

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to installations honoring military
 3 veterans and their families; creating the "Ellwood
 4 Robinson 'Bob' Pipping, Jr., Memorial Act"; providing a
 5 popular name; providing purpose; authorizing the
 6 Department of Transportation to enter into contract with a
 7 group or organization for the installation and maintenance
 8 of plaques, markers, monuments, memorials, or various
 9 retired military equipment at rest stops; providing for a
 10 committee to approve proposals for the contracts;
 11 providing for membership and terms of members of the
 12 committee; requiring approval by said committee for such
 13 contracts; providing conditions for approval; providing
 14 that the group or organization shall be responsible for
 15 costs; requiring that the group or organization provide a
 16 bond to secure certain costs; providing an effective date.

17
 18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

19
 20 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Ellwood Robinson
 21 'Bob' Pipping, Jr., Memorial Act."

22 Section 2. The purpose of this act is to create an
 23 environment in which the state's residents and visitors may be
 24 reminded of the accomplishments made by Florida's military
 25 veterans in past conflicts and the continuing sacrifices made by
 26 those veterans and their families to protect the freedoms
 27 Americans enjoy today.

28 Section 3. The Department of Transportation is authorized

29 to enter into contract with any group or organization for the
 30 installation and maintenance of monuments and memorials honoring
 31 Florida's military veterans at highway rest areas around the
 32 state pursuant to the provisions of this section.

33 (1) Proposals for contracts under this act must be
 34 approved by a committee composed of the secretary of the
 35 Department of Transportation or the secretary's designee, the
 36 executive director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs or the
 37 executive director's designee, and three members of the Florida
 38 Commission on Veterans' Affairs appointed by the chair of the
 39 commission. Appointed members of the committee shall be
 40 appointed for terms of not longer than 2 years and may be
 41 reappointed to the committee. All appointed members' terms shall
 42 expire on January 31 of each even-numbered year.

43 (2) Installations may consist of monuments, memorials,
 44 plaques, markers, or various retired military equipment and must
 45 honor the accomplishments of military veterans and the
 46 sacrifices made by them and their families.

47 (3) The group or organization making the proposal shall be
 48 responsible for all costs of the monument and its installation.

49 (4) The group or organization making the proposal shall be
 50 responsible for the cost of maintenance of the monument. The
 51 cost of maintenance shall be secured by sufficient funds
 52 provided annually by the group or organization making the
 53 proposal deposited into a maintenance account held by the
 54 Department of Transportation. In addition, the group or
 55 organization making the proposal shall provide a 10-year bond
 56 securing the cost of removal of the monument and any

HB 0201

2005

57 modifications made to the site as part of the placement of the
58 monument should the group or organization making the proposal
59 fail to provide sufficient funds for maintenance for a period of
60 2 consecutive years. Prior to expiration, the bond shall be
61 renewed for another 10-year period if the memorial is to remain
62 in place.

63 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.