

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.

7  
 8   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

9  
 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  
 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 shall be  
 18           to provide need-based assistance to ~~families of~~ servicemembers  
 19           of 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  
 27           otherwise dependents of eligible servicemembers, and who are  
 28           residents of the State of Florida. The period of eligibility to

HB 843

2008

29 | request assistance from the fund continues for 120 days  
30 | following termination of the servicemember's ~~service member's~~  
31 | military orders for qualifying service and return to home of  
32 | record.

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

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