

By Senator Fasano

11-00290A-08

2008534__

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to veterans; amending s. 292.10, F.S.;

3 deleting a requirement that certain veterans must have

4 served in a war to receive specific benefits from local

5 governments; amending s. 292.11, F.S.; revising provisions

6 relating to local government veteran service officers;

7 limiting the duties of such persons to providing services

8 to veterans; deleting a requirement that such persons must

9 have served in the armed forces during a period of war;

10 deleting an administrative experience requirement for such

11 persons; requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs,

12 instead of the respective local governments, to prescribe

13 the duties of such service officers; providing an

14 effective date.

15

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

17

18 Section 1. Section 292.10, Florida Statutes, is amended to

19 read:

20 292.10 Local governing bodies authorized to assist ~~war~~

21 veterans; powers.--The board of county commissioners of each

22 county and the governing body of each municipality ~~city~~ in the

23 state should ~~are hereby granted full and complete power and~~

24 ~~authority to~~ aid and assist wherever practical and feasible ~~the~~

25 veterans, male and female, who have served in the Armed Forces of

26 the United States ~~in any war~~ and received an honorable discharge

27 from any branch of the military service of the United States, and

28 their dependents, in presenting claims for and securing ~~such~~

29 compensation, hospitalization, education, loans, career training,

11-00290A-08

2008534__

30 and other benefits or privileges to which the said veterans, ~~or~~
31 ~~any of them,~~ are or may become entitled under any federal or
32 state law or regulation by reason of their service in the Armed
33 Forces of the United States.

34 Section 2. Section 292.11, Florida Statutes, is amended to
35 read:

36 292.11 County and city veteran service officer.--

37 (1) Each board of county commissioners should ~~may~~ employ a
38 county veteran service officer, who shall report to the highest
39 authority in the administration; provide office space, clerical
40 assistance, and the necessary supplies incidental to providing
41 and maintaining a county service office; and pay the said
42 expenses and salaries from the moneys hereinafter provided for.
43 The governing body of any municipality ~~city~~ should ~~city~~ may employ a
44 municipal ~~city~~ veteran service officer, who shall report to the
45 highest authority in the administration; provide ~~such~~ office
46 space, clerical assistance, and supplies; and pay expenses and
47 salaries. The officer and any support staff may provide only
48 veterans' services and may not provide other services or have
49 duties unrelated to veterans. A county or municipal ~~city~~ veteran
50 service officer must be a veteran who served as a member of the
51 Armed Forces of the United States ~~during a period of war, as~~
52 ~~defined in Title 38, U.S.C.;~~ who served at least 18 months'
53 active duty in the Armed Forces; and who was separated from such
54 service under honorable conditions, or the surviving spouse of
55 any such veteran. Any honorably discharged ~~wartime~~ veteran who
56 was so discharged for service-connected or aggravated medical
57 reasons before serving 18 months of active duty; who completed a
58 tour of duty other than active duty for training, regardless of

11-00290A-08

2008534__

59 | the length of the tour; or who satisfied his or her military
60 | obligation in a manner other than active duty for training or
61 | reserve duty ~~is shall be~~ eligible for employment as a county or
62 | municipal ~~city~~ veteran service officer. Every county or municipal
63 | ~~city~~ veteran service officer, in order to be eligible for
64 | employment as a county or city veteran service officer, should
65 | ~~shall~~ have a 2-year degree from an accredited university,
66 | college, or community college or a high school degree or
67 | equivalency diploma and ~~4 years of~~ administrative experience that
68 | ensures the applicant is competent in office skills and decorum
69 | in performing the duties of his or her position.

70 | (2) Any county or municipality ~~city~~ desiring to employ a
71 | county or municipality ~~city~~ veteran service officer under ~~the~~
72 | ~~provisions of~~ this section must ~~may~~ notify the Department of
73 | Veterans' Affairs of its intention to do so and should ~~may~~
74 | furnish the department with the ~~name or~~ names of any person ~~or~~
75 | ~~persons~~ applying to fill such position, along with documentation
76 | supporting the qualifications thereof. The department shall
77 | thereupon certify to such county or municipality ~~city~~ the name or
78 | names of candidates for such position who meet the requirements
79 | and qualifications prescribed by the department. The county or
80 | city may thereupon employ any person qualified to be ~~or persons~~
81 | ~~so~~ certified by the department. The department may prescribe the
82 | duties of the service officer. Duties, compensation, and terms of
83 | employment shall be prescribed by the board of county
84 | commissioners or, where applicable, by the governing body of the
85 | municipality ~~city~~.

86 | (3) Any person employed by any county or municipality ~~city~~
87 | under ~~the provisions of~~ this section shall, from the time of his

11-00290A-08

2008534__

88 or her employment, be subject to such rules as the Department of
89 Veterans' Affairs may ~~from time to time~~ prescribe.

90 Appropriations made by any county or municipality ~~city~~, or both,
91 for the purposes set forth in this section are ~~hereby~~ declared to
92 be appropriations for a county or municipal purpose, as the case
93 may be.

94 (4) The Department of Veterans' Affairs is directed to
95 establish a training program for county and municipal ~~city~~
96 veteran service officers. Every county or municipal ~~city~~ veteran
97 service officer employed under this chapter shall attend the
98 training program established by the department and successfully
99 complete a test administered by the department prior to assuming
100 any responsibilities as a county or municipal ~~city~~ veteran
101 service officer. The department shall further establish periodic
102 training refresher courses which each county or municipal ~~city~~
103 veteran service officer must attend and complete as a condition
104 of remaining in employment as a county or municipal ~~city~~ veteran
105 service officer. County and municipal ~~city~~ veteran service
106 officers shall be reimbursed for travel expenses, as provided in
107 s. 112.061, in fulfilling the requirements of this section.

108 (5) The provisions of subsection (1) ~~do shall~~ not apply to,
109 or ~~in any way~~ affect, the employment of any county or municipal
110 ~~city~~ service officer who was so employed prior to July 1, 1974.

111 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.