

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to misrepresentation of military status;  
 3           amending s. 496.415, F.S.; prohibiting a person from  
 4           falsely representing himself or herself as a member of or  
 5           representing the United States Armed Forces or the  
 6           National Guard for the purpose of solicitation of  
 7           charitable contributions or participation in a charitable  
 8           or sponsor sales promotion; creating s. 817.312, F.S.;  
 9           prohibiting a person from wearing the uniform of or any  
 10          medal or insignia authorized for use by members or  
 11          veterans of the United States Armed Forces or the National  
 12          Guard with the intent to misrepresent himself or herself  
 13          as a member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces  
 14          or the National Guard while soliciting for charitable  
 15          contributions; providing criminal penalties; providing an  
 16          effective date.

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

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 20           Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 496.415, Florida  
 21 Statutes, is amended to read:

22           496.415 Prohibited acts.—It is unlawful for any person in  
 23 connection with the planning, conduct, or execution of any  
 24 solicitation or charitable or sponsor sales promotion to:

25           (6) Falsely state that he or she ~~the person~~ is a member of  
 26 or represents ~~a representative of~~ a charitable organization or  
 27 sponsor, or falsely state or represent that he or she ~~the person~~  
 28 is a member of or represents the United States Air Force, United

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29 States Army, United States Coast Guard, United States Marine  
30 Corps, United States Navy, the National Guard, or a law  
31 enforcement or emergency service organization.

32 Section 2. Section 817.312, Florida Statutes, is created  
33 to read:

34 817.312 Unlawful use of uniforms, medals, or insignia.—

35 (1) A person may not misrepresent himself or herself as a  
36 member or veteran of the United States Air Force, United States  
37 Army, United States Coast Guard, United States Marine Corps,  
38 United States Navy, or National Guard and wear the uniform of or  
39 any medal or insignia authorized for use by members or veterans  
40 of the United States Air Force, United States Army, United  
41 States Coast Guard, United States Marine Corps, United States  
42 Navy, or the National Guard while soliciting for charitable  
43 contributions.

44 (2) A person who violates subsection (1) commits a felony  
45 of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s.  
46 775.083, or s. 775.084.

47 Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2010.