

ENROLLED  
 HB 1069, Engrossed 1

2005 Legislature

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to the Family Readiness Program; creating  
 3           s. 250.5206, F.S.; creating the Family Readiness Program  
 4           within the Department of Military Affairs; providing  
 5           purpose of the program; providing for program funding and  
 6           use of program funds; specifying eligible services and  
 7           eligible program recipients; providing procedure with  
 8           respect to requests for assistance and award of funds  
 9           under the program; providing for monthly audit reviews of  
 10          the program; providing for annual reports; providing  
 11          rulemaking authority of the Department of Military  
 12          Affairs; providing an appropriation; providing an  
 13          effective date.

14  
 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16  
 17           Section 1. Section 250.5206, Florida Statutes, is created  
 18 to read:

19           250.5206 Family Readiness Program.--The Department of  
 20 Military Affairs shall establish a state Family Readiness  
 21 Program headed by a program director and based on the United  
 22 States Department of Defense National Guard and Reserve Family  
 23 Readiness Strategic Plan 2004-2005 initiative.

24           (1) PROGRAM PURPOSE.--The purpose of the program shall be  
 25 to provide need-based assistance to families of service members  
 26 of the Florida National Guard and United States Reserve Forces,  
 27 including the Coast Guard Reserves, who are on active duty  
 28 serving in the Global War on Terrorism and who are federally

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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29 deployed or participating in state operations for homeland  
30 defense.

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

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

38 (4) ELIGIBILITY.--Eligible recipients shall include  
39 persons designated as beneficiaries on the United States  
40 Department of Defense Form 93, or who are otherwise dependents  
41 of eligible service members, and who are residents of the State  
42 of Florida.

43 (5) REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE; REVIEW; AWARDS.--Requests for  
44 assistance shall be validated and assessed at the local level by  
45 a federal Family Center Support Specialist stationed at a state  
46 armory or at a reserve facility by a designated official.  
47 Recommendations subsequent to assessment and validation shall be  
48 forwarded to the program director, who shall review the  
49 recommendations for eligibility, appropriateness, and  
50 sufficiency of documentation. The Adjutant General or his or  
51 her designee shall receive the recommendations from the program  
52 director and is authorized to award funds pursuant to  
53 subsections (3) and (4).

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

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

60        (8) RULES.--The department is authorized to adopt rules  
61 necessary to implement this program, including procedures for  
62 applying for assistance, qualifying services, and criteria for  
63 eligibility.

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

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