

FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 465

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION:
116 Y's 0 N's

SPONSOR: Rep. Harrell

GOVERNOR'S ACTION: Approved

COMPANION BILLS: CS/CS/SB 520

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

CS/HB 465 was passed by the House on May 2, 2011, and subsequently passed the Senate on May 3, 2011. The bill was approved by the Governor on June 17, 2011, chapter 2011-168, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective July 1, 2011. The bill provides for the creation of 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 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 is administered by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs without appropriation of state funds. The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

This document does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill sponsor or House of Representatives.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF 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

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).

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 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 the Bill

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 on the northeast front wall of 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 authorized in s. 292.055, F.S., has indicated it will be responsible for the initial and ongoing operation and maintenance costs of the Hall of Fame.

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

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.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

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 authorized in s. 292.055, F.S., has indicated it will be responsible for initial and ongoing operation and maintenance costs of the Hall of Fame. The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Management Services have stated there are no fiscal impacts to their agencies.