

**By** the Committees on Appropriations; and Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; and Senator Bean

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to military and veterans affairs;  
3       creating the Military and Overseas Voting Assistance  
4       Task Force within the Department of State; specifying  
5       membership of the task force; authorizing  
6       reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses;  
7       prescribing duties of the task force; requiring  
8       submission of a report to the Governor and the  
9       Legislature by a specified date; providing for  
10      expiration of the task force; providing for staffing;  
11      providing legislative findings regarding continuing  
12      education for veterans of the United States Armed  
13      Forces; providing legislative intent for the State  
14      Board of Education and the Board of Governors of the  
15      State University System to work collaboratively to  
16      align existing degree programs at state universities  
17      and Florida College System institutions, train  
18      faculty, incorporate outreach services into existing  
19      disability services, facilitate statewide meetings for  
20      personnel, and provide sufficient courses and priority  
21      registration to veterans; amending s. 322.08, F.S.;  
22      requiring the application form for an original,  
23      renewal, or replacement driver license or  
24      identification card to include a voluntary checkoff  
25      authorizing veterans to request written or electronic  
26      information on federal, state, and local benefits and  
27      services for veterans; requiring the requested  
28      information to be delivered by a third-party provider;  
29      requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor

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30 Vehicles to report monthly to the Department of  
31 Veterans' Affairs the names and mailing or e-mail  
32 addresses of veterans who request information;  
33 requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs to  
34 disseminate veteran contact information to the third-  
35 party provider; requiring that the third-party  
36 provider be a nonprofit organization; defining the  
37 term "nonprofit organization"; requiring that the  
38 Department of Veterans' Affairs provide veteran  
39 contact information to the appropriate county or city  
40 veteran service officer; specifying that a third-party  
41 provider may use veteran contact information only as  
42 authorized; prohibiting a third-party provider from  
43 selling veteran contact information; requiring a  
44 third-party provider to maintain confidentiality of  
45 veteran contact information under specified  
46 provisions; providing a penalty; providing an  
47 effective date.

48  
49 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

50  
51 Section 1. Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task  
52 Force.—The Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force, a  
53 task force as defined in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes, is created  
54 within the Department of State. The task force is created for  
55 the express purpose of studying issues involving the development  
56 and implementation of an online voting system that allows absent  
57 uniformed services voters who are overseas to electronically  
58 submit voted ballots.

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- 59       (1) The task force is composed of 20 members, as follows:  
60       (a) The Secretary of State or his or her designee, who  
61 shall serve as chair of the task force.  
62       (b) The Adjutant General or his or her designee.  
63       (c) The executive director of the Department of Veterans'  
64 Affairs or his or her designee.  
65       (d) The executive director of the Agency for State  
66 Technology or his or her designee.  
67       (e) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of  
68 the Senate.  
69       (f) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by  
70 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
71       (g) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority  
72 Leader of the Senate.  
73       (h) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by  
74 the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.  
75       (i) One member appointed by the Governor.  
76       (j) Six supervisors of elections appointed by the Secretary  
77 of State.  
78       (k) Five individuals appointed by the Secretary of State,  
79 with relevant expertise in computers, the Internet, or other  
80 associated technologies.  
81       (2) Members of the task force shall serve without  
82 compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and  
83 travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.  
84       (3) The task force, at a minimum, shall study and report on  
85 the following issues:  
86       (a) Any factor that limits the ability of absent uniformed  
87 services voters who are overseas to request, receive, and return

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88 absentee ballots within the current statutory time period for  
89 casting absentee ballots.

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

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

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

97 (e) Procedures adopted by other states to facilitate  
98 greater electoral participation among absent uniformed services  
99 voters who are overseas.

100 (4) The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the  
101 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
102 House of Representatives by July 1, 2016, containing the task  
103 force's recommendation concerning whether the state should  
104 pursue the development and implementation of an online voting  
105 system that allows absent uniformed services voters who are  
106 overseas to electronically submit voted ballots. If the task  
107 force favorably recommends an online voting system, the report  
108 must include recommended steps for developing and implementing  
109 such a system. Upon submission of the report, the task force  
110 shall expire.

111 (5) The Division of Elections of the Department of State  
112 shall provide support staff for the task force. The Agency for  
113 State Technology shall assist the task force upon request.

114 Section 2. The Legislature finds that many veterans of the  
115 United States Armed Forces in this state have completed training  
116 and coursework during their military service, including overseas

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117 deployments, resulting in tangible and quantifiable strides in  
118 their pursuit of a postsecondary degree. The Legislature further  
119 finds that the State Board of Education and the Board of  
120 Governors of the State University System must work together to  
121 ensure that military training and coursework are granted  
122 academic credit in order to assist veterans in continuing their  
123 education. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that  
124 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors work  
125 collaboratively to:

126 (1) Align existing degree programs, including, but not  
127 limited to, vocational and technical degrees, at each state  
128 university and Florida College System institution with  
129 applicable military training and experience to maximize academic  
130 credit awarded for such training and experience.

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

134 (3) Incorporate outreach services tailored to disabled  
135 veterans into existing disability services on the campus of each  
136 state university and Florida College System institution to make  
137 available to such veterans information on disability services  
138 provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,  
139 other federal and state agencies, and private entities.

140 (4) Facilitate statewide meetings for personnel at state  
141 universities and Florida College System institutions who provide  
142 student services for veterans to discuss and develop best  
143 practices, exchange ideas and experiences, and attend  
144 presentations by individuals with expertise in the unique needs  
145 of veterans.

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

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

152 322.08 Application for license; requirements for license  
153 and identification card forms.—

154 (8) (a) To support the carrying out of the duties of the  
155 Department of Veterans' Affairs prescribed in s. 292.05 and to  
156 facilitate outreach to veterans residing in this state, the  
157 application form for an original, renewal, or replacement driver  
158 license or identification card must include a voluntary checkoff  
159 authorizing a veteran of the United States Armed Forces to  
160 request written or electronic information on federal, state, and  
161 local benefits and services available to veterans. The veteran  
162 may elect to receive requested information through United States  
163 mail or by e-mail. The requested information shall be delivered  
164 to the veteran by any third party provider selected by the  
165 Department of Veterans' Affairs to act on its behalf.

166 (b) The department shall collaborate with the Department of  
167 Veterans' Affairs to administer this subsection. The department  
168 shall report monthly to the Department of Veterans' Affairs the  
169 name and mailing address or e-mail address of each veteran who  
170 requests information as provided in paragraph (a). Following  
171 receipt of the monthly report, the Department of Veterans'  
172 Affairs shall disseminate the contact information for each such  
173 veteran to the third-party provider acting on its behalf. The  
174 third-party provider must be a nonprofit organization with

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175 sufficient ability to communicate with veterans residing  
176 throughout this state. For purposes of this paragraph, the term  
177 "nonprofit organization" means an organization exempt from the  
178 federal income tax under s. 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
179 1986 or any federal, state, or local governmental entity.

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

185 (d)1. The contact information of a veteran which is  
186 obtained by a third-party provider pursuant to this subsection  
187 may be used only as authorized by this subsection. The third-  
188 party provider may not sell such contact information. Except as  
189 otherwise provided, the third-party provider must maintain the  
190 confidentiality of the contact information in accordance with  
191 chapter 119 and the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of  
192 1994, 18 U.S.C. ss. 2721 et seq.

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

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