Case No.:

Type:

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

Judge:

Started: 11/30/2021 3:30:27 PM

Ends: 11/30/2021 5:25:00 PM **Length:** 01:54:34

3:30:25 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Wright
3:30:32 PM Roll Call by CAA Lois Graham
3:30:47 PM Quorum announced
3:30:53 PM Senator Cruz is excused
3:30:59 PM Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Burgess
3:31:17 PM Chair Wright with opening comments
3:31:37 PM Tab 2, SB 254 - Religious Institutions by Senator Brodeur
3:31:51 PM Senator Brodeur explains the bill
3:32:51 PM Senator Gibson with question
3:32:57 PM Senator Brodeur responds
3:33:36 PM Senator Harrell with question
3:33:45 PM Senator Brodeur responds
3:35:11 PM Senator Torres with question
3:35:33 PM Senator Brodeur responds
3:35:40 PM Appearance Forms
3:35:44 PM Mr. Ken Kniepmann, Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, waives in support
3:36:03 PM Senator Gibson in debate
3:37:00 PM Senator Torres in debate
3:37:52 PM Senator Harrell in debate
3:38:45 PM Senator Brodeur closes on the bill
3:39:06 PM Roll Call on SB 254
3:39:32 PM SB 254 is reported favorably
3:39:49 PM Tab 1, SB 232- State Park Fee Discounts by Senator Harrell
3:40:06 PM Senator Harrell explains the bill
3:41:14 PM Senator Gibson with question
3:41:24 PM Senator Harrell responds
3:42:06 PM Appearance Forms
3:42:09 PM Christian Cochran, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, (FDVA), waives in support
3:42:20 PM Senator Harrell closes on bill
3:42:29 PM Roll call on SB 232
3:42:37 PM SB 232 is reported favorably
3:42:55 PM Tab 3, SM 302 Recognizing Veteran Suicide, by Senator Burgess
3:43:02 PM Senator Burgess explains the bill
3:44:33 PM Appearance Forms
3:44:37 PM Natalie Kelly, Florida Association of Managing Entities, waives in support
3:44:46 PM Christian Cochran, FDVA, waives in support
3:44:57 PM Senator Torres in debate
3:45:19 PM Senator Harrell in debate
3:46:10 PM Chair Wright in debate
3:46:24 PM Senator Burgess closes on bill
3:46:32 PM Roll call on SM 302

3:47:23 PM SM 302 is reported favorably
3:47:44 PM Tab 4, Presentation by Division of Emergency Management
3:47:51 PM Kevin Guthrie, Director, Division of Emergency Management presents
4:22:36 PM Senator Harrell with question
4:22:50 PM Director Guthrie responds
4:24:26 PM Senator Harrell with follow-up
4:24:32 PM Director Guthrie responds
4:24:43 PM Laura Duhwe, FDEM, with response
4:25:15 PM Senator Harrell with question
4:25:25 PM Director Guthrie responds
4:25:41 PM Melissa Shivah, FDEM, responds
4:26:15 PM Senator Harrell with follow-up
4:26:18 PM Melissa Shivah responds
4:27:07 PM Senator Harrell with question
4:27:13 PM Director Guthrie responds
4:27:54 PM Senator Torres with question
4:28:43 PM Director Guthrie responds
4:29:30 PM Senator Torres with follow-up
4:29:54 PM Director Guthrie responds
4:31:30 PM Senator Torres with comments
4:32:08 PM Senator Gibson with question
4:32:36 PM Director Guthrie responds
4:33:18 PM Senator Gibson with follow-up
4:33:24 PM Director Guthrie responds
4:33:30 PM Senator Gibson with question
4:33:34 PM Director Guthrie responds
4:33:36 PM Senator Gibson with follow-up
4:33:40 PM Director Guthrie responds
4:35:03 PM Senator Gibson with follow-up
4:35:06 PM Director Guthrie responds
4:35:17 PM Senator Gibson with follow-up
4:36:17 PM Director Guthrie responds
4:36:40 PM Senator Gibson with question
4:36:48 PM Director Guthrie responds
4:37:59 PM Senator Gibson with question
4:38:05 PM Director Guthrie responds
4:39:38 PM Senator Harrell with question
4:39:44 PM Director Guthrie responds
4:40:30 PM Chair Wright with comments
4:40:36 PM Tab 5, Presentation by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement
4:41:11 PM Ron Draa, Chief of Staff, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FLDE), presents
4:41:59 PM Mike Phillips, Special Agent in Charge (FDLE), presents
4:51:36 PM Senator Gibson with question
4:51:47 PM Special Agent Phillips responds
4:52:17 PM Joyce Burroughs, Senior Analyst FDLE, responds
4:54:25 PM Senator Harrell with question
4:54:46 PM Special Agent Phillips responds
4:55:36 PM Special Agent Phillips responds further
4:55:53 PM Senator Torres with question
4:55:58 PM Special Agent Phillips responds
4:56:34 PM Senator Torres with follow-up
4:56:43 PM Special Agent Phillips responds

4:57:11 PM Senator Torres with question
4:57:40 PM Special Agent Phillips responds
4:57:58 PM Senator Torres with follow-up
4:58:06 PM Special Agent Phillips responds
4:59:25 PM Shane Desguin, Special Agent in Charge (FDLE) presents
5:15:47 PM Senator Harrell with question
5:16:21 PM Special Agent Desguin responds
5:19:42 PM Senator Harrell with follow-up
5:19:52 PM Special Agent Desguin responds
5:21:24 PM Senator Harrell with follow-up
5:21:31 PM Special Agent Desguin responds
5:22:14 PM Senator Harrell with follow-up
5:22:21 PM Special Agent Desguin responds
5:22:40 PM Senator Torres with question
5:22:48 PM Special Agent Desguin responds
5:23:27 PM Senator Torres with follow-up
5:23:34 PM Special Agent Desguin responds
5:24:15 PM Chair with comments
5:24:29 PM Senator Torres moves to adjourn
5:24:48 PM Meeting adjourned