

CHAMBER ACTION

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1 The State Administration Council recommends the following:

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3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

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6 A bill to be entitled

7 An act relating to the Family Readiness Program; creating  
8 s. 250.5206, F.S.; creating the Family Readiness Program  
9 within the Department of Military Affairs; providing  
10 purpose of the program; providing for program funding and  
11 use of program funds; specifying eligible services and  
12 eligible program recipients; providing procedure with  
13 respect to requests for assistance and award of funds  
14 under the program; providing for monthly audit reviews of  
15 the program; providing for annual reports; providing  
16 rulemaking authority of the Department of Military  
17 Affairs; providing an appropriation; providing an  
18 effective date.

19  
20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21  
22 Section 1. Section 250.5206, Florida Statutes, is created  
23 to read:

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24        250.5206 Family Readiness Program.--The Department of  
25 Military Affairs shall establish a state Family Readiness  
26 Program headed by a program director and based on the United  
27 States Department of Defense National Guard and Reserve Family  
28 Readiness Strategic Plan 2004-2005 initiative.

29        (1) PROGRAM PURPOSE.--The purpose of the program shall be  
30 to provide need-based assistance to families of service members  
31 of the Florida National Guard and United States Reserve Forces,  
32 including the Coast Guard Reserves, who are on active duty  
33 serving in the Global War on Terrorism and who are federally  
34 deployed or participating in state operations for homeland  
35 defense.

36        (2) FUNDING.--Implementation of the program is subject to  
37 appropriations expressly provided for this purpose.

38        (3) ELIGIBLE SERVICES.--Program funds may be used in  
39 emergency situations to purchase critically needed services,  
40 including, but not limited to, reasonable living expenses,  
41 housing, vehicles, equipment or renovations necessary to meet  
42 disability needs, and health care.

43        (4) ELIGIBILITY.--Eligible recipients shall include  
44 persons designated as beneficiaries on the United States  
45 Department of Defense Form 93, or who are otherwise dependents  
46 of eligible service members, and who are residents of the State  
47 of Florida.

48        (5) REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE; REVIEW; AWARDS.--Requests for  
49 assistance shall be validated and assessed at the local level by  
50 a federal Family Center Support Specialist stationed at a state  
51 armory. Recommendations subsequent to assessment and validation

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52 shall be forwarded to the program director, who shall review the  
 53 recommendations for eligibility, appropriateness, and  
 54 sufficiency of documentation. The Adjutant General or his or her  
 55 designee shall receive the recommendations from the program  
 56 director and is authorized to award funds pursuant to  
 57 subsections (3) and (4).

58 (6) AUDITS.--The inspector general of the department shall  
 59 conduct a monthly audit review of the program.

60 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.--The department shall maintain  
 61 sufficient data to provide an annual report to the Governor and  
 62 the Legislature on the families served under the program, the  
 63 types of services provided, and the allocation of funds spent.

64 (8) RULES.--The department is authorized to adopt rules  
 65 necessary to implement this program, including procedures for  
 66 applying for assistance, qualifying services, and criteria for  
 67 eligibility.

68 Section 2. The sum of \$5 million, which includes \$10,000  
 69 in operating capital outlay and authorizes 3 other-personal-  
 70 service positions, is appropriated for fiscal year 2005-2006  
 71 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Military  
 72 Affairs for the Family Readiness Program to provide need-based  
 73 assistance to the family members eligible under s. 250.5206,  
 74 Florida Statutes.

75 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.