

By Senator Hays

20-01076-11

2011850__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to state forests; amending s. 589.19,
3 F.S.; providing for Wounded Warrior special hunt areas
4 for certain disabled veterans; providing for funding;
5 providing eligibility requirements; providing an
6 effective date.

7

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

9

10 Section 1. Section 589.19, Florida Statutes, is amended to
11 read:

12 589.19 Creation of certain state forests; naming of certain
13 state forests; Wounded Warrior special hunt areas.—

14 (1) When the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement
15 Trust Fund, any state agency, or any agency created by state
16 law, authorized to accept reforestation lands in the name of the
17 state, approves the recommendations of the Division of Forestry
18 in reference to the acquisition of land and acquire such land,
19 the said board, state agency, or agency created by state law,
20 may formally designate and dedicate any area as a reforestation
21 project, or state forest, and where so designated and dedicated
22 such area shall be under the administration of the division
23 which shall be authorized to manage and administer said area
24 according to the purpose for which it was designated and
25 dedicated.

26 (2) The first state forest acquired by the Board of
27 Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund in Baker County
28 is to be named the John M. Bethea State Forest. This is to honor
29 Mr. John M. Bethea who was Florida's fourth state forester and

20-01076-11

2011850__

30 whose distinguished career in state government spanned 46 years
31 and who is a native of Baker County.

32 (3) The state forest managed by the Division of Forestry in
33 Seminole County is to be named the Charles H. Bronson State
34 Forest to honor Charles H. Bronson, the tenth Commissioner of
35 Agriculture, for his distinguished contribution to this state's
36 agriculture and natural resources.

37 (4) (a) The Division of Forestry shall designate "Wounded
38 Warrior special hunt areas" on state forest lands to provide
39 hunt areas for disabled veterans. Funding required for
40 specialized accommodations shall be provided through the Friends
41 of Florida State Forests Program created in s. 589.012. The use
42 of such areas shall be limited to a veteran who is eligible
43 pursuant to paragraph (b) and other persons required to assist
44 the veteran because of his or her disability.

45 (b) A person is eligible to hunt in a Wounded Warrior
46 special hunt area if he or she is a veteran, as defined in s.
47 1.01, or has eligible peacetime service, as defined in s.
48 296.02, and:

49 1. Has a service-connected disability as determined by the
50 United States Department of Veterans Affairs; or

51 2. Has been discharged or released from military service
52 because of a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of
53 duty.

54 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.