



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

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3 Section 1. Present subsections (20), (21), (22), and  
4 (23) of section 250.01, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as  
5 subsections (21), (22), (23), and (24), respectively, and a  
6 new subsection (20) is added to that section, to read:

7 250.01 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, the  
8 term:

9 (20) "Servicemembers' group life insurance" means the  
10 life insurance purchased by the Federal Government from a  
11 commercial life insurance company which is currently available  
12 to all members of the uniformed services, including members of  
13 the Florida Air National Guard and the Florida Army National  
14 Guard.

15 Section 2. Section 250.342, Florida Statutes, is  
16 created to read:

17 250.342 Life insurance benefits.--

18 (1) The Department of Military Affairs shall provide  
19 life insurance on the life of every eligible member of the  
20 Florida National Guard. Life insurance coverage under this  
21 section shall be provided through the Service Members Group  
22 Life Insurance Program or another life insurance program  
23 determined by the Adjutant General.

24 (2) Subject to a specific appropriation, the  
25 Department of Military Affairs is responsible for paying any  
26 premiums for life insurance coverage provided under this  
27 section.

28 (3) The life insurance benefits provided under this  
29 section are supplemental to any other benefits provided to a  
30 member of the Florida National Guard.

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1           (4) The Department of Military Affairs shall report to  
2 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of  
3 the House of Representatives the number of life insurance  
4 policies provided and the amount of premiums paid under this  
5 section.

6           Section 3. Section 250.5206, Florida Statutes, is  
7 created to read:

8           250.5206 Family Readiness Program.--The Department of  
9 Military Affairs shall establish a state Family Readiness  
10 Program, headed by a program director and based on the United  
11 States Department of Defense's National Guard and Reserve  
12 Family Readiness Strategic Plan 2004-2005 initiative.

13           (1) PROGRAM PURPOSE.--The purpose of the program shall  
14 be to provide need-based assistance to families of members of  
15 the Florida National Guard who are on active duty serving in  
16 the global war on terrorism and who are federally deployed or  
17 participating in state operations for homeland defense.

18           (2) FUNDING.--Implementation of the program is subject  
19 to appropriations expressly provided for the program. All  
20 funding must be used to purchase needed services and may not  
21 be used to fund staffing or administrative costs.

22           (3) ELIGIBLE SERVICES.--Program funds may be used in  
23 emergency situations to purchase critically needed services,  
24 including, but not limited to, reasonable living expenses,  
25 housing, vehicles, equipment or renovations necessary to meet  
26 disability needs, and health care requirements.

27           (4) ELIGIBILITY.--Eligible recipients include persons  
28 who are designated as beneficiaries on the United States  
29 Department of Defense Form 93 or who are otherwise dependents  
30 of eligible servicemembers.

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1           (5) REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE; REVIEW; AWARDS.--Requests  
2 for assistance must be validated and assessed at the local  
3 level by a federal Family Center Support Specialist stationed  
4 at a state armory. Recommendations subsequent to assessment  
5 and validation must be forwarded to the program director, who  
6 shall review the recommendations for eligibility,  
7 appropriateness, and sufficiency of documentation. The  
8 Adjutant General or his or her designee shall receive the  
9 recommendations from the program director and is authorized to  
10 award funds pursuant to subsections (3) and (4).

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

13           (7) ANNUAL REPORT.--The department shall maintain  
14 sufficient data to provide an annual report to the Governor  
15 and the Legislature on the families served under the program,  
16 the types of services provided, and the allocation of funds  
17 spent.

18           (8) RULES.--The department may adopt rules necessary  
19 to administer this program, including procedures for applying  
20 for assistance, rules relating to qualifying services, and  
21 criteria for eligibility.

22           Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

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24           STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
25                           COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
26                           Senate Bill 1592

27           The CS establishes the state Family Readiness Program to  
28           provide need-based financial assistance to families of Florida  
29           National Guard members who are on active duty. Program funds  
30           may be used in emergency situations to purchase  
31           critically-needed services, including reasonable living  
          expenses, housing, vehicles, equipment or renovations  
          necessary to meet disability needs, and health care  
          requirements. The CS provides for program eligibility, review  
          of requests for assistance, and reporting requirement.