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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/03/2013	.	
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The Committee on Judiciary (Latvala) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 24 - 53  
and insert:

(b) "Veterans' organization" means a business entity whose net earnings do not inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual and that exists substantially for one or more of the following purposes:

1. Promoting the social welfare of the community.
2. Assisting disabled and needy war veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents, and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans.



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14           3. Providing entertainment, care and assistance to  
15 hospitalized veterans or members of the United States Armed  
16 Forces.

17           4. Carrying on programs to perpetuate the memory of  
18 deceased veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces,  
19 and to comfort their survivors.

20           5. Conducting programs for religious, charitable,  
21 scientific, literary, or educational purposes.

22           6. Providing insurance benefits for their members or  
23 dependents of their members or both.

24           7. Providing social and recreational activities for their  
25 members.

26           8. The earnings of the organization are devoted to  
27 charitable, religious, scientific, literary, educational, or  
28 fraternal purposes.

29           (2) A business entity may not advertise or hold itself out  
30 to the public as a veterans' organization or similar entity  
31 unless the entity is a veterans' organization.

32           (3) A business entity that violates subsection (2) violates  
33 the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act under part  
34 II of chapter 501 Florida Statutes.

35           (4) Consistent with part II of chapter 501, Florida  
36 Statutes, a veterans' organization whose membership is limited  
37 to past or present members of the United States Armed Forces,  
38 individuals who are cadets or are spouses, widows, widowers,  
39 ancestors or lineal descendants of past or present members of  
40 the United States Armed Forces or of cadets may bring an action  
41 to obtain a declaratory judgment that a business entity is  
42 violating this section and to enjoin the entity who has



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43 violated, is violating, or is otherwise likely to violate this  
44 section.

45 (5) A business entity that knowingly and intentionally  
46 represents itself as a veterans' organization or similar  
47 organization but that does not comply with subsection (2)  
48 commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as  
49 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, Florida Statutes.

50  
51 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

52 And the title is amended as follows:

53 Delete lines 2 - 12

54 and insert:

55 An act relating to veterans' organizations;  
56 prohibiting a business entity from advertising or  
57 holding itself out to the public as a veterans'  
58 organization or similar entity under certain  
59 circumstances; providing that an entity that violates  
60 the restrictions on advertizing violates the Florida  
61 Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act; authorizing  
62 certain veterans' organizations to enforce the  
63 prohibition against false advertising; providing for  
64 criminal penalties; amending s. 817.312, F.S.;

65 prohibiting