

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to installations honoring  
3           military veterans and their families; providing  
4           a short title; providing purpose; authorizing  
5           the Department of Transportation to contract  
6           with a not-for-profit group or organization for  
7           the installation of plaques, markers,  
8           monuments, memorials, or various retired  
9           military equipment at rest stops; providing for  
10          a committee to approve proposals for the  
11          contracts; providing for membership and terms  
12          of members of the committee; requiring approval  
13          by the committee for such contracts; providing  
14          conditions for approval; providing that the  
15          group or organization shall be responsible for  
16          costs; requiring that the group or organization  
17          provide a bond to secure certain costs;  
18          providing an effective date.

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

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

24           Section 2. The purpose of this act is to create an  
25 environment in which state residents and visitors will be  
26 reminded of the accomplishments made by military veterans in  
27 past conflicts and the continuing sacrifices made by veterans  
28 and their families to protect the freedoms we enjoy today.

29           Section 3. The Department of Transportation is  
30 authorized to enter into contract with any not-for-profit  
31 group or organization that has been operating for not less

1 than 2 years for the installation of monuments and memorials  
2 honoring Florida's military veterans at highway rest areas  
3 around the state pursuant to the provisions of this section.

4 (1) Proposals for contracts must be approved by a  
5 committee composed of the Secretary of Transportation or the  
6 secretary's designee, the executive director of the Department  
7 of Veterans' Affairs or the executive director's designee, and  
8 three members of the Florida Commission on Veterans' Affairs  
9 appointed by the chair of the commission. Appointed members  
10 shall be appointed for terms not to exceed 2 years and may be  
11 reappointed to the committee. Appointed members' terms expire  
12 on January 31 of each even-numbered year.

13 (2) Installations may consist of monuments or other  
14 memorials, plaques, markers, or retired military equipment  
15 that honor the accomplishments of military veterans and the  
16 sacrifices made by them and their families.

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

20 (4) The group or organization making the proposal  
21 shall provide a 10-year bond securing the cost of removal of  
22 the monument and any modifications made to the site as part of  
23 the placement of the monument should the Department of  
24 Transportation determine it necessary to remove or relocate  
25 the monument. Such removal or relocation shall be approved by  
26 the committee described in subsection (1). Prior to  
27 expiration, the bond shall be renewed for another 10-year  
28 period if the memorial is to remain in place.

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