

By the Committee on Transportation and Economic Development
Appropriations; and Senator Fasano

606-07019-08

20082522c1

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Family Readiness Program; amending
3 s. 250.5206, F.S.; expanding the 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 the ~~a state~~ Family Readiness
14 Program headed by a program director and based on the United
15 States Department of Defense National Guard and Reserve Family
16 Readiness Strategic Plan 2004-2005 initiative.

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

25 (4) ELIGIBILITY.--

26 (a) The following persons are eligible to receive financial
27 assistance from the Family Readiness Program:

28 1. Florida residents who are members of the Florida
29 National Guard and United States Reserve Forces, including the

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30 Coast Guard Reserves, who are on active duty serving in the
31 Global War on Terrorism and who are federally deployed or
32 participating in state operations for homeland defense; and

33 2. Florida residents who are designated as beneficiaries on
34 the United States Department of Defense Form 93, or who are
35 otherwise dependents, of a servicemember eligible under
36 subparagraph 1. and who are family members of such servicemember.

37 (b) An eligible person may request financial assistance
38 from the Family Readiness Program for 120 days following
39 termination of the eligible servicemember's military orders for
40 qualifying service and return to home of record. Eligible
41 ~~recipients shall include persons designated as beneficiaries on~~
42 ~~the United States Department of Defense Form 93, or who are~~
43 ~~otherwise dependents of eligible servicemembers, and who are~~
44 ~~residents of the State of Florida. The period of eligibility to~~
45 ~~request assistance from the fund continues for 120 days following~~
46 ~~termination of the service member's military orders for~~
47 ~~qualifying service and return to home of record.~~

48 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.--The department shall maintain
49 sufficient data to provide an annual report to the Governor and
50 the Legislature on the servicemembers and families served under
51 the program, the types of services provided, and the allocation
52 of funds spent.

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