

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to military families; amending s. 295.01,
3 F.S.; revising certain requirements relating to
4 scholarships for children of deceased veterans; amending
5 s. 445.007, F.S.; providing for the appointment of a
6 military representative to certain regional workforce
7 boards; amending s. 464.009, F.S.; removing the scheduled
8 repeal of provisions allowing for licensure by endorsement
9 of specified nurses who have actively practiced nursing in
10 another state; providing for licensure by endorsement of
11 certain nurses licensed in another state that is a member
12 of the Nurse Licensure Compact; amending s. 464.022, F.S.;
13 providing that certain nurses relocating to this state may
14 perform nursing services for a period of 120 days after
15 submitting application for licensure; amending s. 1002.39,
16 F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for military
17 dependents applying for a John M. McKay Scholarship;
18 amending s. 1003.05, F.S.; directing the Department of
19 Education to assist in the development of memoranda of
20 agreement between school districts and military
21 installations; creating s. 1008.221, F.S.; providing for
22 alternate assessments for the grade 10 FCAT for certain
23 military dependents; amending s. 1009.21, F.S.;
24 classifying dependents of active duty members of the armed
25 services and certain liaison officers and their spouses
26 and dependent children as residents for tuition purposes;
27 directing Workforce Florida, Inc., to establish an
28 employment advocacy and assistance program targeting

29 military spouses and dependents; directing the Florida
 30 Housing Finance Corporation to assess the housing needs of
 31 Florida's military families; requiring a report; providing
 32 an appropriation to fund the employment advocacy and
 33 assistance program; providing an effective date.

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

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

39 295.01 Children of deceased or disabled veterans;
 40 education.--

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

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

51 (b) Has been:

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

55 2. Determined to have a service-connected total and
 56 permanent disability rating of 100 percent and is in receipt of

57 | disability retirement pay from any branch of the United States
58 | Armed Services; ~~or~~

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

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

66 | Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 445.007, Florida
67 | Statutes, is amended to read:

68 | 445.007 Regional workforce boards; exemption from public
69 | meetings law.--

70 | (1) One regional workforce board shall be appointed in
71 | each designated service delivery area and shall serve as the
72 | local workforce investment board pursuant to Pub. L. No. 105-
73 | 220. The membership of the board shall be consistent with Pub.
74 | L. No. 105-220, Title I, s. 117(b), and contain one
75 | representative from a nonpublic postsecondary educational
76 | institution that is an authorized individual training account
77 | provider within the region and confers certificates and
78 | diplomas, one representative from a nonpublic postsecondary
79 | educational institution that is an authorized individual
80 | training account provider within the region and confers degrees,
81 | and three representatives of organized labor. The board shall
82 | include one representative from a military installation if a
83 | military installation is located within the region. Individuals
84 | serving as members of regional workforce development boards or

85 | local WAGES coalitions, as of June 30, 2000, are eligible for
86 | appointment to regional workforce boards, pursuant to this
87 | section. It is the intent of the Legislature that, whenever
88 | possible and to the greatest extent practicable, membership of a
89 | regional workforce board include persons who are current or
90 | former recipients of welfare transition assistance as defined in
91 | s. 445.002(3) or workforce services as provided in s.
92 | 445.009(1), or that such persons be included as ex officio
93 | members of the board or of committees organized by the board.
94 | The importance of minority and gender representation shall be
95 | considered when making appointments to the board. If the
96 | regional workforce board enters into a contract with an
97 | organization or individual represented on the board of
98 | directors, the contract must be approved by a two-thirds vote of
99 | the entire board, and the board member who could benefit
100 | financially from the transaction must abstain from voting on the
101 | contract. A board member must disclose any such conflict in a
102 | manner that is consistent with the procedures outlined in s.
103 | 112.3143.

104 | Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
105 | 464.009, Florida Statutes, is amended, subsections (3), (4), and
106 | (5) of said section are redesignated as subsections (4), (5),
107 | and (6), respectively, and a new subsection (3) is added to said
108 | section, to read:

109 | 464.009 Licensure by endorsement.--

110 | (1) The department shall issue the appropriate license by
111 | endorsement to practice professional or practical nursing to an
112 | applicant who, upon applying to the department and remitting a

113 fee set by the board not to exceed \$100, demonstrates to the
 114 board that he or she:

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

127 (3) An applicant for licensure by endorsement who is
 128 relocating to this state pursuant to his or her military-
 129 connected spouse's official military orders and who is licensed
 130 in another state that is a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact
 131 shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements of subsection
 132 (1) and shall be issued a license by endorsement upon submission
 133 of the appropriate application and fees and completion of the
 134 criminal background check required under subsection(4).

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

137 464.022 Exceptions.--No provision of this part shall be
 138 construed to prohibit:

139 (8) Any nurse currently licensed in another state or
 140 territory of the United States from performing nursing services

141 in this state for a period of 60 days after furnishing to the
142 employer satisfactory evidence of current licensure in another
143 state or territory and having submitted proper application and
144 fees to the board for licensure prior to employment. If the
145 nurse licensed in another state or territory is relocating to
146 this state pursuant to his or her military-connected spouse's
147 official military orders, this period shall be 120 days after
148 furnishing to the employer satisfactory evidence of current
149 licensure in another state or territory and having submitted
150 proper application and fees to the board for licensure prior to
151 employment. The board may extend this time for administrative
152 purposes when necessary.

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

155 1002.39 The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with
156 Disabilities Program.--There is established a program that is
157 separate and distinct from the Opportunity Scholarship Program
158 and is named the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with
159 Disabilities Program, pursuant to this section.

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

165 (a) By assigned school attendance area or by special
166 assignment, the student has spent the prior school year in
167 attendance at a Florida public school. Prior school year in
168 attendance means that the student was enrolled and reported by a

169 | school district for funding during the preceding October and
170 | February Florida Education Finance Program surveys in
171 | kindergarten through grade 12. However, this paragraph does not
172 | apply to a dependent child of a member of the United States
173 | Armed Forces who transfers to a school in this state from out of
174 | state or from a foreign country pursuant to a parent's permanent
175 | change of station orders.

176 | (b) The parent has obtained acceptance for admission of
177 | the student to a private school that is eligible for the program
178 | under subsection (4) and has notified the school district of the
179 | request for a scholarship at least 60 days prior to the date of
180 | the first scholarship payment. The parental notification must be
181 | through a communication directly to the district or through the
182 | Department of Education to the district in a manner that creates
183 | a written or electronic record of the notification and the date
184 | of receipt of the notification.

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186 | This section does not apply to a student who is enrolled in a
187 | school operating for the purpose of providing educational
188 | services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice commitment
189 | programs. For purposes of continuity of educational choice, the
190 | scholarship shall remain in force until the student returns to a
191 | public school or graduates from high school. However, at any
192 | time, the student's parent may remove the student from the
193 | private school and place the student in another private school
194 | that is eligible for the program under subsection (4) or in a
195 | public school as provided in subsection (3).

196 Section 6. Subsection (2) of section 1003.05, Florida
 197 Statutes, is amended to read:

198 1003.05 Assistance to transitioning students from military
 199 families.--

200 (2) The Department of Education shall facilitate the
 201 development and implementation of memoranda of agreement between
 202 school districts and military installations which address
 203 strategies for assisting military students in the transition to
 204 Florida schools. ~~identify its efforts and strategies for~~
 205 ~~assisting military-connected students in transitioning to the~~
 206 ~~Florida school system, including the identification of~~
 207 ~~acceptable equivalence for curriculum and graduation~~
 208 ~~requirements, and report its findings to the Governor, the~~
 209 ~~President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of~~
 210 ~~Representatives by October 1, 2003.~~

211 Section 7. Section 1008.221, Florida Statutes, is created
 212 to read:

213 1008.221 Dependent children of military personnel
 214 transferring to Florida schools; equivalencies for standardized
 215 tests.--A dependent child of a member of the United States Armed
 216 Forces who enters a public school at the 12th grade from out of
 217 state or from a foreign country and provides satisfactory proof
 218 of attaining a score on an approved alternative assessment that
 219 is concordant to a passing score on the grade 10 FCAT shall
 220 satisfy the assessment requirement for a standard high school
 221 diploma as provided in s. 1003.43(5)(a). For purposes of this
 222 section, approved alternative assessments are the SAT and ACT.

223 Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of section
224 1009.21, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (k) is
225 added to said subsection, to read:

226 1009.21 Determination of resident status for tuition
227 purposes.--Students shall be classified as residents or
228 nonresidents for the purpose of assessing tuition in community
229 colleges and state universities.

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

232 (b) Active duty members of the Armed Services of the
233 United States and their spouses and dependents attending a
234 public community college or state university within 50 miles of
235 the military establishment where they are stationed, if such
236 military establishment is within a county contiguous to Florida.

237 (k) Active duty members of a foreign nation's military who
238 are serving as liaison officers and are residing or stationed in
239 this state, and their spouses and dependent children, attending
240 a community college or state university within 50 miles of the
241 military establishment where the foreign liaison officer is
242 stationed.

243 Section 9. (1) The Legislature finds that military
244 families are faced with a variety of challenges, including
245 frequent relocations, recurring deployments, lengthy periods of
246 separation, and heightened anxiety and uncertainty during
247 periods of conflict. A military spouse's ability to gain job
248 skills and maintain a career contributes to the financial well-
249 being of the family, spouse satisfaction with military life, and
250 military retention and readiness. Military spouses are often

251 required to terminate their employment in order to support their
252 spouse's highly mobile military commitment. The unemployment
253 rate for military spouses is approximately four times the
254 civilian unemployment rate, and military spouse earnings are
255 significantly lower than those of their comparably educated
256 civilian peers. Recognizing the employment challenges faced by
257 military spouses and the importance of military families to our
258 communities and economy, the Legislature declares its intent to
259 establish an employment advocacy and assistance program to serve
260 Florida's military families.

261 (2) Workforce Florida, Inc., shall establish an employment
262 advocacy and assistance program targeting military spouses and
263 dependents. This program shall deliver employment assistance
264 services through military family employment advocates colocated
265 within selected one-stop career centers. Persons eligible for
266 assistance through this program shall include spouses and
267 dependents of active-duty military personnel, Florida National
268 Guard members, and military reservists.

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

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

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

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

279 (d) Assisting employment-seeking military family members
280 through job counseling, job search and placement services, the
281 dissemination of information on educational and training
282 programs, and the availability of support services.

283 (e) Other employment assistance services Workforce
284 Florida, Inc., deems necessary.

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

288 Section 10. The Florida Housing Finance Corporation shall
289 undertake an assessment of the needs of active duty military
290 personnel and their families living in Florida for affordable
291 housing. The needs assessment shall provide information on the
292 population characteristics of the service personnel and their
293 families having total gross incomes of up to 80 percent of the
294 local area's median income who are living off base, including,
295 but not limited to, the number of households by family size,
296 income, and current tenancy; the condition of existing housing;
297 and the availability of homeowner and rental housing that is
298 affordable to these service personnel and their families. The
299 corporation shall report its findings and recommendations to the
300 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House
301 of Representatives, the Senate Minority Leader, and the House
302 Minority Leader by December 31, 2004.

303 Section 11. A recurring sum of \$200,000 from the General
304 Revenue Fund and four positions are hereby appropriated to the
305 Agency for Workforce Innovation for staffing and administrative

306 | support for the employment advocacy and assistance program
307 | established in section 9 of this act.

308 | Section 12. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
309 | law.