

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 465 Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame

SPONSOR(S): Harrell and others

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 520

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Community & Military Affairs Subcommittee	14 Y, 0 N	Tait	Hoagland
2) Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee			
3) Economic Affairs Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill creates the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame (Hall of Fame), which is to be administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). The bill directs the Department of Management Services (DMS) to set aside an area for the Hall of Fame inside the Capitol Building adjacent to the existing Medal of Honor Wall on the Plaza Level. DMS must consult with DVA regarding the design and theme of the area.

The Governor and the Cabinet will select the nominees to be inducted based on recommendations from DVA. Each veteran selected will have his or her name placed on a plaque in the Hall of Fame. The bill provides preferences for DVA to follow when recommending members to the Hall of Fame. Further, the bill authorizes DVA to establish selection criteria, time periods for acceptance of nominations, the process for selecting nominees, and a formal induction ceremony to coincide with the annual commemoration of Veterans' Day.

The bill states that the Hall of Fame will not require the appropriation of state funds.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2011.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

Veterans in Florida

Florida has the third largest population of veterans in the nation with more than 1.6 million.¹ Only California and Texas have larger populations of veterans. Florida has more than 189,000 veterans from World War II, the largest number in the nation. In addition, more than 192,000 Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn service members and veterans claim Florida as their home of record.

Veterans Halls of Fame in Other States

Four other states have Veterans Hall of Fame: Ohio, Arizona, Connecticut, and New York. The primary goals for this type of Hall of Fame appear to be recognizing the post-military achievements of outstanding veterans and spotlighting the contributions of veterans to their communities, states and nation.

Ohio's Veterans Hall of Fame was established in 1992.² Since its inception, more than 400 veterans have been inducted.³ A committee of veterans serves as advisors and selects approximately 20 inductees annually from nominations solicited from all citizens of Ohio throughout the year.

Arizona's Veterans Hall of Fame, created in 2001, is an extension of the Hall of Fame created by the Arizona Department of the Disabled American Veterans in 1978.⁴ Since the inception in 2001, 223 veterans have been inducted. A committee of veterans serves as advisors and selects inductees annually from nominations solicited from all veterans' organizations and citizens of Arizona throughout the year.

Connecticut's Hall of Fame was created by an Executive Order by Governor M. Jodi Rell in 2005.⁵ As of December 2010, 51 veterans had been inducted. An Executive Committee, comprised of the Commissioner of the state's Department of Veterans' Affairs, Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard, three appointees selected by the Governor, and two appointees from the legislative branch, reviews nominations and submits recommendations for induction to the Governor.⁶

New York's Hall of Fame was created in 2005.⁷ The law provided for the creation of an 18 member New York State Veterans' Hall of Fame Council, whose purpose was to establish a permanent Veterans' Hall of Fame and a traveling exhibit, as well as promulgate the rules and regulations for the

¹ Statistics in this paragraph are from the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Annual Report (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010).

² Ohio Veterans' Hall of Fame – History, available at http://dvs.ohio.gov/veterans_hall_of_fame/history.aspx (last accessed February 16, 2011).

³ Ohio Veterans' Hall of Fame – Inductees http://dvs.ohio.gov/veterans_hall_of_fame/inductees.aspx (last accessed February 16, 2011).

⁴ Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society: History, available at http://www.avhof.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=501042&module_id=20188 (last accessed February 16, 2011).

⁵ Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame – History (Updated December 2010), available at http://www.ct.gov/ctva/lib/ctva/THE_CONNECTICUT_VETERANS_HALL_OF_FAME.pdf (last accessed February 16, 2011).

⁶ Connecticut Veterans' Hall of Fame Nomination Packet (Class of 2011), available at http://www.ct.gov/ctva/lib/ctva/veterans_hall_of_fame_nomination_packet_2011.pdf (last accessed February 16, 2011).

⁷ The provisions may be found in New York's Executive Laws, Article 17 § 365. See Laws of New York – search results for "Veterans Hall of Fame", available at

<http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/LAWSSEAF.cgi?QUERYTYPE=LAWS+&QUERYDATA=+&LIST=SEA+&BROWSER=EXPLORER+&TOKEN=49253296+&TARGET=VIEW> (last accessed February 16, 2011).

operation of the Veterans' Hall of Fame, including the manner of choosing nominees for induction and inductees. The council was directed to complete its work within three years. It appears that New York is not utilizing the Hall of Fame format found in its laws; however, the New York State Senate does have a Hall of Fame program to recognize outstanding veterans.⁸

Halls of Fame in Florida

The Legislature has established Halls of Fame in Florida. Examples of Halls of Fame previously created include the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame,⁹ Florida Women's Hall of Fame,¹⁰ Florida Artists Hall of Fame,¹¹ Florida Educator Hall of Fame,¹² and Florida Sports Hall of Fame.¹³

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill creates the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame (Hall of Fame). The Hall of Fame is to be administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). The bill directs the Department of Management Services (DMS) to set aside an area inside the Capitol Building adjacent to the existing Medal of Honor Wall on the Plaza Level for the Hall of Fame. DMS must consult with DVA regarding the design and theme of the area.

DVA must annually accept nominations for persons to be considered for the Hall of Fame and transmit its recommendations to the Governor and the Cabinet, who will select the nominees to be inducted. Each veteran selected will have his or her name placed on a plaque in the Hall of Fame.

DVA is to give preference to veterans who:

- Were born in Florida or adopted Florida as their home state or base of operation; and
- Have made a significant contribution to Florida in civic, business, public service, or other pursuits.

DVA may establish selection criteria, time periods for acceptance of nominations, the process for selecting nominees, and a formal induction ceremony to coincide with the annual commemoration of Veterans' Day.

The bill states that the Hall of Fame will not require the appropriation of state funds. The Florida Veterans Foundation, DVA's Direct Support Organization, has indicated it will be responsible for the initial and ongoing operation and maintenance costs of the Hall of Fame.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Creates s. 265.003, F.S., providing for the establishment of the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame.

Section 2: Providing an effective date of July 1, 2011.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

⁸ New York State – Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame, available at <http://www.nysenate.gov/veterans-hall-of-fame> (last accessed February 16, 2011).

⁹ Section 760.065, F.S.

¹⁰ Section 265.001, F.S.

¹¹ Section 265.2865, F.S.

¹² Chapter 98-281, s. 13, Laws of Florida; s. 231.63, F.S. (1998 Supp.).

¹³ Section 15.051, F.S.

2. Expenditures:
None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:
None.
2. Expenditures:
None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The Florida Veterans Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization and DVA's Direct Support Organization, has indicated it will be responsible for initial and ongoing operation and maintenance costs of the Hall of Fame. The Department of Management Services has stated there is no fiscal impact to their agency.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not appear to: require cities or counties to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds; reduce the authority that cities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate; or reduce the percentage of a shared state tax or premium sales tax received by cities or counties.

2. Other:
None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

DVA may establish selection criteria, time periods for acceptance of nominations, the process for selecting nominees, and a formal induction ceremony to coincide with the annual commemoration of Veterans' Day.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

Although the bill does not specify who will be responsible for the costs associated with the Hall of Fame, the Florida Veterans Foundation has indicated that they will be responsible for the costs associated with the Hall of Fame.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES