

**Committee on Military Affairs, Space,
And Domestic Security**

SB 276 — Recognition of Military Personnel and Veterans

by Senators Sachs, Evers, Gaetz, Dean, and Bullard

Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame

The bill amends s. 265.003, F.S., to create the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council (Council) within the Florida Department of Veterans (FDVA). The Council is created to serve as an advisory body tasked with annually accepting nominations of persons to be considered for induction into the existing Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame. The Council is required to annually transmit a list of 20 nominees to the FDVA for submission to the Governor and Cabinet, who select the nominees to be inducted.

The Council consists of 7 honorably discharged veterans in which the Governor, the Attorney General, the Chief Financial Officer, the Commissioner of Agriculture, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the executive director of the FDVA each appoint one member to the Council. Members of the Council are prohibited from receiving compensation for their services, but are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. However, the bill prohibits state funds from being used for travel reimbursement purposes.

Purple Heart Day

The bill designates August 7 of each year as "Purple Heart Day." It authorizes the Governor to annually issue a proclamation designating August 7 as Purple Heart Day and also encourages public officials, schools, private organizations, and all residents of the state to commemorate Purple Heart Day and to honor those wounded or killed while serving in any branch of the United States Armed Forces.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2012.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 117-0