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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to military personnel on duty; creating the Citizen Soldier Matching Grant Program within the Agency for Workforce Innovation; providing for matching grants to be awarded to private sector employers that provide wages to employees serving in the United States Armed Forces Reserves or the Florida National Guard while those employees are on federal active duty; providing eligibility requirements for grant recipients; directing the Agency for Workforce Innovation to develop a plan to administer the application and payment procedures for the matching grants; providing for the award of matching grants after approval of the plan; providing an appropriation; providing that professional licenses issued to any member of the Florida National Guard or the United States Armed Forces Reserves shall not expire while the member is serving on federal active duty; providing a 90-day extension period for such licenses after return from federal active duty; providing requirements with respect to such extension; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Citizen Soldier Matching Grant Program.--The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall establish a matching grant program to award matching grants to private sector employers in this state that provide wages to employees serving in the United

29 States Armed Forces Reserves or the Florida National Guard while
30 those employees are on federal active duty. A grant may not be
31 provided for federal active duty served before January 1, 2005.
32 Each grant shall be awarded to reimburse the employer for not
33 more than one-half of the monthly wages paid to an employee who
34 is a resident of this state for the actual period of federal
35 active duty. The monthly grant per employee may not exceed one-
36 half of the difference between the amount of monthly wages paid
37 by the employer to the employee at the level paid before the
38 date the employee was called to federal active duty and the
39 amount of the employee's active duty base pay, housing and
40 variable allowances, and subsistence allowance. The agency shall
41 develop a plan by no later than October 1, 2005, subject to the
42 notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, Florida
43 Statutes, to administer the application and payment procedures
44 for the matching grant program. The Agency for Workforce
45 Innovation shall not award any matching grants prior to the
46 approval of the plan.

47 Section 2. There is hereby appropriated the sum of
48 \$1,862,961 from the General Revenue Fund and two positions to
49 the Agency for Workforce Innovation for the purpose of
50 implementing this act.

51 Section 3. A professional license issued in the state to
52 any member of the Florida National Guard or the United States
53 Armed Forces Reserves shall not expire while the member is
54 serving on federal active duty and shall be extended for up to
55 90 days after his or her return from federal active duty. If the
56 license is renewed during the 90-day period after his or her

57 return from federal active duty, the member shall only be
58 responsible for normal fees and activities relating to renewal
59 of the license and shall not be charged any additional costs
60 such as, but not limited to, late fees or delinquency fees. The
61 member must present to the authority issuing the professional
62 license a copy of his or her official military orders or a
63 written verification from the member's commanding officer before
64 the end of the 90-day period in order to qualify for the
65 extension.

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