

**FOR CONSIDERATION** By the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to military and veterans affairs;  
3           amending s. 250.10, F.S.; revising requirements for  
4           the Educational Dollars for Duty program developed by  
5           the Adjutant General; requiring an Educational Dollars  
6           for Duty program applicant to authorize the release of  
7           certain information to the Department of Military  
8           Affairs; prohibiting the program from paying repeat  
9           course fees; authorizing certain online courses to be  
10          offered through the program; requiring participating  
11          institutions to provide specified information to the  
12          Department of Military Affairs; authorizing the  
13          department to reimburse certain costs and fees;  
14          requiring the Adjutant General to adopt rules relating  
15          to specified components of the program; amending s.  
16          250.35, F.S.; updating references with respect to  
17          courts-martial; creating s. 265.0031, F.S.; providing  
18          legislative intent; establishing the Florida Veterans'  
19          Walk of Honor and the Florida Veterans' Memorial  
20          Garden; providing administration and funding, without  
21          appropriation of state funds, by the Department of  
22          Veterans' Affairs; requiring the Department of  
23          Management Services to set aside an area for the  
24          construction of the Walk of Honor and the Memorial  
25          Garden; requiring specified donations to be deposited  
26          in the account of the direct-support organization  
27          within the Department of Veterans' Affairs;  
28          authorizing the organization to use the donations for  
29          specified purposes; amending s. 288.0001, F.S.;

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

30 requiring the Office of the Economic and Demographic  
31 Research and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
32 Government Accountability to provide an analysis of  
33 the Veterans Employment and Training Services Program  
34 by specified dates; amending s. 295.065, F.S.;

35 revising legislative intent relating to the hiring  
36 practices of veterans; amending s. 295.07, F.S.;

37 revising eligibility for preference in appointment and  
38 retention by public employers; amending s. 295.08,  
39 F.S.; revising point values added to earned ratings of  
40 a person eligible to receive preference in appointment  
41 to and retention in certain positions by public  
42 employers; amending s. 295.085, F.S.; revising  
43 preference in appointment, employment, and retention  
44 in positions for which numerically based selection  
45 processes are not used; conforming cross-references  
46 and provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.  
47 295.20, F.S.; creating Florida Is for Veterans, Inc.,  
48 as a nonprofit corporation within the Department of  
49 Veterans' Affairs; specifying the purpose and duties  
50 of the corporation; providing for the governance of  
51 the corporation by a board of directors; specifying  
52 the membership and composition of the board; providing  
53 for the appointment of board members and designating  
54 terms; providing that members of the board are subject  
55 to the Code of Ethics of Public Officers and  
56 Employees; providing a penalty for certain violations  
57 by board members; authorizing reimbursement for per  
58 diem and travel expenses of board members; providing

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

59 that an appointed member of the board may be removed  
60 for cause; authorizing the board to exercise certain  
61 powers; providing that the corporation is subject to  
62 the state's public records and meetings laws;  
63 providing for administrative and staff support for the  
64 nonprofit corporation; authorizing each state agency  
65 to provide necessary assistance to the nonprofit  
66 corporation; authorizing the Department of Veterans'  
67 Affairs to allow the nonprofit corporation's use of  
68 property, facilities, and personal services; providing  
69 exceptions; requiring the nonprofit corporation to  
70 submit an annual report to the Governor and the  
71 Legislature; prescribing report requirements;  
72 requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
73 Government Accountability to conduct a performance  
74 audit by a specified date; prescribing audit  
75 requirements; requiring that the audit findings be  
76 submitted to the Legislature; creating s. 295.21,  
77 F.S.; providing legislative findings and intent;  
78 creating the Veterans Employment and Training Services  
79 Program within the Department of Veterans' Affairs;  
80 providing for administration of the program by Florida  
81 is For Veterans, Inc.; specifying duties of the  
82 program; requiring Enterprise Florida, Inc., to  
83 provide information regarding Florida Is for Veterans,  
84 Inc., to prospective businesses; requiring Enterprise  
85 Florida, Inc., to collaborate with Florida Is for  
86 Veterans, Inc., regarding employment needs; requiring  
87 Florida Is for Veterans, Inc., to submit a report to

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

88 the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date;  
89 prescribing report requirements; amending s. 296.06,  
90 F.S.; revising residency requirements for eligibility  
91 for admittance to the Veterans' Domiciliary Home of  
92 Florida; amending s. 296.36, F.S.; revising residency  
93 requirements for eligibility for admittance to the  
94 Veterans' Nursing Home of Florida; amending s.  
95 455.213, F.S.; authorizing the person who is the  
96 spouse of a military veteran at the time of the  
97 veteran's discharge to apply to the Department of  
98 Business and Professional Regulation for certain  
99 licenses without paying initial fees; increasing the  
100 time period during which a military veteran or his or  
101 her spouse at the time of discharge may qualify for a  
102 fee waiver; amending ss. 456.013 and 468.304, F.S.;  
103 authorizing the Department of Health to waive certain  
104 fees for the person who is the spouse of a military  
105 veteran at the time of the veteran's discharge;  
106 increasing the time period during which a military  
107 veteran or his or her spouse at the time of discharge  
108 may qualify for a fee waiver; amending s. 499.012,  
109 F.S.; revising permit application requirements under  
110 the Florida Drug and Cosmetic Act for natural persons  
111 with certain managerial experience in the United  
112 States Armed Forces; reenacting s. 1002.36(4)(f),  
113 F.S., relating to the board of trustees of the Florida  
114 School for the Deaf and the Blind, to incorporate the  
115 amendments made to s. 295.07, F.S., in a reference  
116 thereto; providing an effective date.

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

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

119

120 Section 1. Subsections (7) and (8) of section 250.10,  
121 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

122 250.10 Appointment and duties of the Adjutant General.—

123 (7) The Adjutant General shall develop an education  
124 assistance program for members in good standing of the Florida  
125 National Guard who enroll in an authorized course of study at a  
126 public or nonpublic postsecondary institution or technical  
127 center in this state ~~of higher learning in the state~~ which has  
128 been accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the United  
129 States Department of Education or licensed by the Commission for  
130 Independent Education. Education assistance also may be used for  
131 training to obtain industry certifications approved by the  
132 Department of Education pursuant to s. 1008.44 and continuing  
133 education to maintain license certifications. The education  
134 assistance ~~This~~ program shall be known as the Educational  
135 Dollars for Duty program (EDD).

136 (a) The program shall establish ~~set forth~~ application  
137 requirements, including, but not limited to, requirements that  
138 the applicant:

139 1. Be 17 years of age or older.

140 2. Be presently domiciled in the state.

141 3. Be an active drilling member and in good standing in the  
142 Florida National Guard at the beginning of and throughout the  
143 entire academic term for which benefits are received.

144 4. Maintain continuous satisfactory participation in the  
145 Florida National Guard for any school term for which exemption

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

146 benefits are received.

147 5. Upon enrollment in the program, complete a memorandum of  
148 agreement to comply with the rules of the program and serve in  
149 the Florida National Guard for the period specified in the  
150 member's enlistment or reenlistment contract.

151 6. Authorize the release of information as provided in  
152 subparagraph (d)7. by the postsecondary institution or technical  
153 center to the Education Service Office within the Department of  
154 Military Affairs, subject to applicable federal and state law.

155 (b) The program shall define those members of the Florida  
156 National Guard who are ineligible to participate in the program  
157 and those courses of study which are not authorized for the  
158 program.

159 1. Ineligible members include, but are not limited to, any  
160 member, commissioned officer, warrant officer, or enlisted  
161 person who has obtained a master's degree using the program.

162 2. Inactive members of the Florida National Guard and  
163 members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) are not eligible  
164 to participate in the program.

165 3. Courses not authorized include noncredit courses,  
166 courses that do not meet degree requirements, courses that do  
167 not meet requirements for completion of career training, or  
168 other courses as determined by program definitions.

169 ~~4.3. The program may not pay repeat course fees~~  
170 ~~developmental education courses are authorized for the program.~~

171 (c) The program may include, but is not limited to:

172 1. Courses at a public or nonpublic secondary institution  
173 or technical center in the state which has been accredited by an  
174 accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

175 Education or licensed by the Commission for Independent  
176 Education.

177 2. Training to obtain industry certifications, limited to  
178 certifications approved by the Department of Education under s.  
179 1008.44.

180 3. Continuing education to maintain a license or  
181 certification.

182 4. Licensing and industry certification examination fees.

183 5. Online courses approved by the Adjutant General for the  
184 program, pursuant to rules adopted pursuant to paragraph (d).  
185 Courses offered as part of a preeminent state research  
186 university institute for online learning, as designated in s.  
187 1001.7065, are expressly authorized for the program.

188 6. Participation in the Complete Florida Degree Program  
189 under s. 1006.735.

190 7. Developmental educational courses, notwithstanding  
191 subparagraph (b)3.

192 (d)~~(e)~~ The Adjutant General shall adopt rules for the  
193 overall policy, guidance, administration, implementation, and  
194 proper use of the program. Such rules must include, but need not  
195 be limited to:

196 1. Guidelines for certification by the Adjutant General of  
197 a guard member's eligibility and procedures for notification to  
198 a postsecondary ~~an~~ institution or technical center of a guard  
199 member's termination of eligibility.

200 2. Guidelines for approving courses of study that are  
201 authorized for the program, including online courses, industry  
202 certification training, and continuing education to maintain  
203 license certifications.

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

204 3. Guidelines for approving the use of program funds for  
205 licensing and industry certification examination fees.

206 4. Guidelines for recommending certain members participate  
207 in the Complete Florida Degree Program established pursuant to  
208 s. 1006.735.

209 5. Procedures to facilitate the award of academic college  
210 credit at public postsecondary educational institutions for  
211 college-level training and education acquired in the military  
212 pursuant to s. 1004.096., and

213 6. Procedures for restitution when a guard member fails to  
214 comply with the penalties described in this section.

215 7. Procedures that require an institution that receives  
216 funding from the program provide information regarding course  
217 enrollment, course withdrawal, course cancellation, course  
218 completion, course failure, and grade verification of enrolled  
219 members to the Education Service Office within the Department of  
220 Military Affairs.

221 8. Guidelines for the payment of tuition and fees not to  
222 exceed the highest in-state tuition rate charged by a public  
223 postsecondary institution in this state.

224 (8) Subject to appropriations, the Department of Military  
225 Affairs may pay the full cost of tuition and fees for required  
226 courses for current members of the Florida National Guard.  
227 Members are eligible to use the program upon enlistment in the  
228 Florida National Guard. If a member is enrolled in a nonpublic  
229 postsecondary education institution or a nonpublic vocational-  
230 technical program, ~~the Department of Military Affairs shall pay~~  
231 ~~an amount equal to the amount that would be required to pay for~~  
232 ~~the average~~ program fees may not exceed the rate of the highest



583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

233 in-state tuition and fees at a public postsecondary education  
234 institution or public vocational-technical program.

235 (a) The Department of Military Affairs may reimburse a  
236 member for student book costs and fees indexed to tuition in  
237 accordance with limits set each fiscal year. Reimbursement shall  
238 be based on funding availability and is subject to the Adjutant  
239 General's discretion, including, but not limited to, authority  
240 to reimburse book costs regardless of the source of tuition  
241 funding ~~A member may participate in the program if he or she~~  
242 ~~maintains satisfactory participation in, and is an active~~  
243 ~~drilling member of, the Florida National Guard. Inactive members~~  
244 ~~of the Florida National Guard and members of the Individual~~  
245 ~~Ready Reserve (IRR) are not eligible to participate in the~~  
246 ~~program.~~

247 (b) Penalties for noncompliance with program requirements  
248 include, but are not limited to, the following:

249 1. If a member of the Florida National Guard receives  
250 payment of tuition and fees for an ~~any~~ academic term and fails  
251 to maintain satisfactory participation in the Florida National  
252 Guard during that academic term, the member shall reimburse the  
253 Department of Military Affairs all tuition charges and student  
254 fees for the academic term for which the member received  
255 payment.

256 2. If a member of the Florida National Guard leaves the  
257 Florida National Guard during the period specified in the  
258 member's enlistment or reenlistment contract, the member shall  
259 reimburse the Department of Military Affairs all tuition charges  
260 and student fees for which the member received payments,  
261 regardless of whether the obligation to reimburse the department

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

262 was incurred before, on, or after July 1, 2009, unless the  
263 Adjutant General finds that there are justifiable extenuating  
264 circumstances.

265 3. If the service of a member of the Florida National Guard  
266 is terminated or the member is placed on scholastic probation  
267 while receiving payments, the member shall reimburse the  
268 Department of Military Affairs all tuition charges and student  
269 fees for the academic term for which the member received  
270 payment.

271 4. If a member defaults on any reimbursement made under  
272 this paragraph, the department may charge the member the maximum  
273 interest rate authorized by law.

274 Section 2. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 250.35,  
275 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

276 250.35 Courts-martial.—

277 (1) The Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), 10 U.S.C.  
278 ss. 801 et seq., and the Manual for Courts-Martial (2012 ~~2008~~  
279 Edition) are adopted for use by the Florida National Guard,  
280 except as otherwise provided by this chapter.

281 (2) Courts-martial may try any member of the Florida  
282 National Guard for any crime or offense made punishable by the  
283 Uniform Code of Military Justice (2012 ~~2008~~ Edition), except  
284 that a commissioned officer, warrant officer, or cadet may not  
285 be tried by summary courts-martial.

286 Section 3. Section 265.0031, Florida Statutes, is created  
287 to read:

288 265.0031 Florida Veterans' Walk of Honor and Memorial  
289 Garden.—

290 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to recognize and

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

291 honor those military veterans who, through their works and lives  
292 during or after service, have made a significant contribution to  
293 this state.

294 (2) There is established the Florida Veterans' Walk of  
295 Honor.

296 (a) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall administer  
297 the Florida Veterans' Walk of Honor and fund it through the  
298 department's direct-support organization, established under s.  
299 292.055, without appropriation of state funds.

300 (b) The Department of Management Services shall set aside  
301 an area of the courtyard in front of the Capitol Building  
302 necessary for the construction of the Florida Veterans' Walk of  
303 Honor and shall consult with the Department of Veterans' Affairs  
304 and the department's direct-support organization regarding the  
305 design and theme of the area.

306 (c) Donations made toward the Florida Veterans' Walk of  
307 Honor shall be deposited in a bank account established by the  
308 department's direct-support organization.

309 (3) There is established the Florida Veterans' Memorial  
310 Garden.

311 (a) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall administer  
312 the Florida Veterans' Memorial Garden and fund it through the  
313 department's direct-support organization, established under s.  
314 292.055, without appropriation of state funds.

315 (b) The Department of Management Services shall set aside  
316 an area of the grounds of the Capitol Complex, as defined in s.  
317 281.01, for the construction of the Florida Veterans' Memorial  
318 Garden and shall consult with the Department of Veterans'  
319 Affairs and the department's direct-support organization

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

320 regarding the design and theme of the area.

321 (c) The department's direct-support organization may use  
322 donations made toward the Florida Veterans' Walk of Honor to  
323 construct the Florida Veterans' Memorial Garden.

324 Section 4. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (2) of  
325 section 288.0001, Florida Statutes, to read:

326 288.0001 Economic Development Programs Evaluation.—The  
327 Office of Economic and Demographic Research and the Office of  
328 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA)  
329 shall develop and present to the Governor, the President of the  
330 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the  
331 chairs of the legislative appropriations committees the Economic  
332 Development Programs Evaluation.

333 (2) The Office of Economic and Demographic Research and  
334 OPPAGA shall provide a detailed analysis of economic development  
335 programs as provided in the following schedule:

336 (d) By January 1, 2019, and every 3 years thereafter, an  
337 analysis of the grant and entrepreneur initiative programs  
338 established under s. 295.21(3)(d) and (e).

339 Section 5. Section 295.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
340 read:

341 295.065 Legislative intent.—It is the intent of the  
342 Legislature to provide preference and priority in the hiring  
343 practices of this state as set forth in this chapter. ~~In~~ All  
344 written job announcements and audio and video advertisements  
345 used by employing agencies of the state and its political  
346 subdivisions must include a notice stating, ~~there shall be a~~  
347 ~~notation~~ that certain servicemembers, veterans, and spouses and  
348 family members of veterans receive preference and priority in

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

349 employment by the state and are encouraged to apply for the  
350 positions being filled.

351 Section 6. Section 295.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
352 read:

353 295.07 Preference in appointment and retention.—

354 (1) The state and its political subdivisions ~~in the state~~  
355 shall give preference in appointment and retention in positions  
356 of employment to:

357 (a) Those disabled veterans:

358 1. Who have served on active duty in any branch of the  
359 Armed Forces of the United States, have received an honorable  
360 discharge ~~been separated therefrom under honorable conditions,~~  
361 and have established the present existence of a service-  
362 connected disability that ~~which~~ is compensable under public laws  
363 administered by the United States ~~U.S.~~ Department of Veterans  
364 ~~Veterans'~~ Affairs; or

365 2. Who are receiving compensation, disability retirement  
366 benefits, or pension by reason of public laws administered by  
367 the United States ~~U.S.~~ Department of Veterans ~~Veterans'~~ Affairs  
368 and the Department of Defense.

369 (b) The spouse of a ~~any~~ person who has a total disability,  
370 permanent in nature, resulting from a service-connected  
371 disability and who, because of this disability, cannot qualify  
372 for employment, and the spouse of a ~~any~~ person missing in  
373 action, captured in line of duty by a hostile force, or forcibly  
374 detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or  
375 power.

376 (c) A wartime veteran ~~of any war~~ as defined in s. 1.01(14).  
377 The veteran must have served at least 1 day during a wartime

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

378 period to be eligible for veterans' preference. Active duty for  
379 training may ~~shall~~ not be allowed for eligibility under this  
380 paragraph.

381 (d) The unremarried widow or widower of a veteran who died  
382 of a service-connected disability.

383 (e) The mother, father, legal guardian, or unremarried  
384 widow or widower of a member of the United States Armed Forces  
385 who died in the line of duty under combat-related conditions, as  
386 verified by the United States Department of Defense.

387 (f) A veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14). Active duty for  
388 training may not be allowed for eligibility under this  
389 paragraph.

390 (g) A current member of any reserve component of the United  
391 States Armed Forces or the Florida National Guard.

392 (2) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall adopt rules  
393 to ensure that veterans are given special consideration in the  
394 employing agency's selection and retention processes. The rules  
395 must include the award of point values as articulated in s.  
396 295.08, if applicable, or, where point values are not relevant,  
397 must include procedures to ensure that veterans are given  
398 special consideration at each step of the employment selection  
399 process, unless the sponsoring governmental entity is a party to  
400 a collective bargaining agreement, in which case the collective  
401 bargaining agreement must comply within 90 days following  
402 ratification of a successor collective bargaining agreement or  
403 extension of any existing collective bargaining agreement.

404 (3) Preference in employment and retention may be given  
405 only to eligible persons who are described in subsection (1) ~~and~~  
406 ~~who are residents of this state.~~

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

407 (4) The following positions are exempt from this section:

408 (a) Those positions that are exempt from the state Career  
409 Service System under s. 110.205(2); however, all positions under  
410 the University Support Personnel System of the State University  
411 System as well as all Career Service System positions under the  
412 Florida College System and the School for the Deaf and the  
413 Blind, or the equivalent of such positions at state  
414 universities, Florida College System institutions, or the School  
415 for the Deaf and the Blind, are included.

416 (b) Positions in political subdivisions of the state which  
417 are filled by officers elected by popular vote or persons  
418 appointed to fill vacancies in such offices and the personal  
419 secretary of each such officer, members of boards and  
420 commissions, persons employed on a temporary basis without  
421 benefits, heads of departments, positions that require licensure  
422 as a physician, licensure as an osteopathic physician, licensure  
423 as a chiropractic physician, and positions that require that the  
424 employee be a member of The Florida Bar.

425 Section 7. Section 295.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
426 read:

427 295.08 Positions for which a numerically based selection  
428 process is used.—For positions for which an examination is used  
429 to determine the qualifications for entrance into employment  
430 with the state or political subdivisions in the state, 15 points  
431 shall be added to the earned ratings of a person included under  
432 s. 295.07(1)(a) and (b), 10 points shall be added to the earned  
433 ratings of a ~~any~~ person included under s. 295.07(1)(c), (d), or  
434 (e) ~~s. 295.07(1)(a) or (b)~~, and 5 points shall be added to the  
435 earned ratings ~~rating~~ of a any person included under s.

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

436 295.07(1)(f) or (g) ~~s. 295.07(1)(c) and (d)~~, if the person has  
437 obtained a qualifying score on the examination for the position.  
438 The names of persons eligible for preference shall be entered on  
439 an appropriate register or list in accordance with their  
440 respective augmented ratings. However, except for classes of  
441 positions with Federal Government designations of professional  
442 or technician, the names of all persons qualified to receive a  
443 15-point ~~10-point~~ preference whose service-connected  
444 disabilities have been rated by the United States Department of  
445 Veterans Affairs or its predecessor or the Department of Defense  
446 to be 30 percent or more shall be placed at the top of the  
447 appropriate register or employment list, in accordance with  
448 their respective augmented ratings. The respective augmented  
449 rating is the examination score or evaluated score in addition  
450 to the applicable veteran's preference points.

451 Section 8. Section 295.085, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
452 read:

453 295.085 Positions for which a numerically based selection  
454 process is not used.—In all positions in which the appointment  
455 or employment of persons is not subject to a written  
456 examination, with the exception of positions that are exempt  
457 under s. 295.07(4), first preference in appointment, employment,  
458 and retention shall be given by the state and political  
459 subdivisions in the state to persons included under s.  
460 295.07(1)(a) and (b), and second preference shall be given to  
461 persons included under s. 295.07(1)(c)-(g), ~~s. 295.07(1)(c) and~~  
462 ~~(d)~~ who possess the minimum qualifications necessary to  
463 discharge the duties of the position involved.

464 Section 9. Section 295.20, Florida Statutes, is created to



583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

465 read:

466 295.20 Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.-

467 (1) CREATION.-There is created within the Department of  
468 Veterans' Affairs a nonprofit corporation, to be known as  
469 Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., which shall be registered,  
470 incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance with chapter  
471 617, and which is not a unit or entity of state government. As  
472 used in this section and s. 295.21, unless the context indicates  
473 otherwise, the term "corporation" means Florida Is For Veterans,  
474 Inc. The corporation is a separate budget entity and is not  
475 subject to the control, supervision, or direction of the  
476 department in areas, including, but not limited to, personnel,  
477 purchasing, transactions involving real or personal property, or  
478 budgetary matters.

479 (2) PURPOSE.-The purpose of the corporation is to promote  
480 Florida as a veteran-friendly state that seeks to equip veterans  
481 for employment opportunities and that promotes the hiring of  
482 veterans by the business community. The corporation should  
483 encourage retired and recently separated military personnel to  
484 keep or make Florida their permanent residence. The corporation  
485 shall promote the value of military skill sets to Florida  
486 businesses, assist in tailoring the training of veterans to  
487 match the needs of the employment marketplace, and enhance the  
488 entrepreneurial skills of veterans.

489 (3) DUTIES.-The corporation shall:

490 (a) Contract with one or more entities in accordance with  
491 competitive bidding requirements in s. 287.057. Such entity must  
492 have experience conducting market research on the veteran  
493 demographic and the tools to reach a target market on a

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

494 nationwide basis. The corporation shall contract with such  
495 entity specifically to:

496 1. Conduct research to identify the target market and the  
497 educational and employment needs of those in the target market.

498 2. Develop and conduct a marketing campaign to encourage  
499 retired and recently separated military personnel to remain in  
500 Florida or to make Florida their permanent residence.

501 3. Develop a process for the dissemination of information  
502 to the target market and targeting that information to the  
503 interests and needs of veterans of all ages, and which  
504 facilitates veterans' knowledge of and access to benefits.

505 (b) Promote and enhance the value of military skill sets to  
506 businesses.

507 (c) Implement the Veterans Employment and Training Services  
508 Program established by s. 295.21.

509 (d) Responsibly and prudently manage all funds received,  
510 and ensure that the use of such funds is in accordance with all  
511 applicable laws, bylaws, or contractual requirements.

512 (e) Administer the programs created in this section and s.  
513 295.21.

514 (4) GOVERNANCE.—

515 (a) The corporation shall be governed by a 9-member board  
516 of directors. The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
517 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint three  
518 members to the board. In making appointments, the Governor, the  
519 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
520 Representatives must consider representation by active or  
521 retired military personnel and their spouses representing a  
522 range of ages and persons with expertise in business, education,

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

523 marketing, and information management.

524 (b) The board of directors shall annually elect a  
525 chairperson from among the board's members.

526 (c) Each member of the board of directors shall be  
527 appointed for a term of 4 years, except that, to achieve  
528 staggered terms, the initial appointees of the Governor shall be  
529 appointed to terms of 2 years. A member is ineligible for  
530 reappointment to the board except that any member appointed to a  
531 term of 2 years or less may be reappointed for an additional  
532 term of 4 years. The initial appointments to the board must be  
533 made by November 15, 2014. Vacancies on the board of directors  
534 shall be filled by the officer who originally appointed the  
535 member. A vacancy that occurs before the scheduled expiration of  
536 the term of the member shall be filled for the remainder of the  
537 unexpired term.

538 (d) The Legislature finds that it is in the public interest  
539 for the members of the board of directors to be subject to the  
540 requirements of ss. 112.313, 112.3135, and 112.3143,  
541 notwithstanding the fact that they are not public officers or  
542 employees. For purposes of those sections, board members shall  
543 be considered to be public officers or employees. In addition to  
544 the postemployment restrictions of s. 112.313(9), a person  
545 appointed to the board of directors may not have direct interest  
546 in a contract, franchise, privilege, project, program, or other  
547 benefit arising from an award by the corporation during the  
548 appointment term and for 2 years after the termination of such  
549 appointment. It is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable  
550 as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, for a person to accept  
551 appointment to the board of directors in violation of this

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

552 subsection or to accept a direct interest in any contract,  
553 franchise, privilege, project, program, or other benefit granted  
554 by the corporation to an awardee within 2 years after the  
555 termination of his or her service on the board. Further, each  
556 member of the board of directors who is not otherwise required  
557 to file financial disclosure under s. 8, Art. II of the State  
558 Constitution or s. 112.3144 shall file a statement of financial  
559 interests under s. 112.3145.

560 (e) Each member of the board of directors shall serve  
561 without compensation, but shall receive reimbursement for travel  
562 and per diem expenses as provided in s. 112.061 while performing  
563 his or her duties.

564 (f) Each member of the board of directors is accountable  
565 for the proper performance of the duties of office and owes a  
566 fiduciary duty to the people of this state to ensure that awards  
567 provided are disbursed and used as prescribed by law and  
568 contract. An appointed member of the board of directors may be  
569 removed by the officer who appointed the member for malfeasance,  
570 misfeasance, neglect of duty, incompetence, permanent inability  
571 to perform official duties, unexcused absence from three  
572 consecutive board meetings, arrest, or indictment for a crime  
573 that is a felony or a misdemeanor involving theft or a crime of  
574 dishonesty, or pleading nolo contendere to or being found guilty  
575 of any crime.

576 (g) A majority of the members of the board of directors  
577 constitutes a quorum. Council meetings may be held via  
578 teleconference or other electronic means.

579 (5) POWERS.—In addition to the powers and duties prescribed  
580 in chapter 617 and the articles and bylaws adopted thereunder,

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

581 the board of directors may:

582 (a) Make and enter into contracts and other instruments  
583 necessary or convenient for the exercise of its powers and  
584 functions. However, notwithstanding s. 617.0302, the corporation  
585 may not issue bonds.

586 (b) Make expenditures, including any necessary  
587 administrative expenditure.

588 (c) Adopt, amend, and repeal bylaws, consistent with the  
589 powers granted to it under this section or the articles of  
590 incorporation, for the administration of the activities of the  
591 corporation, and the exercise of its corporate powers.

592 (d) Accept funding for its programs and activities from  
593 federal, state, local, and private sources.

594 (e) Adopt and register a fictitious name for use in its  
595 marketing activities.

596 (f) Provide for the reversion of moneys and property held  
597 by the corporation to the state if the corporation ceases to  
598 exist.

599  
600 The credit of the State of Florida may not be pledged on behalf  
601 of the corporation.

602 (6) APPLICABILITY OF PUBLIC RECORDS AND MEETINGS LAWS.—The  
603 corporation is subject to the provisions of chapters 119 and 286  
604 relating to public records and meetings, respectively.

605 (7) STAFFING AND ASSISTANCE.—

606 (a) The corporation is authorized to hire or contract for  
607 all staff necessary for the proper execution of its powers and  
608 duties. All employees of the corporation shall comply with the  
609 Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees under part III

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

610 of chapter 112. Corporation staff must agree to refrain from  
611 having any direct interest in any contract, franchise,  
612 privilege, project, program, or other benefit arising from an  
613 award by the corporation during the term of their appointment  
614 and for 2 years after the termination of such appointment.

615 (b) All agencies of the state are authorized and directed  
616 to provide such technical assistance as the corporation may  
617 require to identify programs within each agency which provide  
618 assistance or benefits to veterans who are located in this state  
619 or who are considering relocation to this state.

620 (c) The Department of Veterans' Affairs may authorize the  
621 corporation's use of the department's property, facilities, and  
622 personal services, subject to this section. The department may  
623 prescribe by contract any condition with which the corporation  
624 must comply in order to use the department's property,  
625 facilities, or personal services.

626 (d) The department may not authorize the use of its  
627 property, facilities, or personal services if the corporation  
628 does not provide equal employment opportunities to all persons  
629 regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, or national  
630 origin.

631 (8) REPORTS.—The corporation shall submit an annual  
632 progress report and work plan by each December 1 to the  
633 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
634 House of Representatives. The report must include:

635 (a) Status and summary of findings regarding the target  
636 market, veteran benefits, and any identified gaps in services.

637 (b) Status of the marketing campaign, delivery systems of  
638 the marketing campaign, and outreach to the target market.

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

639 (c) Status of the Veterans Employment and Training Services  
640 Program administered under s. 295.21.

641 (d) Proposed revisions or additions to performance  
642 measurements for the programs administered by the corporation.

643 (e) Identification of contracts that the corporation has  
644 entered into to carry out its duties.

645 (f) An annual compliance and financial audit of accounts  
646 and records for the previous fiscal year prepared by an  
647 independent certified public accountant in accordance with rules  
648 adopted by the Auditor General.

649 Section 10. By February 1, 2018, the Office of Program  
650 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall conduct a  
651 performance audit of Florida Is For Veterans, Inc. The audit  
652 shall assess the implementation and outcomes of activities under  
653 ss. 295.20 and 295.21, Florida Statutes, and evaluate the  
654 corporation's accomplishments and progress toward making Florida  
655 a veteran-friendly state. The audit must provide recommendations  
656 for any necessary improvements. The report of the audit's  
657 findings shall be submitted to the President of the Senate and  
658 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

659 Section 11. Section 295.21, Florida Statutes, is created to  
660 read:

661 295.21 Veterans Employment and Training Services Program.—

662 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—The Legislature finds  
663 that this state has a compelling interest in ensuring that each  
664 veteran who is a resident of this state finds employment that  
665 meets his or her professional goals and receives the training or  
666 education necessary to meet those goals. The Legislature also  
667 finds that connecting dedicated, well-trained veterans with

583-00876C-14

20147020

668 businesses that need a dedicated, well-trained workforce is of  
669 paramount importance. The Legislature recognizes that veterans  
670 may not currently have the skills to meet the workforce needs of  
671 Florida employers and may require assistance in obtaining  
672 additional workforce training or in transitioning their skills  
673 to meet the demands of the marketplace. It is the intent of the  
674 Legislature that the Veterans Employment and Training Services  
675 Program coordinate and meet the needs of veterans and the  
676 business community to enhance the economy of this state.

677 (2) CREATION.—The Veterans Employment and Training Services  
678 Program is created within the Department of Veterans' Affairs to  
679 assist in linking veterans in search of employment with  
680 businesses seeking to hire dedicated, well-trained workers. The  
681 purpose of the program is to meet the workforce demands of  
682 Florida businesses by facilitating access to training and  
683 education in high-demand fields for veterans.

684 (3) ADMINISTRATION.—Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., shall  
685 administer the Veterans Employment and Training Services Program  
686 and perform all of the following functions:

687 (a) Conduct marketing and recruiting efforts directed at  
688 veterans who reside in or who have an interest in relocating to  
689 this state and who are seeking employment. Marketing must  
690 include information related to how a veteran's military  
691 experience can be valuable to a business. Such efforts may  
692 include attending veteran job fairs and events, hosting events  
693 for veterans or the business community, and using digital and  
694 social media and direct mail campaigns. The corporation shall  
695 also include such marketing as part of its main marketing  
696 campaign.



583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

697 (b) Assist veterans who reside in or relocate to this state  
698 and who are seeking employment. The corporation shall offer  
699 skills assessments to veterans and assist them in establishing  
700 employment goals and applying for and achieving gainful  
701 employment.

702 1. Assessment may include skill match information, skill  
703 gap analysis, resume creation, translation of military skills  
704 into civilian workforce skills, and translation of military  
705 achievements and experience to generally understood civilian  
706 workforce skills.

707 2. Assistance may include providing the veteran with  
708 information on current workforce demand by industry or  
709 geographic region, creating employment goals, and aiding or  
710 teaching general knowledge related to completing applications.  
711 The corporation may provide information related to industry  
712 certifications approved by the Department of Education under s.  
713 1008.44 as well as information related to earning academic  
714 college credit at public postsecondary educational institutions  
715 for college-level training and education acquired in the  
716 military under s. 1004.096.

717 3. The corporation shall encourage veterans to register  
718 with the state's job bank system and may refer veterans to local  
719 one-stop career centers for further services. The corporation  
720 shall provide each veteran with information about state  
721 workforce programs and shall consolidate information about all  
722 available resources on one website that, if possible, includes a  
723 hyperlink to each resource's website and contact information, if  
724 available. If appropriate, a veteran shall be encouraged to  
725 participate in the Complete Florida Degree Program established

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

726 under s. 1006.735.

727 4. Assessment and assistance may be in person or by  
728 electronic means, as determined by the corporation to be most  
729 efficient and best meet the needs of veterans.

730 (c) Assist Florida businesses in recruiting and hiring  
731 veterans. The corporation shall provide services to Florida  
732 businesses to meet their hiring needs by connecting businesses  
733 with suitable veteran applicants for employment. Suitable  
734 applicants include veterans who have appropriate job skills or  
735 may need additional training to meet a business's specific  
736 needs. The corporation shall also provide information about the  
737 state and federal benefits of hiring veterans.

738 (d) Create a grant program to provide funding to assist  
739 veterans in meeting the workforce-skill needs of businesses  
740 seeking to hire veterans, establish criteria for approval of  
741 requests for funding, and maximize the use of funding for this  
742 program. Grant funds may be used only in the absence of  
743 available veteran-specific federally funded programs. Grants may  
744 fund specialized training specific to a particular business.

745 1. Grant funds may be allocated to any training provider  
746 selected by the business, including a career center, a Florida  
747 College System institution, a state university, or an in-house  
748 training provider of the business. If grant funds are used to  
749 provide a technical certificate, a licensure, or a degree, funds  
750 may be allocated only upon a review that includes, but is not  
751 limited to, accreditation and licensure documentation.  
752 Instruction funded through the program must terminate when  
753 participants demonstrate competence at the level specified in  
754 the request; however, the grant term may not exceed 48 months.

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

755 Preference shall be given to target industry businesses, as  
756 defined in s. 288.106, and to businesses in the defense supply,  
757 cloud virtualization, or commercial aviation manufacturing  
758 industries.

759 2. Costs and expenditures for the grant program must be  
760 documented and separated from those incurred by the training  
761 provider. Costs and expenditures shall be limited to \$8,000 per  
762 veteran trainee. Eligible costs and expenditures include:

763 a. Tuition and fees;

764 b. Curriculum development;

765 c. Books and classroom materials;

766 d. Rental fees for facilities at public colleges and  
767 universities, including virtual training labs; and

768 e. Overhead or indirect costs not to exceed 5 percent of  
769 the grant amount.

770 3. Before funds are allocated for a request pursuant to  
771 this section, the corporation shall prepare a grant agreement  
772 between the business requesting funds, the educational  
773 institution or training provider receiving funding through the  
774 program, and the corporation. Such agreement must include, but  
775 need not be limited to:

776 a. Identification of the personnel necessary to conduct the  
777 instructional program, the qualifications of such personnel, and  
778 the respective responsibilities of the parties for paying costs  
779 associated with the employment of such personnel.

780 b. Identification of the match provided by the business,  
781 including cash and in-kind contributions, equal to at least 50  
782 percent of the total grant amount.

783 c. Identification of the estimated duration of the

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

784 instructional program.

785 d. Identification of all direct, training-related costs.

786 e. Identification of special program requirements that are  
787 not otherwise addressed in the agreement.

788 f. Permission to access aggregate information specific to  
789 the wages and performance of participants upon the completion of  
790 instruction for evaluation purposes. The agreement must specify  
791 that any evaluation published subsequent to the instruction may  
792 not identify the employer or any individual participant.

793 4. A business may receive a grant under the Quick-Response  
794 Training Program created under s. 288.047 and a grant under this  
795 section for the same veteran trainee. If a business receives  
796 funds under both programs, one grant agreement may be entered  
797 into with Workforce Florida, Inc., as the grant administrator.

798 (e) Contract with one or more entities to administer an  
799 entrepreneur initiative program for veterans in this state which  
800 connects Florida's business leaders with veterans seeking to  
801 become entrepreneurs.

802 1. The corporation shall award each contract in accordance  
803 with the competitive bidding requirements in s. 287.057 to one  
804 or more public or private universities that:

805 a. Demonstrate the ability to implement the program and the  
806 commitment of university resources, including financial  
807 resources, to such programs;

808 b. Have a military and veteran resource center;

809 c. Have a regional small business development center in the  
810 Florida Small Business Development Center Network; and

811 d. As determined by the corporation, have been nationally  
812 recognized for commitment to the military and veterans.

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

813       2. Each contract must include performance metrics,  
814 including a focus on employment and business creation. Each  
815 university must coordinate with any entrepreneurship center  
816 located at the university. The university may also work with an  
817 entity offering related programs to refer veterans or to provide  
818 services. The entrepreneur initiative program may include  
819 activities and assistance such as peer-to-peer learning  
820 sessions, mentoring, technical assistance, business roundtables,  
821 networking opportunities, support of student organizations,  
822 speaker series, or other tools within a virtual environment.

823       (4) DUTIES OF ENTERPRISE FLORIDA, INC.—Enterprise Florida,  
824 Inc., shall provide information about the corporation and its  
825 services to prospective, new, expanding, and relocating  
826 businesses seeking to conduct business in this state. Enterprise  
827 Florida, Inc., shall, to the greatest extent possible,  
828 collaborate with the corporation to meet the employment needs,  
829 including meeting job creation requirements, of any business  
830 receiving assistance or services from Enterprise Florida, Inc.

831       Section 12. By February 2, 2015, Florida Is For Veterans,  
832 Inc., shall submit a report to the Governor, the President of  
833 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
834 identifying existing gaps in veteran resources and recommending  
835 best practices that may be employed in assisting veterans and  
836 improvements to current or new resources and programs.

837       Section 13. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
838 296.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

839       296.06 State policy; eligibility requirements.—

840       (2) To be eligible for residency in the home, a veteran  
841 must:

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

842           (b) ~~Have been a resident of the state for 1 year~~  
843 ~~immediately preceding application and~~ Be a resident of the state  
844 at the time of application.

845           Section 14. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
846 296.36, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

847           296.36 Eligibility and priority of admittance.—

848           (1) To be eligible for admittance to the home, the person  
849 must be a veteran as provided in s. 1.01(14) or have eligible  
850 peacetime service as defined in s. 296.02 and must:

851           (b) Be ~~Have been~~ a resident of the state ~~for 1 year~~  
852 ~~immediately preceding, and~~ at the time of application for  
853 admission to the home.

854           Section 15. Subsection (12) of section 455.213, Florida  
855 Statutes, is amended to read:

856           455.213 General licensing provisions.—

857           (12) The department shall waive the initial licensing fee,  
858 the initial application fee, and the initial unlicensed activity  
859 fee for a military veteran or his or her spouse at the time of  
860 discharge, if he or she ~~who~~ applies to the department for a  
861 license, in a format prescribed by the department, within 60 ~~24~~  
862 months after the veteran is discharged ~~discharge~~ from any branch  
863 of the United States Armed Forces. To qualify for this waiver,  
864 the veteran must have been honorably discharged.

865           Section 16. Subsection (13) of section 456.013, Florida  
866 Statutes, is amended to read:

867           456.013 Department; general licensing provisions.—

868           (13) The department shall waive the initial licensing fee,  
869 the initial application fee, and the initial unlicensed activity  
870 fee for a military veteran or his or her spouse at the time of

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

871 discharge, if he or she ~~who~~ applies to the department for an  
872 initial license within 60 ~~24~~ months after the veteran is ~~being~~  
873 honorably discharged from any branch of the United States Armed  
874 Forces. The applicant must apply for the fee waiver using a form  
875 prescribed by the department and must submit supporting  
876 documentation as required by the department.

877 Section 17. Subsection (1) of section 468.304, Florida  
878 Statutes, is amended to read:

879 468.304 Certification.—The department shall certify any  
880 applicant who meets the following criteria:

881 (1) Pays to the department a nonrefundable fee that may not  
882 exceed \$100, plus the actual per-applicant cost to the  
883 department for purchasing the examination from a national  
884 organization. The department shall waive the initial application  
885 fee for a military veteran or his or her spouse at the time of  
886 discharge, if he or she ~~who~~ applies to the department for an  
887 initial certification within 60 ~~24~~ months after the veteran is  
888 ~~being~~ honorably discharged from any branch of the United States  
889 Armed Forces. The applicant must apply for the fee waiver using  
890 a form prescribed by the department and must submit supporting  
891 documentation as required by the department. This waiver does  
892 not include the fee for purchasing the examination from a  
893 national organization.

894  
895 The department may not certify any applicant who has committed  
896 an offense that would constitute a violation of any of the  
897 provisions of s. 468.3101 or applicable rules if the applicant  
898 had been certified by the department at the time of the offense.  
899 An application for a limited computed tomography certificate may

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

900 not be accepted. A person holding a valid computed tomography  
901 certificate as of October 1, 1984, is subject to s. 468.309.

902 Section 18. Paragraph (b) of subsection (16) of section  
903 499.012, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

904 499.012 Permit application requirements.—

905 (16)

906 (b) To be certified as a designated representative, a  
907 natural person must:

908 1. Submit an application on a form furnished by the  
909 department and pay the appropriate fees;

910 2. Be at least 18 years of age;

911 3. Have at least ~~not less than~~ 2 years of verifiable full-  
912 time:

913 a. Work experience in a pharmacy licensed in this state or  
914 another state, where the person's responsibilities included, but  
915 were not limited to, recordkeeping for prescription drugs; ~~or~~  
916 ~~have not less than 2 years of verifiable full-time~~

917 b. Managerial experience with a prescription drug wholesale  
918 distributor licensed in this state or in another state; or

919 c. Managerial experience with the United States Armed  
920 Forces, where the person's responsibilities included, but were  
921 not limited to, recordkeeping, warehousing, distribution, or  
922 other logistics services pertaining to prescription drugs;

923 4. Receive a passing score of at least 75 percent on an  
924 examination given by the department regarding federal laws  
925 governing distribution of prescription drugs and this part and  
926 the rules adopted by the department governing the wholesale  
927 distribution of prescription drugs. This requirement shall be  
928 effective 1 year after the results of the initial examination



583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

929 are mailed to the persons that took the examination. The  
930 department shall offer such examinations at least four times  
931 each calendar year; and

932 5. Provide the department with a personal information  
933 statement and fingerprints pursuant to subsection (9).

934 Section 19. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
935 made by this act to section 295.07, Florida Statutes, in a  
936 reference thereto, paragraph (f) of subsection (4) of section  
937 1002.36, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

938 1002.36 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.—

939 (4) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—

940 (f) The board of trustees shall:

941 1. Prepare and submit legislative budget requests for  
942 operations and fixed capital outlay, in accordance with chapter  
943 216 and ss. 1011.56 and 1013.60, to the Department of Education  
944 for review and approval. The department must analyze the amount  
945 requested for fixed capital outlay to determine if the request  
946 is consistent with the school's campus master plan, educational  
947 plant survey, and facilities master plan. Projections of  
948 facility space needs may exceed the norm space and occupant  
949 design criteria established in the State Requirements for  
950 Educational Facilities.

951 2. Approve and administer an annual operating budget in  
952 accordance with ss. 1011.56 and 1011.57.

953 3. Require all funds received other than gifts, donations,  
954 bequests, funds raised by or belonging to student clubs or  
955 student organizations, and funds held for specific students or  
956 in accounts for individual students to be deposited in the State  
957 Treasury and expended as authorized in the General

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

958 Appropriations Act.

959 4. Require all purchases to be in accordance with the  
960 provisions of chapter 287 except for purchases made with funds  
961 received as gifts, donations, or bequests; funds raised by or  
962 belonging to student clubs or student organizations; or funds  
963 held for specific students or in accounts for individual  
964 students.

965 5. Administer and maintain personnel programs for all  
966 employees of the board of trustees and the Florida School for  
967 the Deaf and the Blind who shall be state employees, including  
968 the personnel classification and pay plan established in  
969 accordance with ss. 110.205(2)(d) and 216.251(2)(a)2. for  
970 academic and academic administrative personnel, the provisions  
971 of chapter 110, and the provisions of law that grant authority  
972 to the Department of Management Services over such programs for  
973 state employees.

974 6. Give preference in appointment and retention in  
975 positions of employment as provided within s. 295.07(1).

976 7. Ensure that the Florida School for the Deaf and the  
977 Blind complies with s. 1013.351 concerning the coordination of  
978 planning between the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind  
979 and local governing bodies.

980 8. Ensure that the Florida School for the Deaf and the  
981 Blind complies with s. 112.061 concerning per diem and travel  
982 expenses of public officers, employees, and authorized persons  
983 with respect to all funds other than funds received as gifts,  
984 donations, or bequests; funds raised by or belonging to student  
985 clubs or student organizations; or funds held for specific  
986 students or in accounts for individual students.

583-00876C-14

20147020\_\_

987           9. Adopt a master plan which specifies the mission and  
988 objectives of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. The  
989 plan shall include, but not be limited to, procedures for  
990 systematically measuring the school's progress toward meeting  
991 its objectives, analyzing changes in the student population, and  
992 modifying school programs and services to respond to such  
993 changes. The plan shall be for a period of 5 years and shall be  
994 reviewed for needed modifications every 2 years. The board of  
995 trustees shall submit the initial plan and subsequent  
996 modifications to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and  
997 the President of the Senate.

998           10. Designate a portion of the school as "The Verle Allyn  
999 Pope Complex for the Deaf," in tribute to the late Senator Verle  
1000 Allyn Pope.

1001           Section 20. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.