

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to commemoration of the 40th anniversary
3 of the end of the United States' involvement in the
4 Vietnam War; amending s. 683.01, F.S.; designating March
5 25, 2013, the 40th anniversary of the end of the United
6 States' involvement in the Vietnam War, as a legal
7 holiday; creating s. 683.025, F.S.; designating a date
8 for the observance of the anniversary; providing for the
9 annual observance of "Vietnam Veterans' Day," commencing
10 on a specified date; specifying purpose of the observance;
11 creating s. 292.075, F.S.; requiring the Department of
12 Veterans' Affairs to administratively promote and support
13 the efforts of counties, municipalities, and veterans'
14 organizations that voluntarily hold special community
15 events commemorating the 40th anniversary of the end of
16 the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War and
17 subsequent observances of Vietnam Veterans' Day;
18 authorizing solicitation of private donations to fund
19 grants to counties, municipalities, and veterans'
20 organizations that voluntarily hold activities in support
21 of such commemoration; providing for rulemaking of the
22 department; providing for the creation of a special
23 volunteer advisory board to the department for the purpose
24 of reviewing and making recommendations with respect to
25 activities and expenditures of private funds raised in
26 support of such commemoration; amending ss. 320.08056 and
27 320.08058, F.S.; creating the Vietnam Veterans license
28 plate; establishing an annual use fee for the plate;

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29 providing for the distribution of use fees received from
 30 the sale of such plates; providing an effective date.
 31

32 WHEREAS, March 29, 2013, marks the 40th anniversary of the
 33 end of United States' involvement in the Vietnam War, and

34 WHEREAS, because March 29, 2013, falls on Good Friday, an
 35 existing legal holiday, March 25, 2013, has been designated as
 36 the date on which the 40th anniversary of the end of the United
 37 States' involvement in the Vietnam War is to be commemorated in
 38 the State of Florida, and

39 WHEREAS, it is the intent of this act to provide
 40 legislative direction and support for recognition of the
 41 importance of this event and to ensure the appropriate
 42 commemoration of this anniversary and proper demonstration of
 43 appreciation for the honorable service and tremendous sacrifice
 44 of veterans who served in the United States Armed Services
 45 during the Vietnam Era, NOW, THEREFORE,
 46

47 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 48

49 Section 1. Paragraph (v) is added to subsection (1) of
 50 section 683.01, Florida Statutes, to read:

51 683.01 Legal holidays.—

52 (1) The legal holidays, which are also public holidays,
 53 are the following:

54 (v) The 40th anniversary of the end of United States'
 55 involvement in the Vietnam War, March 25, 2013.

56 Section 2. Section 683.025, Florida Statutes, is created
 57 to read:

58 683.025 Vietnam Veterans' Day; 40th anniversary of end of
 59 United States' involvement in Vietnam War.-

60 (1) In recognition of the historical significance of the
 61 40th anniversary of the end of United States' involvement in the
 62 Vietnam War, March 25, 2013, shall be observed as the 40th
 63 anniversary of the end of United States' involvement in the
 64 Vietnam War. The day shall be suitably observed for the purpose
 65 of providing opportunities throughout the state to demonstrate
 66 and express appreciation for the honorable service and sacrifice
 67 of veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during
 68 the Vietnam Era and shall otherwise be suitably observed by such
 69 public exercises in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the
 70 Governor may designate and as provided by rules of the
 71 Department of Veterans' Affairs adopted under s. 292.075.

72 (2) Commencing on March 29, 2014, the Governor shall
 73 proclaim March 29 of each year to be "Vietnam Veterans' Day,"
 74 which day shall be suitably observed throughout the state as a
 75 day honoring the veterans who served in the United States Armed
 76 Services during the Vietnam Era, and which day shall otherwise
 77 be suitably observed by such public exercises in the State
 78 Capitol and elsewhere as the Governor may designate and as
 79 provided by rules of the Department of Veterans' Affairs adopted
 80 under s. 292.075. If in any calendar year March 29 falls on a
 81 day which is not a school day, "Vietnam Veterans' Day" shall be
 82 observed in the schools on the school day next preceding or on
 83 such preceding day as may be designated by local school

84 authorities.

85 (3) The purpose of Vietnam Veterans' Day is to provide a
 86 proper demonstration of appreciation for the honorable service
 87 and sacrifice of veterans who served in the United States Armed
 88 Forces during the Vietnam Era.

89 Section 3. Section 292.075, Florida Statutes, is created
 90 to read:

91 292.075 Vietnam Veterans' Day; commemoration of 40th
 92 anniversary of the end of United States' involvement in the
 93 Vietnam War.—

94 (1) The department shall administratively promote and
 95 support the efforts of counties, municipalities, and bona fide
 96 veterans' organizations that voluntarily hold special community
 97 events commemorating:

98 (a) The 40th anniversary of the end of the United States'
 99 involvement in the Vietnam War on March 25, 2013, as provided in
 100 s. 683.025(1).

101 (b) Vietnam Veterans' Day, commencing on March 29, 2014,
 102 and observed on March 29 annually thereafter, as provided in s.
 103 683.025(2).

104
 105 Such events shall include, but not be limited to, parades or
 106 ceremonies held on those dates.

107 (2) The department shall adopt rules for the:

108 (a) Solicitation of private donations to fund grants to
 109 counties, municipalities, and bona fide veterans' organizations
 110 that voluntarily hold commemorative activities contemplated by
 111 this section and s. 683.025 for the purpose of reviewing and

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112 making recommendations with respect to such activities and major
 113 expenditures of private funds raised in support thereof.

114 (b) Creation of a special volunteer advisory board,
 115 consisting of Vietnam veterans who are residents of the state,
 116 for the purpose of reviewing and making recommendations with
 117 respect to the activities contemplated by this section and s.
 118 683.025 and major expenditures of private funds raised in
 119 support thereof.

120 Section 4. Paragraph (aaaa) is added to subsection (4) of
 121 section 320.08056, Florida Statutes, to read:

122 320.08056 Specialty license plates.—

123 (4) The following license plate annual use fees shall be
 124 collected for the appropriate specialty license plates:

125 (aaaa) Vietnam Veterans license plate, \$25.

126 Section 5. Subsection (79) is added to section 320.08058,
 127 Florida Statutes, to read:

128 320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

129 (79) VIETNAM VETERANS LICENSE PLATE.—

130 (a) The department shall develop a Vietnam Veterans
 131 license plate as provided in this section. Vietnam Veterans
 132 license plates must bear the colors and design approved by the
 133 department. The word "Florida" must appear at the top of the
 134 plate, and the words "Vietnam Veterans" must appear at the
 135 bottom of the plate.

136 (b) The license plate annual use fees must be deposited in
 137 the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund of the Department of
 138 Veterans' Affairs. All such moneys are to be administered by the
 139 direct-support organization of the Department of Veterans'

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140 Affairs created under s. 292.055, the Florida Veterans'
 141 Foundation, and must be used solely for the purposes of:
 142 1. Funding grants to counties, municipalities, and bona
 143 fide veterans' organizations for activities related to the
 144 initial observance of "Vietnam Veterans' Day," on March 25,
 145 2013, the 40th anniversary of the end of United States'
 146 involvement in the Vietnam War;
 147 2. Expenditures related to the annual observance of
 148 Vietnam Veterans' Day in years subsequent to 2013; and
 149 3. The continuing promotion and marketing of the license
 150 plate, subject to the requirements of chapter 216.
 151 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.