

1
2 An act relating to military affairs; creating
3 s. 163.3175, F.S.; providing legislative
4 findings on the compatibility of development
5 with military installations; providing for the
6 exchange of information relating to proposed
7 land use decisions between counties and local
8 governments and military installations;
9 providing for responsive comments by the
10 commanding officer or his or her designee;
11 providing for the county or affected local
12 government to take such comments into
13 consideration; providing for a representative
14 of the military installation to be an
15 ex-officio, nonvoting member of the county's or
16 local government's land planning or zoning
17 board; encouraging the commanding officer to
18 provide information on community planning
19 assistance grants; providing definitions;
20 amending s. 163.3177, F.S.; providing for the
21 future land use plan element of comprehensive
22 plans to include compatibility with military
23 installations; requiring the inclusion of
24 criteria; requiring local governments to update
25 or amend their comprehensive plan by a certain
26 date; providing for the coordination by the
27 state land planning agency and the Department
28 of Defense on compatibility issues for military
29 installations; amending s. 163.3187, F.S.;
30 providing that amendments to address
31 compatibility or include criteria do not count

1 toward the limitation on frequency of amending
2 comprehensive plans; amending s. 163.3191,
3 F.S.; providing that evaluations of
4 comprehensive plans include whether such
5 criteria were successful in resolving land use
6 compatibility uses with military installations;
7 amending s. 288.980, F.S.; creating the Defense
8 Infrastructure Grant Program; providing the
9 purpose and for implementation of the program;
10 amending s. 295.01, F.S.; revising certain
11 requirements relating to scholarships for
12 children of deceased veterans; amending s.
13 443.101, F.S.; providing eligibility for
14 unemployment compensation benefits for the
15 spouses of a member of the military under
16 certain circumstances beginning on a date
17 certain; amending s. 445.007, F.S.; providing
18 for the appointment of a military
19 representative to certain regional workforce
20 boards; amending s. 464.009, F.S.; removing a
21 scheduled repeal of provisions; providing for
22 licensure by endorsement of certain nurses
23 licensed in another state that is a member of
24 the Nurse Licensure Compact; amending s.
25 464.022, F.S.; providing that certain nurses
26 relocating to this state may perform nursing
27 services for a period of 120 days after
28 submitting application for licensure; amending
29 s. 1002.39, F.S.; revising eligibility
30 requirements for military dependents applying
31 for a John M. McKay Scholarship; requiring the

1 State Board of Education to adopt rules;
2 amending s. 1003.05, F.S.; directing the
3 Department of Education to assist in the
4 development of memoranda of agreement between
5 school districts and military installations;
6 providing that qualifying military dependents
7 receive priority admission to certain special
8 academic programs; creating s. 1008.221, F.S.;
9 providing for alternate assessments for the
10 grade 10 FCAT for certain military dependents;
11 amending s. 1009.21, F.S.; classifying
12 dependents of active duty members of the armed
13 forces and certain liaison officers and their
14 spouses and dependent children as residents for
15 tuition purposes; directing Workforce Florida,
16 Inc., to establish an employment advocacy and
17 assistance program targeting military spouses
18 and dependents; directing the Florida Housing
19 Finance Corporation to assess the housing needs
20 of Florida's military families; requiring a
21 report; providing an effective date.

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

24
25 Section 1. Section 163.3175, Florida Statutes, is
26 created to read:

27 163.3175 Legislative findings on compatibility of
28 development with military installations; exchange of
29 information between local governments and military
30 installations.--

31

1 (1) The Legislature finds that incompatible
2 development of land close to military installations can
3 adversely affect the ability of such an installation to carry
4 out its mission. The Legislature further finds that such
5 development also threatens the public safety because of the
6 possibility of accidents occurring within the areas
7 surrounding a military installation. In addition, the economic
8 vitality of a community is affected when military operations
9 and missions must relocate because of incompatible urban
10 encroachment. Therefore, the Legislature finds it desirable
11 for the local governments in the state to cooperate with
12 military installations to encourage compatible land use, help
13 prevent incompatible encroachment, and facilitate the
14 continued presence of major military installations in this
15 state.

16 (2) Each county in which a military installation is
17 either wholly or partially located and each affected local
18 government must transmit to the commanding officer of that
19 installation information relating to proposed changes to
20 comprehensive plans, plan amendments, and proposed changes to
21 land development regulations which, if approved, would affect
22 the intensity, density, or use of the land adjacent to or in
23 close proximity to the military installation. Each county and
24 affected local government shall provide the military
25 installation an opportunity to review and comment on the
26 proposed changes.

27 (3) The commanding officer or his or her designee may
28 provide comments to the county or affected local government on
29 the impact such proposed changes may have on the mission of
30 the military installation. Such comments may include:
31

1 (a) If the installation has an airfield, whether such
2 proposed changes will be incompatible with the safety and
3 noise standards contained in the Air Installation Compatible
4 Use Zone (AICUZ) adopted by the military installation for that
5 airfield;

6 (b) Whether such changes are incompatible with the
7 Installation Environmental Noise Management Program (IENMP) of
8 the United States Army;

9 (c) Whether such changes are incompatible with the
10 findings of a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for the area if one
11 has been completed; and

12 (d) Whether the military installation's mission will
13 be adversely affected by the proposed actions of the county or
14 affected local government.

15 (4) The county or affected local government shall take
16 into consideration any comments provided by the commanding
17 officer or his or her designee when making such decision
18 regarding comprehensive planning or land development
19 regulation. The county or affected local government shall
20 forward a copy of any such comments to the state land planning
21 agency.

22 (5) To facilitate the exchange of information provided
23 for in this section, a representative of a military
24 installation acting on behalf of all military installations
25 within that jurisdiction shall be included as an exofficio,
26 nonvoting member of the county's or affected local
27 government's land planning or zoning board.

28 (6) The commanding officer is encouraged to provide
29 information about any community planning assistance grants
30 that may be available to a county or affected local government
31 through the federal Office of Economic Adjustment as an

1 incentive for communities to participate in a joint planning
2 process that would facilitate the compatibility of community
3 planning and the activities and mission of the military
4 installation.

5 (7) As used in this section, the term:

6 (a) "Affected local government" means a municipality
7 adjacent to or in close proximity to the military installation
8 as determined by the state land planning agency.

9 (b) "Military installation" means a base, camp, post,
10 station, airfield, yard, center, home port facility for any
11 ship, or other land area under the jurisdiction of the
12 Department of Defense, including any leased facility. Such
13 term does not include any facility used primarily for civil
14 works, rivers and harbors projects, or flood control projects.

15 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) and
16 paragraph (1) of subsection (10) of section 163.3177, Florida
17 Statutes, are amended to read:

18 163.3177 Required and optional elements of
19 comprehensive plan; studies and surveys.--

20 (6) In addition to the requirements of subsections
21 (1)-(5), the comprehensive plan shall include the following
22 elements:

23 (a) A future land use plan element designating
24 proposed future general distribution, location, and extent of
25 the uses of land for residential uses, commercial uses,
26 industry, agriculture, recreation, conservation, education,
27 public buildings and grounds, other public facilities, and
28 other categories of the public and private uses of land. Each
29 future land use category must be defined in terms of uses
30 included, and must include standards to be followed in the
31 control and distribution of population densities and building

1 and structure intensities. The proposed distribution,
2 location, and extent of the various categories of land use
3 shall be shown on a land use map or map series which shall be
4 supplemented by goals, policies, and measurable objectives.
5 The future land use plan shall be based upon surveys, studies,
6 and data regarding the area, including the amount of land
7 required to accommodate anticipated growth; the projected
8 population of the area; the character of undeveloped land; the
9 availability of public services; the need for redevelopment,
10 including the renewal of blighted areas and the elimination of
11 nonconforming uses which are inconsistent with the character
12 of the community; the compatibility of uses on lands adjacent
13 to or closely proximate to military installations; and, in
14 rural communities, the need for job creation, capital
15 investment, and economic development that will strengthen and
16 diversify the community's economy. The future land use plan
17 may designate areas for future planned development use
18 involving combinations of types of uses for which special
19 regulations may be necessary to ensure development in accord
20 with the principles and standards of the comprehensive plan
21 and this act. The future land use plan element shall include
22 criteria to be used to achieve the compatibility of adjacent
23 or closely proximate lands with military installations. In
24 addition, for rural communities, the amount of land designated
25 for future planned industrial use shall be based upon surveys
26 and studies that reflect the need for job creation, capital
27 investment, and the necessity to strengthen and diversify the
28 local economies, and shall not be limited solely by the
29 projected population of the rural community. The future land
30 use plan of a county may also designate areas for possible
31 future municipal incorporation. The land use maps or map

1 series shall generally identify and depict historic district
2 boundaries and shall designate historically significant
3 properties meriting protection. The future land use element
4 must clearly identify the land use categories in which public
5 schools are an allowable use. When delineating the land use
6 categories in which public schools are an allowable use, a
7 local government shall include in the categories sufficient
8 land proximate to residential development to meet the
9 projected needs for schools in coordination with public school
10 boards and may establish differing criteria for schools of
11 different type or size. Each local government shall include
12 lands contiguous to existing school sites, to the maximum
13 extent possible, within the land use categories in which
14 public schools are an allowable use. All comprehensive plans
15 must comply with the school siting requirements of this
16 paragraph no later than October 1, 1999. The failure by a
17 local government to comply with these school siting
18 requirements by October 1, 1999, will result in the
19 prohibition of the local government's ability to amend the
20 local comprehensive plan, except for plan amendments described
21 in s. 163.3187(1)(b), until the school siting requirements are
22 met. Amendments proposed by a local government for purposes of
23 identifying the land use categories in which public schools
24 are an allowable use or for adopting or amending the
25 school-siting maps pursuant to s. 163.31776(3) are exempt from
26 the limitation on the frequency of plan amendments contained
27 in s. 163.3187. The future land use element shall include
28 criteria that encourage the location of schools proximate to
29 urban residential areas to the extent possible and shall
30 require that the local government seek to collocate public
31 facilities, such as parks, libraries, and community centers,

1 with schools to the extent possible and to encourage the use
2 of elementary schools as focal points for neighborhoods. For
3 schools serving predominantly rural counties, defined as a
4 county with a population of 100,000 or fewer, an agricultural
5 land use category shall be eligible for the location of public
6 school facilities if the local comprehensive plan contains
7 school siting criteria and the location is consistent with
8 such criteria. Local governments required to update or amend
9 their comprehensive plan to include criteria and address
10 compatibility of adjacent or closely proximate lands with
11 existing military installations in their future land use plan
12 element shall transmit the update or amendment to the
13 department by June 30, 2006.

14 (10) The Legislature recognizes the importance and
15 significance of chapter 9J-5, Florida Administrative Code, the
16 Minimum Criteria for Review of Local Government Comprehensive
17 Plans and Determination of Compliance of the Department of
18 Community Affairs that will be used to determine compliance of
19 local comprehensive plans. The Legislature reserved unto
20 itself the right to review chapter 9J-5, Florida
21 Administrative Code, and to reject, modify, or take no action
22 relative to this rule. Therefore, pursuant to subsection (9),
23 the Legislature hereby has reviewed chapter 9J-5, Florida
24 Administrative Code, and expresses the following legislative
25 intent:

26 (1) The state land planning agency shall consider land
27 use compatibility issues in the vicinity of all airports in
28 coordination with the Department of Transportation and
29 adjacent to or in close proximity to all military
30 installations in coordination with the Department of Defense.
31

1 Section 3. Paragraph (m) is added to subsection (1) of
2 section 163.3187, Florida Statutes, to read:

3 163.3187 Amendment of adopted comprehensive plan.--

4 (1) Amendments to comprehensive plans adopted pursuant
5 to this part may be made not more than two times during any
6 calendar year, except:

7 (m) A comprehensive plan amendment that addresses
8 criteria or compatibility of land uses adjacent to or in close
9 proximity to military installations in a local government's
10 future land use element does not count toward the limitation
11 on the frequency of the plan amendments.

12 Section 4. Paragraph (n) is added to subsection (2) of
13 section 163.3191, Florida Statutes, to read:

14 163.3191 Evaluation and appraisal of comprehensive
15 plan.--

16 (2) The report shall present an evaluation and
17 assessment of the comprehensive plan and shall contain
18 appropriate statements to update the comprehensive plan,
19 including, but not limited to, words, maps, illustrations, or
20 other media, related to:

21 (n) An assessment of whether the criteria adopted
22 pursuant to s. 163.3177(6)(a) was successful in achieving
23 compatibility with military installations.

24 Section 5. Present subsections (4), (5), (6), (7), and
25 (8) of section 288.980, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as
26 subsections (5), (6), (7), (8), and (9), respectively, and a
27 new subsection (4) is added to that section to read:

28 288.980 Military base retention; legislative intent;
29 grants program.--

30 (4) The Defense Infrastructure Grant Program is
31 created. The director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and

1 Economic Development shall coordinate and implement this
2 program, the purpose of which is to support local
3 infrastructure projects deemed to have a positive impact on
4 the military value of installations within the state. Funds
5 are to be used for projects that benefit both the local
6 community and the military installation. It is not the intent,
7 however, to fund on-base military construction projects.
8 Infrastructure projects to be funded under this program
9 include, but are not limited to, those related to
10 encroachment, transportation and access, utilities,
11 communications, housing, environment, and security. Grant
12 requests will be accepted only from economic development
13 applicants serving in the official capacity of a governing
14 board of a county, municipality, special district, or state
15 agency that will have the authority to maintain the project
16 upon completion. An applicant must represent a community or
17 county in which a military installation is located. There is
18 no limit as to the amount of any grant awarded to an
19 applicant. A match by the county or local community may be
20 required. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
21 Development shall establish guidelines to implement the
22 purpose of this subsection.

23 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 295.01, Florida
24 Statutes, is amended to read:

25 295.01 Children of deceased or disabled veterans;
26 education.--

27 (1) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the
28 state to provide educational opportunity at state expense for
29 dependent children either of whose parents was a resident of
30 the state at the time such parent entered the Armed Forces
31 and:

1 (a) Died as a result of service-connected injuries,
2 disease, or disability sustained while on active duty; in that
3 ~~service or from injuries sustained or disease contracted~~
4 ~~during a period of wartime service as defined in s. 1.01(14)~~
5 ~~or has died since or may hereafter die from diseases or~~
6 ~~disability resulting from such war service,~~ or

7 (b) Has been:

8 1. Determined by the United States Department of
9 Veterans Affairs or its predecessor to have a
10 service-connected 100-percent total and permanent disability
11 rating for compensation;17

12 2. Determined to have a service-connected total and
13 permanent disability rating of 100 percent and is in receipt
14 of disability retirement pay from any branch of the United
15 States Armed Services;17 or

16 3. Issued a valid identification card by the
17 Department of Veterans' Affairs in accordance with s. 295.17,
18
19 when the parents of such children have been bona fide
20 residents of the state for 5 years next preceding their
21 application for the benefits hereof, and subject to the rules,
22 restrictions, and limitations hereof.

23 Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
24 443.101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25 443.101 Disqualification for benefits.--An individual
26 shall be disqualified for benefits:

27 (1)(a) For the week in which he or she has voluntarily
28 left his or her work without good cause attributable to his or
29 her employing unit or in which the individual has been
30 discharged by his or her employing unit for misconduct
31 connected with his or her work, based on a finding by the

1 Agency for Workforce Innovation. As used in this paragraph,
2 the term "work" means any work, whether full-time, part-time,
3 or temporary.

4 1. Disqualification for voluntarily quitting continues
5 for the full period of unemployment next ensuing after he or
6 she has left his or her full-time, part-time, or temporary
7 work voluntarily without good cause and until the individual
8 has earned income equal to or in excess of 17 times his or her
9 weekly benefit amount. As used in this subsection, the term
10 "good cause" includes only that cause attributable to the
11 employing unit or which consists of illness or disability of
12 the individual requiring separation from his or her work. Any
13 other disqualification may not be imposed. An individual is
14 not disqualified under this subsection for voluntarily leaving
15 temporary work to return immediately when called to work by
16 the permanent employing unit that temporarily terminated his
17 or her work within the previous 6 calendar months. For benefit
18 years beginning on or after July 1, 2004, an individual is not
19 disqualified under this subsection for voluntarily leaving
20 work to relocate as a result of his or her military-connected
21 spouse's permanent change of station orders, activation
22 orders, or unit deployment orders.

23 2. Disqualification for being discharged for
24 misconduct connected with his or her work continues for the
25 full period of unemployment next ensuing after having been
26 discharged and until the individual has become reemployed and
27 has earned income of at least 17 times his or her weekly
28 benefit amount and for not more than 52 weeks that immediately
29 follow that week, as determined by the Agency for Workforce
30 Innovation in each case according to the circumstances in each
31 case or the seriousness of the misconduct, under the agency's

1 rules adopted for determinations of disqualification for
2 benefits for misconduct.

3 Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 445.007, Florida
4 Statutes, is amended to read:

5 445.007 Regional workforce boards; exemption from
6 public meetings law.--

7 (1) One regional workforce board shall be appointed in
8 each designated service delivery area and shall serve as the
9 local workforce investment board pursuant to Pub. L. No.
10 105-220. The membership of the board shall be consistent with
11 Pub. L. No. 105-220, Title I, s. 117(b), and contain one
12 representative from a nonpublic postsecondary educational
13 institution that is an authorized individual training account
14 provider within the region and confers certificates and
15 diplomas, one representative from a nonpublic postsecondary
16 educational institution that is an authorized individual
17 training account provider within the region and confers
18 degrees, and three representatives of organized labor. The
19 board shall include one representative from a military
20 installation if a military installation is located within the
21 region. Individuals serving as members of regional workforce
22 development boards or local WAGES coalitions, as of June 30,
23 2000, are eligible for appointment to regional workforce
24 boards, pursuant to this section. It is the intent of the
25 Legislature that, whenever possible and to the greatest extent
26 practicable, membership of a regional workforce board include
27 persons who are current or former recipients of welfare
28 transition assistance as defined in s. 445.002(3) or workforce
29 services as provided in s. 445.009(1), or that such persons be
30 included as ex officio members of the board or of committees
31 organized by the board. The importance of minority and gender

1 representation shall be considered when making appointments to
2 the board. If the regional workforce board enters into a
3 contract with an organization or individual represented on the
4 board of directors, the contract must be approved by a
5 two-thirds vote of the entire board, and the board member who
6 could benefit financially from the transaction must abstain
7 from voting on the contract. A board member must disclose any
8 such conflict in a manner that is consistent with the
9 procedures outlined in s. 112.3143.

10 Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 464.009, Florida
11 Statutes, is amended, present subsections (3), (4), and (5) of
12 that section are redesignated as subsections (4), (5), and
13 (6), respectively, and a new subsection (3) is added to that
14 section, to read:

15 464.009 Licensure by endorsement.--

16 (1) The department shall issue the appropriate license
17 by endorsement to practice professional or practical nursing
18 to an applicant who, upon applying to the department and
19 remitting a fee set by the board not to exceed \$100,
20 demonstrates to the board that he or she:

21 (a) Holds a valid license to practice professional or
22 practical nursing in another state or territory of the United
23 States, provided that, when the applicant secured his or her
24 original license, the requirements for licensure were
25 substantially equivalent to or more stringent than those
26 existing in Florida at that time;

27 (b) Meets the qualifications for licensure in s.
28 464.008 and has successfully completed a state, regional, or
29 national examination which is substantially equivalent to or
30 more stringent than the examination given by the department;
31 or

1 (c) Has actively practiced nursing in another state,
2 jurisdiction, or territory of the United States for 2 of the
3 preceding 3 years without having his or her license acted
4 against by the licensing authority of any jurisdiction.
5 Applicants who become licensed pursuant to this paragraph must
6 complete within 6 months after licensure a Florida laws and
7 rules course that is approved by the board. Once the
8 department has received the results of the national criminal
9 history check and has determined that the applicant has no
10 criminal history, the appropriate license by endorsement shall
11 be issued to the applicant. ~~This paragraph is repealed July 1,~~
12 ~~2004, unless reenacted by the Legislature.~~

13 (3) An applicant for licensure by endorsement who is
14 relocating to this state pursuant to his or her
15 military-connected spouse's official military orders and who
16 is licensed in another state that is a member of the Nurse
17 Licensure Compact shall be deemed to have satisfied the
18 requirements of subsection (1) and shall be issued a license
19 by endorsement upon submission of the appropriate application
20 and fees and completion of the criminal background check
21 required under subsection (4).

22 Section 10. Subsection (8) of section 464.022, Florida
23 Statutes, is amended to read:

24 464.022 Exceptions.--No provision of this part shall
25 be construed to prohibit:

26 (8) Any nurse currently licensed in another state or
27 territory of the United States from performing nursing
28 services in this state for a period of 60 days after
29 furnishing to the employer satisfactory evidence of current
30 licensure in another state or territory and having submitted
31 proper application and fees to the board for licensure prior

1 to employment. If the nurse licensed in another state or
2 territory is relocating to this state pursuant to his or her
3 military-connected spouse's official military orders, this
4 period shall be 120 days after furnishing to the employer
5 satisfactory evidence of current licensure in another state or
6 territory and having submitted proper application and fees to
7 the board for licensure prior to employment. The board may
8 extend this time for administrative purposes when necessary.

9 Section 11. Subsections (2) and (8) of section
10 1002.39, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

11 1002.39 The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students
12 with Disabilities Program.--There is established a program
13 that is separate and distinct from the Opportunity Scholarship
14 Program and is named the John M. McKay Scholarships for
15 Students with Disabilities Program, pursuant to this section.

16 (2) SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.--The parent of a public
17 school student with a disability who is dissatisfied with the
18 student's progress may request and receive from the state a
19 John M. McKay Scholarship for the child to enroll in and
20 attend a private school in accordance with this section if:

21 (a) By assigned school attendance area or by special
22 assignment, the student has spent the prior school year in
23 attendance at a Florida public school. Prior school year in
24 attendance means that the student was enrolled and reported by
25 a school district for funding during the preceding October and
26 February Florida Education Finance Program surveys in
27 kindergarten through grade 12. However, this paragraph does
28 not apply to a dependent child of a member of the United
29 States Armed Forces who transfers to a school in this state
30 from out of state or from a foreign country pursuant to a
31 parent's permanent change of station orders. A dependent child

1 of a member of the United States Armed Forces who transfers to
2 a school in this state from out of state or from a foreign
3 country pursuant to a parent's permanent change of station
4 orders must meet all other eligibility requirements to
5 participate in the program.

6 (b) The parent has obtained acceptance for admission
7 of the student to a private school that is eligible for the
8 program under subsection (4) and has notified the school
9 district of the request for a scholarship at least 60 days
10 prior to the date of the first scholarship payment. The
11 parental notification must be through a communication directly
12 to the district or through the Department of Education to the
13 district in a manner that creates a written or electronic
14 record of the notification and the date of receipt of the
15 notification.

16
17 This section does not apply to a student who is enrolled in a
18 school operating for the purpose of providing educational
19 services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice commitment
20 programs. For purposes of continuity of educational choice,
21 the scholarship shall remain in force until the student
22 returns to a public school or graduates from high school.
23 However, at any time, the student's parent may remove the
24 student from the private school and place the student in
25 another private school that is eligible for the program under
26 subsection (4) or in a public school as provided in subsection
27 (3).

28 (8) RULES.--The State Board of Education shall ~~may~~
29 adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to
30 administer this section, including rules that school districts
31 must use to expedite the development of a matrix of services

1 based on a current individual education plan from another
2 state or a foreign country for a transferring student with a
3 disability who is a dependent child of a member of the United
4 States Armed Forces. The rules must identify the appropriate
5 school district personnel who must complete the matrix of
6 services. For purposes of these rules, a transferring
7 student with a disability is one who was previously enrolled
8 as a student with a disability in an out-of-state or an
9 out-of-country public or private school or agency program and
10 who is transferring from out of state or from a foreign
11 country pursuant to a parent's permanent change of station
12 orders. However, the inclusion of eligible private schools
13 within options available to Florida public school students
14 does not expand the regulatory authority of the state, its
15 officers, or any school district to impose any additional
16 regulation of private schools beyond those reasonably
17 necessary to enforce requirements expressly set forth in this
18 section.

19 Section 12. Subsection (2) of section 1003.05, Florida
20 Statutes, is amended, and subsection (3) is added to that
21 section to read:

22 1003.05 Assistance to transitioning students from
23 military families.--

24 (2) The Department of Education shall facilitate the
25 development and implementation of memoranda of agreement
26 between school districts and military installations which
27 address strategies for assisting students who are the children
28 of active-duty military personnel in the transition to Florida
29 schools. ~~identify its efforts and strategies for assisting~~
30 ~~military connected students in transitioning to the Florida~~
31 ~~school system, including the identification of acceptable~~

1 ~~equivalence for curriculum and graduation requirements, and~~
2 ~~report its findings to the Governor, the President of the~~
3 ~~Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by~~
4 ~~October 1, 2003.~~

5 (3) Dependent children of active-duty military
6 personnel who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for
7 special academic programs offered through public schools shall
8 be given first preference for admission to such programs even
9 if the program is being offered through a public school other
10 than the school to which the student would generally be
11 assigned and the school at which the program is being offered
12 has reached its maximum enrollment. If such a program is
13 offered through a public school other than the school to which
14 the student would generally be assigned, the parent or
15 guardian of the student must assume responsibility for
16 transporting the student to that school. For purposes of this
17 subsection special academic programs include charter schools,
18 magnet schools, advanced studies programs, advanced placement,
19 dual enrollment, and International Baccalaureate.

20 Section 13. Section 1008.221, Florida Statutes, is
21 created to read:

22 1008.221 Dependent children of military personnel
23 transferring to Florida schools; equivalencies for
24 standardized tests.--A dependent child of a member of the
25 United States Armed Forces who enters a public school at the
26 12th grade from out of state or from a foreign country and
27 provides satisfactory proof of attaining a score on an
28 approved alternative assessment that is concordant to a
29 passing score on the grade 10 FCAT shall satisfy the
30 assessment requirement for a standard high school diploma as
31

1 provided in s. 1003.43(5)(a). For purposes of this section,
2 approved alternative assessments are the SAT and ACT.

3 Section 14. Paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of
4 section 1009.21, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph
5 (k) is added to that subsection, to read:

6 1009.21 Determination of resident status for tuition
7 purposes.--Students shall be classified as residents or
8 nonresidents for the purpose of assessing tuition in community
9 colleges and state universities.

10 (10) The following persons shall be classified as
11 residents for tuition purposes:

12 (b) Active duty members of the Armed Services of the
13 United States and their spouses and dependents attending a
14 public community college or state university within 50 miles
15 of the military establishment where they are stationed, if
16 such military establishment is within a county contiguous to
17 Florida.

18 (k) Active duty members of a foreign nation's military
19 who are serving as liaison officers and are residing or
20 stationed in this state, and their spouses and dependent
21 children, attending a community college or state university
22 within 50 miles of the military establishment where the
23 foreign liaison officer is stationed.

24 Section 15. (1) The Legislature finds that military
25 families are faced with a variety of challenges, including
26 frequent relocations, recurring deployments, lengthy periods
27 of separation, and heightened anxiety and uncertainty during
28 periods of conflict. A military spouse's ability to gain job
29 skills and maintain a career contributes to the financial
30 well-being of the family, spouse satisfaction with military
31 life, and military retention and readiness. Military spouses

1 are often required to terminate their employment in order to
2 support their spouse's highly mobile military commitment. The
3 unemployment rate for military spouses is approximately four
4 times the civilian unemployment rate, and military spouse
5 earnings are significantly lower than those of their
6 comparably educated civilian peers. Recognizing the
7 employment challenges faced by military spouses and the
8 importance of military families to our communities and
9 economy, the Legislature declares its intent to establish an
10 employment advocacy and assistance program to serve Florida's
11 military families.

12 (2) Workforce Florida, Inc., shall establish an
13 employment advocacy and assistance program targeting military
14 spouses and dependents. This program shall deliver employment
15 assistance services through military family employment
16 advocates colocated within selected one-stop career centers.
17 Persons eligible for assistance through this program shall
18 include spouses and dependents of active-duty military
19 personnel, Florida National Guard members, and military
20 reservists.

21 (3) Military family employment advocates are
22 responsible for providing the following services and
23 activities:

24 (a) Coordination of employment assistance services
25 through military base family support centers, Florida's
26 one-stop career centers, and veteran-support organizations.

27 (b) Training to one-stop career center managers and
28 staff on the unique employment needs and skills of military
29 family members.

30 (c) Promoting and marketing the benefits of employing
31 military family members to prospective employers.

1 (d) Assisting employment-seeking military family
2 members through job counseling, job search and placement
3 services, the dissemination of information on educational and
4 training programs, and the availability of support services.

5 (e) Other employment assistance services Workforce
6 Florida, Inc., deems necessary.

7 (4) Workforce Florida, Inc., may enter into agreements
8 with public and private entities to provide services
9 authorized under this section.

10 Section 16. The Florida Housing Finance Corporation
11 shall undertake an assessment of the needs of active duty
12 military personnel and their families living in Florida for
13 affordable housing. The needs assessment shall provide
14 information on the population characteristics of the service
15 personnel and their families having total gross incomes of up
16 to 80 percent of the local area's median income who are living
17 off base, including, but not limited to, the number of
18 households by family size, income, and current tenancy; the
19 condition of existing housing; and the availability of
20 homeowner and rental housing that is affordable to these
21 service personnel and their families. The corporation shall
22 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the
23 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
24 Representatives, the Senate Minority Leader, and the House
25 Minority Leader by December 31, 2004.

26 Section 17. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
27 law.