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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

| Senate      | . | House |
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| Comm: UNFAV | . |       |
| 04/01/2015  | . |       |
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The Committee on Ethics and Elections (Flores) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force.—The Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force, a task force as defined in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes, is created within the Department of State. The task force is created for the express purpose of studying issues involving the development and implementation of an online voting system that allows absent



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11 uniformed services voters who are overseas to electronically  
12 submit voted ballots.

13 (1) The task force is composed of 20 members, as follows:

14 (a) The Secretary of State or his or her designee, who  
15 shall serve as chair of the task force.

16 (b) The Adjutant General or his or her designee.

17 (c) The executive director of the Department of Veterans'  
18 Affairs or his or her designee.

19 (d) The executive director of the Agency for State  
20 Technology or his or her designee.

21 (e) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of  
22 the Senate.

23 (f) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by  
24 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

25 (g) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority  
26 Leader of the Senate.

27 (h) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by  
28 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

29 (i) One member appointed by the Governor.

30 (j) Six supervisors of elections appointed by the Secretary  
31 of State.

32 (k) Five individuals appointed by the Secretary of State,  
33 with relevant expertise in computers, the Internet, or other  
34 associated technologies.

35 (2) Members of the task force shall serve without  
36 compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and  
37 travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

38 (3) The task force, at a minimum, shall study and report on  
39 the following issues:



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40           (a) Any factor that limits the ability of absent uniformed  
41 services voters who are overseas to request, receive, and return  
42 absentee ballots within the current statutory time period for  
43 casting absentee ballots.

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

46           (c) The feasibility of absent uniformed services voters who  
47 are overseas using an online voting system to electronically  
48 submit a voted ballot.

49           (d) The security of electronically submitting a voted  
50 ballot through an online voting system.

51           (e) Procedures adopted by other states to facilitate  
52 greater electoral participation among absent uniformed services  
53 voters who are overseas.

54           (4) The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the  
55 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
56 House of Representatives by July 1, 2016, containing the task  
57 force's recommendation concerning whether the state should  
58 pursue the development and implementation of an online voting  
59 system that allows absent uniformed services voters who are  
60 overseas to electronically submit voted ballots. If the task  
61 force favorably recommends an online voting system, the report  
62 must include recommended steps for developing and implementing  
63 such a system. Upon submission of the report, the task force  
64 shall expire.

65           (5) The Division of Elections of the Department of State  
66 shall provide support staff for the task force. The Agency for  
67 State Technology shall assist the task force upon request.

68           Section 2. The Legislature finds that many veterans of the



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69 United States Armed Forces in this state have completed training  
70 and coursework during their military service, including overseas  
71 deployments, resulting in tangible and quantifiable strides in  
72 their pursuit of a postsecondary degree. The Legislature further  
73 finds that the State Board of Education and the Board of  
74 Governors of the State University System must work together to  
75 ensure that military training and coursework are granted  
76 academic credit in order to assist veterans in continuing their  
77 education. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that  
78 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors work  
79 collaboratively to:

80 (1) Align existing degree programs, including, but not  
81 limited to, vocational and technical degrees, at each state  
82 university and Florida College System institution with  
83 applicable military training and experience to maximize academic  
84 credit award for such training and experience.

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

88 (3) Incorporate outreach services tailored to disabled  
89 veterans into existing disability services on the campus of each  
90 state university and Florida College System institution to make  
91 available to such veterans information on disability services  
92 provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,  
93 other federal and state agencies, and private entities.

94 (4) Facilitate statewide meetings for personnel at state  
95 universities and Florida College System institutions who provide  
96 student services for veterans to discuss and develop best  
97 practices, exchange ideas and experiences, and attend



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98 presentations by individuals with expertise in the unique needs  
99 of veterans.

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

103 Section 3. Present subsection (8) of section 322.08,  
104 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (9), and a new  
105 subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

106 322.08 Application for license; requirements for license  
107 and identification card forms.—

108 (8) (a) To support the carrying out of the duties of the  
109 Department of Veterans' Affairs prescribed in s. 292.05 and to  
110 facilitate outreach to veterans residing in this state, the  
111 application form for an original, renewal, or replacement driver  
112 license or identification card must include a voluntary checkoff  
113 authorizing a veteran of the United States Armed Forces to  
114 request written or electronic information on federal, state, and  
115 local benefits and services available to veterans. The veteran  
116 may elect to receive requested information through United States  
117 mail or by e-mail. The requested information shall be delivered  
118 to the veteran by any third party provider selected by the  
119 Department of Veterans' Affairs to act on its behalf.

120 (b) The department shall collaborate with the Department of  
121 Veterans' Affairs to administer this subsection. The department  
122 shall report monthly to the Department of Veterans' Affairs the  
123 name and mailing address or e-mail address of each veteran who  
124 requests information as provided in paragraph (a). Following  
125 receipt of the monthly report, the Department of Veterans'  
126 Affairs shall disseminate the contact information for each such



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127 veteran to the third-party provider acting on its behalf. The  
128 third-party provider must be a nonprofit organization with  
129 sufficient ability to communicate with veterans residing  
130 throughout this state. For purposes of this paragraph, the term  
131 "nonprofit organization" means an organization exempt from the  
132 federal income tax under s. 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
133 1986 or any federal, state, or local governmental entity.

134 (c) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (b), the  
135 Department of Veterans' Affairs shall disseminate the contact  
136 information for a veteran who selects the voluntary checkoff to  
137 the appropriate county or city veteran service officer in order  
138 to facilitate further outreach to veterans.

139 (d)1. The contact information of a veteran which is  
140 obtained by a third-party provider pursuant to this subsection  
141 may be used only as authorized by this subsection. The third-  
142 party provider may not sell such contact information. Except as  
143 otherwise provided, the third-party provider must maintain the  
144 confidentiality of the contact information in accordance with  
145 chapter 119 and the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of  
146 1994, 18 U.S.C. ss. 2721 et seq.

147 2. A person who willfully and knowingly violates this  
148 paragraph commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable  
149 as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

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

151  
152 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

153 And the title is amended as follows:

154 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
155 and insert:



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156                                   A bill to be entitled  
157           An act relating to military and veterans affairs;  
158           creating the Military and Overseas Voting Assistance  
159           Task Force within the Department of State; specifying  
160           membership of the task force; authorizing  
161           reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses;  
162           prescribing duties of the task force; requiring  
163           submission of a report to the Governor and the  
164           Legislature by a specified date; providing for  
165           expiration of the task force; providing for staffing;  
166           providing legislative findings regarding continuing  
167           education for veterans of the United States Armed  
168           Forces; providing legislative intent for the State  
169           Board of Education and the Board of Governors of the  
170           State University System to work collaboratively to  
171           align existing degree programs at state universities  
172           and Florida College System institutions, train  
173           faculty, incorporate outreach services into existing  
174           disability services, facilitate statewide meetings for  
175           personnel, and provide sufficient courses and priority  
176           registration to veterans; amending s. 322.08, F.S.;  
177           requiring the application form for an original,  
178           renewal, or replacement driver license or  
179           identification card to include a voluntary checkoff  
180           authorizing veterans to request written or electronic  
181           information on federal, state, and local benefits and  
182           services for veterans; requiring the requested  
183           information to be delivered by a third-party provider;  
184           requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor



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185 Vehicles to report monthly to the Department of  
186 Veterans' Affairs the names and mailing or e-mail  
187 addresses of veterans who request information;  
188 requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs to  
189 disseminate veteran contact information to the third-  
190 party provider; requiring that the third-party  
191 provider be a nonprofit organization; defining the  
192 term "nonprofit organization"; requiring that the  
193 Department of Veterans' Affairs provide veteran  
194 contact information to the appropriate county or city  
195 veteran service officer; specifying that a third-party  
196 provider may use veteran contact information only as  
197 authorized; prohibiting a third-party provider from  
198 selling veteran contact information; requiring a  
199 third-party provider to maintain confidentiality of  
200 veteran contact information under specified  
201 provisions; providing a penalty; providing an  
202 effective date.