

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The Committee on Appropriations recommends the following:

2
3 **Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5
6 A bill to be entitled

7 An act relating to military families; amending s. 295.01,
8 F.S.; revising certain requirements relating to
9 scholarships for children of deceased veterans; amending
10 s. 445.007, F.S.; providing for the appointment of a
11 military representative to certain regional workforce
12 boards; amending s. 464.009, F.S.; providing for licensure
13 by endorsement of certain nurses licensed in another state
14 that is a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact; amending
15 s. 464.022, F.S.; providing that certain nurses relocating
16 to this state may perform nursing services for a period of
17 120 days after submitting application for licensure;
18 amending s. 1002.39, F.S.; revising eligibility
19 requirements for military dependents applying for a John
20 M. McKay Scholarship; amending s. 1003.05, F.S.; directing
21 the Department of Education to assist in the development
22 of memoranda of agreement between school districts and
23 military installations; creating s. 1008.221, F.S.;

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24 providing for alternate assessments for the grade 10 FCAT
 25 for certain military dependents; amending s. 1009.21,
 26 F.S.; classifying dependents of active duty members of the
 27 armed services and certain liaison officers and their
 28 spouses and dependent children as residents for tuition
 29 purposes; directing Workforce Florida, Inc., to establish
 30 an employment advocacy and assistance program targeting
 31 military spouses and dependents; directing the Florida
 32 Housing Finance Corporation to assess the housing needs of
 33 Florida's military families; requiring a report; providing
 34 an appropriation to fund the employment advocacy and
 35 assistance program; providing an effective date.

36

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

38

39 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 295.01, Florida
 40 Statutes, is amended to read:

41 295.01 Children of deceased or disabled veterans;
 42 education.--

43 (1) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state to
 44 provide educational opportunity at state expense for dependent
 45 children either of whose parents was a resident of the state at
 46 the time such parent entered the Armed Forces and:

47 (a) Died while on active duty as a result of service-
 48 connected injuries, disease, or disability; ~~in that service or~~
 49 ~~from injuries sustained or disease contracted during a period of~~
 50 ~~wartime service as defined in s. 1.01(14) or has died since or~~

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51 ~~may hereafter die from diseases or disability resulting from~~
52 ~~such war service, or~~

53 (b) Has been:

54 1. Determined by the United States Department of Veterans
55 Affairs or its predecessor to have a service-connected 100-
56 percent total and permanent disability rating for compensation;7

57 2. Determined to have a service-connected total and
58 permanent disability rating of 100 percent and is in receipt of
59 disability retirement pay from any branch of the United States
60 Armed Services;7 or

61 3. Issued a valid identification card by the Department of
62 Veterans' Affairs in accordance with s. 295.17,

63
64 when the parents of such children have been bona fide residents
65 of the state for 5 years next preceding their application for
66 the benefits hereof, and subject to the rules, restrictions, and
67 limitations hereof.

68 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 445.007, Florida
69 Statutes, is amended to read:

70 445.007 Regional workforce boards; exemption from public
71 meetings law.--

72 (1) One regional workforce board shall be appointed in
73 each designated service delivery area and shall serve as the
74 local workforce investment board pursuant to Pub. L. No. 105-
75 220. The membership of the board shall be consistent with Pub.
76 L. No. 105-220, Title I, s. 117(b), and contain one
77 representative from a nonpublic postsecondary educational
78 institution that is an authorized individual training account

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79 provider within the region and confers certificates and
80 diplomas, one representative from a nonpublic postsecondary
81 educational institution that is an authorized individual
82 training account provider within the region and confers degrees,
83 and three representatives of organized labor. The board shall
84 include one representative from a military installation if a
85 military installation is located within the region. Individuals
86 serving as members of regional workforce development boards or
87 local WAGES coalitions, as of June 30, 2000, are eligible for
88 appointment to regional workforce boards, pursuant to this
89 section. It is the intent of the Legislature that, whenever
90 possible and to the greatest extent practicable, membership of a
91 regional workforce board include persons who are current or
92 former recipients of welfare transition assistance as defined in
93 s. 445.002(3) or workforce services as provided in s.
94 445.009(1), or that such persons be included as ex officio
95 members of the board or of committees organized by the board.
96 The importance of minority and gender representation shall be
97 considered when making appointments to the board. If the
98 regional workforce board enters into a contract with an
99 organization or individual represented on the board of
100 directors, the contract must be approved by a two-thirds vote of
101 the entire board, and the board member who could benefit
102 financially from the transaction must abstain from voting on the
103 contract. A board member must disclose any such conflict in a
104 manner that is consistent with the procedures outlined in s.
105 112.3143.

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106 Section 3. Present subsections (3), (4), and (5) of
 107 section 464.009, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 108 subsections (4), (5), and (6), respectively, and a new
 109 subsection (3) is added to that section to read:

110 464.009 Licensure by endorsement.--

111 (3) An applicant for licensure by endorsement who is
 112 relocating to this state pursuant to his or her military-
 113 connected spouse's official military orders and who is licensed
 114 in another state that is a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact
 115 shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements of subsection
 116 (1) and shall be issued a license by endorsement upon submission
 117 of the appropriate application and fees and completion of the
 118 criminal background check required under subsection(4).

119 Section 4. Subsection (8) of section 464.022, Florida
 120 Statutes, is amended to read:

121 464.022 Exceptions.--No provision of this part shall be
 122 construed to prohibit:

123 (8) Any nurse currently licensed in another state or
 124 territory of the United States from performing nursing services
 125 in this state for a period of 60 days after furnishing to the
 126 employer satisfactory evidence of current licensure in another
 127 state or territory and having submitted proper application and
 128 fees to the board for licensure prior to employment. If the
 129 nurse licensed in another state or territory is relocating to
 130 this state pursuant to his or her military-connected spouse's
 131 official military orders, this period shall be 120 days after
 132 furnishing to the employer satisfactory evidence of current
 133 licensure in another state or territory and having submitted

134 proper application and fees to the board for licensure prior to
 135 employment. The board may extend this time for administrative
 136 purposes when necessary.

137 Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 1002.39, Florida
 138 Statutes, is amended to read:

139 1002.39 The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with
 140 Disabilities Program.--There is established a program that is
 141 separate and distinct from the Opportunity Scholarship Program
 142 and is named the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with
 143 Disabilities Program, pursuant to this section.

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

149 (a) By assigned school attendance area or by special
 150 assignment, the student has spent the prior school year in
 151 attendance at a Florida public school. Prior school year in
 152 attendance means that the student was enrolled and reported by a
 153 school district for funding during the preceding October and
 154 February Florida Education Finance Program surveys in
 155 kindergarten through grade 12. However, this paragraph does not
 156 apply to a dependent child of a member of the United States
 157 Armed Forces who transfers to a school in this state from out of
 158 state or from a foreign country pursuant to a parent's permanent
 159 change of station orders.

160 (b) The parent has obtained acceptance for admission of
 161 the student to a private school that is eligible for the program

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162 | under subsection (4) and has notified the school district of the
 163 | request for a scholarship at least 60 days prior to the date of
 164 | the first scholarship payment. The parental notification must be
 165 | through a communication directly to the district or through the
 166 | Department of Education to the district in a manner that creates
 167 | a written or electronic record of the notification and the date
 168 | of receipt of the notification.

169 |
 170 | This section does not apply to a student who is enrolled in a
 171 | school operating for the purpose of providing educational
 172 | services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice commitment
 173 | programs. For purposes of continuity of educational choice, the
 174 | scholarship shall remain in force until the student returns to a
 175 | public school or graduates from high school. However, at any
 176 | time, the student's parent may remove the student from the
 177 | private school and place the student in another private school
 178 | that is eligible for the program under subsection (4) or in a
 179 | public school as provided in subsection (3).

180 | Section 6. Subsection (2) of section 1003.05, Florida
 181 | Statutes, is amended to read:

182 | 1003.05 Assistance to transitioning students from military
 183 | families.--

184 | (2) The Department of Education shall facilitate the
 185 | development and implementation of memoranda of agreement between
 186 | school districts and military installations which address
 187 | strategies for assisting military students in the transition to
 188 | Florida schools. ~~identify its efforts and strategies for~~
 189 | ~~assisting military-connected students in transitioning to the~~

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190 ~~Florida school system, including the identification of~~
 191 ~~acceptable equivalence for curriculum and graduation~~
 192 ~~requirements, and report its findings to the Governor, the~~
 193 ~~President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of~~
 194 ~~Representatives by October 1, 2003.~~

195 Section 7. Section 1008.221, Florida Statutes, is created
 196 to read:

197 1008.221 Dependent children of military personnel
 198 transferring to Florida schools; equivalencies for standardized
 199 tests.--A dependent child of a member of the United States Armed
 200 Forces who enters a public school at the 12th grade from out of
 201 state or from a foreign country and provides satisfactory proof
 202 of attaining a score on an approved alternative assessment that
 203 is concordant to a passing score on the grade 10 FCAT shall
 204 satisfy the assessment requirement for a standard high school
 205 diploma as provided in s. 1003.43(5)(a). For purposes of this
 206 section, approved alternative assessments are the SAT and ACT.

207 Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of section
 208 1009.21, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (k) is
 209 added to said subsection, to read:

210 1009.21 Determination of resident status for tuition
 211 purposes.--Students shall be classified as residents or
 212 nonresidents for the purpose of assessing tuition in community
 213 colleges and state universities.

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

216 (b) Active duty members of the Armed Services of the
 217 United States and their spouses and dependents attending a

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218 public community college or state university within 50 miles of
 219 the military establishment where they are stationed, if such
 220 military establishment is within a county contiguous to Florida.

221 (k) Active duty members of a foreign nation's military who
 222 are serving as liaison officers and are residing or stationed in
 223 this state, and their spouses and dependent children, attending
 224 a community college or state university within 50 miles of the
 225 military establishment where the foreign liaison officer is
 226 stationed.

227 Section 9. (1) The Legislature finds that military
 228 families are faced with a variety of challenges, including
 229 frequent relocations, recurring deployments, lengthy periods of
 230 separation, and heightened anxiety and uncertainty during
 231 periods of conflict. A military spouse's ability to gain job
 232 skills and maintain a career contributes to the financial well-
 233 being of the family, spouse satisfaction with military life, and
 234 military retention and readiness. Military spouses are often
 235 required to terminate their employment in order to support their
 236 spouse's highly mobile military commitment. The unemployment
 237 rate for military spouses is approximately four times the
 238 civilian unemployment rate, and military spouse earnings are
 239 significantly lower than those of their comparably educated
 240 civilian peers. Recognizing the employment challenges faced by
 241 military spouses and the importance of military families to our
 242 communities and economy, the Legislature declares its intent to
 243 establish an employment advocacy and assistance program to serve
 244 Florida's military families.

245 (2) Workforce Florida, Inc., shall establish an employment
 246 advocacy and assistance program targeting military spouses and
 247 dependents. This program shall deliver employment assistance
 248 services through military family employment advocates colocated
 249 within selected one-stop career centers. Persons eligible for
 250 assistance through this program shall include spouses and
 251 dependents of active-duty military personnel, Florida National
 252 Guard members, and military reservists.

253 (3) Military family employment advocates are responsible
 254 for providing the following services and activities:

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

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

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

263 (d) Assisting employment-seeking military family members
 264 through job counseling, job search and placement services, the
 265 dissemination of information on educational and training
 266 programs, and the availability of support services.

267 (e) Other employment assistance services Workforce
 268 Florida, Inc., deems necessary.

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

272 Section 10. The Florida Housing Finance Corporation shall
 273 undertake an assessment of the needs of active duty military
 274 personnel and their families living in Florida for affordable
 275 housing. The needs assessment shall provide information on the
 276 population characteristics of the service personnel and their
 277 families having total gross incomes of up to 80 percent of the
 278 local area's median income who are living off base, including,
 279 but not limited to, the number of households by family size,
 280 income, and current tenancy; the condition of existing housing;
 281 and the availability of homeowner and rental housing that is
 282 affordable to these service personnel and their families. The
 283 corporation shall report its findings and recommendations to the
 284 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House
 285 of Representatives, the Senate Minority Leader, and the House
 286 Minority Leader by December 31, 2004.

287 Section 11. A recurring sum of \$200,000 from the General
 288 Revenue Fund and four positions are hereby appropriated to the
 289 Agency for Workforce Innovation for staffing and administrative
 290 support for the employment advocacy and assistance program
 291 established in section 9 of this act.

292 Section 12. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
 293 law.