

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

.

Representative Santiago offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Between lines 148 and 149, insert:

Section 3. Section 292.11, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

292.11 County and city veteran service officer and assistant veteran service officer.-

(1) Each board of county commissioners shall ~~may~~ employ a county veteran service officer; provide office space, clerical assistance, and the necessary supplies incidental to providing and maintaining a county service office; and pay said expenses and salaries from the moneys hereinafter provided for. The board of county commissioners may employ an assistant veteran service

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15 officer. The governing body of any city may employ a city
16 veteran service officer and an assistant veteran service
17 officer; provide such office space, clerical assistance, and
18 supplies; and pay expenses and salaries. A county or city
19 veteran service officer must be a veteran who served as a member
20 of the Armed Forces of the United States during a period of war,
21 as defined in Title 38, U.S.C. and 38 C.F.R.; who served at
22 least 18 months' active duty in the Armed Forces; and who was
23 separated from such service under honorable conditions, or the
24 surviving spouse of any such veteran. Any honorably discharged
25 wartime veteran who was so discharged for service-connected or
26 aggravated medical reasons before serving 18 months of active
27 duty; who completed a tour of duty other than active duty for
28 training, regardless of the length of the tour; or who satisfied
29 his or her military obligation in a manner other than active
30 duty for training or reserve duty shall be eligible for
31 employment as a county or city veteran service officer. Every
32 county or city veteran service officer, in order to be eligible
33 for employment as a county or city veteran service officer,
34 shall have a 2-year degree from an accredited university,
35 college, or community college or a high school degree or
36 equivalency diploma and 4 years of administrative experience.

37 (2) Any county or city desiring to employ a county or city
38 veteran service officer under the provisions of this section
39 shall ~~may~~ notify the Department of Veterans' Affairs of its
40 intention to do so and shall ~~may~~ furnish the department with the

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41 name or names of any person or persons applying to fill such
42 position, along with documentation supporting the qualifications
43 thereof. The department shall thereupon certify to such county
44 or city the name or names of candidates for such position who
45 meet the requirements and qualifications prescribed by the
46 department. The county or city may thereupon employ any person
47 or persons so certified by the department. Duties, compensation,
48 and terms of employment shall be prescribed by the board of
49 county commissioners or, where applicable, by the governing body
50 of the city.

51 (3) Any person employed by any county or city under the
52 provisions of this section shall, from the time of his or her
53 employment, be subject to such rules as the Department of
54 Veterans' Affairs may from time to time prescribe.
55 Appropriations made by any county or city, or both, for the
56 purposes set forth in this section are hereby declared to be
57 appropriations for a county or municipal purpose, as the case
58 may be.

59 (4) The Department of Veterans' Affairs is directed to
60 establish a training program for county and city veteran service
61 officers. Every county or city veteran service officer employed
62 under this chapter shall attend the training program established
63 by the department and successfully complete a test administered
64 by the department prior to assuming any responsibilities as a
65 county or city veteran service officer. The department shall
66 further establish periodic training refresher courses which each

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67 county or city veteran service officer and assistant veteran
68 service officer must attend and complete as a condition of
69 remaining in employment as a county or city veteran service
70 officer or assistant veteran service officer. County and city
71 veteran service officers shall be reimbursed for travel
72 expenses, as provided in s. 112.061, in fulfilling the
73 requirements of this section.

74 (5) The provisions of subsection (1) shall not apply to,
75 or in any way affect, the employment of any county or city
76 service officer who was so employed before ~~prior to~~ July 1, 2015
77 1974.

78 (6) As used in this section, the term:

79 (a) "County veteran service officer" means the veteran
80 service office director, manager, or supervisor certified by the
81 Department of Veterans Affairs to assist veterans in obtaining
82 benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

83 (b) "Assistant veteran service officer" means a person
84 certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist
85 veterans in obtaining benefits from the Department of Veterans
86 Affairs.

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T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

89 Remove line 21 and insert:
90 registration to veterans; amending s. 292.11, F.S.;
91 requiring, rather than authorizing, each board of
92

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93 | county commissioners to employ a county veteran
94 | service officer; authorizing each board of county
95 | commissioners and municipal governing body to employ
96 | an assistant veteran service officer; requiring
97 | training for such officers; revising applicability;
98 | providing definitions; amending s. 322.08, F.S.;

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