

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to military affairs; amending s.
3 322.08, F.S.; requiring the application form for an
4 original, renewal, or replacement driver license or
5 identification card to include a voluntary checkoff
6 permitting certain veterans to request written
7 information for federal, state, and local veteran
8 services programs; directing the Department of Highway
9 Safety and Motor Vehicles to report specified
10 information to the Department of Veterans' Affairs;
11 directing the department to assist veterans with
12 preparing certain claims and securing certain
13 services; providing legislative findings regarding
14 continuing education for veterans of the United States
15 Armed Forces; providing legislative intent for the
16 State Board of Education and the Board of Governors of
17 the State University System to work collaboratively to
18 establish degree programs at state universities and
19 Florida College System institutions, train faculty,
20 coordinate campus disability services, facilitate
21 statewide meetings for personnel, and provide
22 sufficient courses and priority registration to
23 veterans; creating the Overseas Military Voting
24 Assistance Task Force; providing for task force
25 purpose, membership, compensation, and expiration;
26 requiring the Division of Elections of the Department

27 of State to provide support staff to the task force;
 28 requiring the Agency for State Technology to assist
 29 the task force upon request; requiring the Secretary
 30 of State to submit a report to the Governor and
 31 Legislature containing task force recommendations for
 32 the development and implementation of an online voting
 33 system; providing an effective date.

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

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 37 Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 322.08, Florida
 38 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (9), and a new subsection
 39 (8) is added to that section to read:

40 322.08 Application for license; requirements for license
 41 and identification card forms.—

42 (8) (a) To facilitate outreach by the Department of
 43 Veterans' Affairs, the application form for an original,
 44 renewal, or replacement driver license or identification card
 45 must include a voluntary checkoff permitting an honorably
 46 discharged member of the United States Armed Forces to request
 47 written information for federal, state, and local veteran
 48 services programs from a county or city veteran service officer
 49 through a direct-support organization or, if the veteran is not
 50 under the jurisdiction of a county or city veteran service
 51 officer, the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

52 (b) The department shall work with the Department of

53 Veterans' Affairs to administer this subsection. The department
54 shall report quarterly to the Department of Veterans' Affairs
55 the legal name, sex, date of birth, social security number, and
56 address of each honorably discharged member of the United States
57 Armed Forces who provides a DD Form 214 issued by the United
58 States Department of Defense or another acceptable form
59 specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and who selects
60 the voluntary checkoff to receive written information for
61 federal, state, and local programs pursuant to paragraph (a).
62 Information for such programs shall be sent by United States
63 mail.

64 (c) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide
65 assistance to veterans who select the voluntary checkoff
66 pursuant to paragraph (a) with preparing claims for and securing
67 compensation, hospitalization, career training, and other
68 benefits or privileges that such veterans are or may become
69 entitled to under any federal or state law or regulation by
70 reason of their service in the United States Armed Forces. The
71 Department of Veterans' Affairs may apply for and administer any
72 federal veteran services programs and develop and coordinate
73 such state and local programs as may be beneficial to the
74 particular interests of veterans, including, but not limited to,
75 social services, health care, education, employment, and any
76 other areas of determined need. Programs developed,
77 administered, and coordinated pursuant to this subsection are
78 subject to chapters 215 and 216 and services secured pursuant to

79 this subsection shall be without charge to the veteran.

80 Section 2. The Legislature finds that many veterans of the
81 United States Armed Forces in this state have completed training
82 and coursework during their military service, including overseas
83 deployments, resulting in tangible and quantifiable strides in
84 their pursuit of a postsecondary degree. The Legislature further
85 finds that the State Board of Education and the Board of
86 Governors of the State University System must work together to
87 ensure that military training and coursework are granted
88 academic credit in order to assist veterans in continuing their
89 education. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that
90 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors work
91 collaboratively to:

92 (1) Establish degree programs, including, but not limited
93 to, vocational and technical degrees, at each state university
94 and Florida College System institution that awards academic
95 credit for military training and experience.

96 (2) Appoint and train specific faculty within each degree
97 program at each state university and Florida College System
98 institution as liaisons and contacts for veterans.

99 (3) Coordinate existing disability services on the campus
100 of each state university and Florida College System institution
101 with veteran disability services provided by the United States
102 Department of Veterans Affairs, other federal and state
103 agencies, and private entities.

104 (4) Facilitate statewide meetings for personnel at state

105 universities and Florida College System institutions who provide
 106 student services for veterans to discuss and develop best
 107 practices, exchange ideas and experiences, and hear
 108 presentations by individuals with expertise in the unique needs
 109 of veterans.

110 (5) Make every effort to provide veterans with sufficient
 111 courses required for graduation, including, but not limited to,
 112 giving priority registration to veterans.

113 Section 3. Overseas Military Voting Assistance Task
 114 Force.—

115 (1) The Overseas Military Voting Assistance Task Force is
 116 created for the purpose of studying the development and
 117 implementation of an online voting system that would allow an
 118 absent uniformed services voter to electronically submit a voted
 119 absentee ballot.

120 (2)(a) The task force shall be composed of 20 members, as
 121 follows:

122 1. The Secretary of State or his or her designee, who
 123 shall serve as chair.

124 2. The Adjutant General or his or her designee.

125 3. The executive director of the Department of Veterans'
 126 Affairs or his or her designee.

127 4. The executive director of the Agency for State
 128 Technology or his or her designee.

129 5. One member of the Senate appointed by the President of
 130 the Senate.

131 6. One member of the House of Representatives appointed by
 132 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

133 7. One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority
 134 Leader of the Senate.

135 8. One member of the House of Representatives appointed by
 136 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

137 9. One individual appointed by the Governor.

138 10. Six supervisors of elections appointed by the
 139 Secretary of State.

140 11. Five individuals appointed by the Secretary of State
 141 who have relevant expertise in computer technology, the
 142 Internet, or other associated technologies.

143 (b) Members of the task force shall serve without
 144 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and
 145 travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

146 (3) The task force shall study and report on issues
 147 including, but not limited to:

148 (a) Any factor that limits the ability of an absent
 149 uniformed services voter to request, receive, and return a voted
 150 absentee ballot within the required time period pursuant to s.
 151 101.62, Florida Statutes.

152 (b) The costs associated with the development and
 153 implementation of an online voting system.

154 (c) The feasibility of an absent uniformed services voter
 155 using an online voting system to electronically submit a voted
 156 absentee ballot.

157 (d) The security of electronically submitting a voted
158 absentee ballot through an online voting system.

159 (e) Procedures adopted by other states to facilitate
160 greater electoral participation by absent uniformed services
161 voters.

162 (4) The Division of Elections of the Department of State
163 shall provide support staff for the task force. The Agency for
164 State Technology shall assist the task force upon request.

165 (5) The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the
166 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
167 House of Representatives by July 1, 2016, containing task force
168 recommendations for the development and implementation of an
169 online voting system that allows an absent uniformed services
170 voter to electronically submit a voted absentee ballot.

171 (6) The task force shall expire July 1, 2016.

172 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.