

By Senator Fasano

11-02800A-08

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Family Readiness Program; amending
3 s. 250.5206, F.S.; expanding purpose, eligibility, and
4 annual report provisions of the Family Readiness Program
5 within the Department of Military Affairs; providing an
6 effective date.

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

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10 Section 1. Subsections (1), (4), and (7) of section
11 250.5206, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

12 250.5206 Family Readiness Program.--The Department of
13 Military Affairs shall establish a state Family Readiness Program
14 headed by a program director and based on the United States
15 Department of Defense National Guard and Reserve Family Readiness
16 Strategic Plan 2004-2005 initiative.

17 (1) PROGRAM PURPOSE.--The purpose of the program shall be
18 to provide need-based assistance to ~~families of~~ servicemembers of
19 the Florida National Guard and United States Reserve Forces,
20 including the Coast Guard Reserves, who are on active duty
21 serving in the Global War on Terrorism and who are federally
22 deployed or participating in state operations for homeland
23 defense, and the families of such servicemembers.

24 (4) ELIGIBILITY.--Eligible recipients shall include
25 servicemembers and persons designated as beneficiaries on the
26 United States Department of Defense Form 93, or who are otherwise
27 dependents of eligible servicemembers, and who are residents of
28 the State of Florida. The period of eligibility to request
29 assistance from the fund continues for 120 days following

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30 termination of the servicemember's ~~service-member's~~ military
31 orders for qualifying service and return to home of record.

32 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.--The department shall maintain
33 sufficient data to provide an annual report to the Governor and
34 the Legislature on the servicemembers and families served under
35 the program, the types of services provided, and the allocation
36 of funds spent.

37 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.