



138316

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/06/2015	.	
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	.	

Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development (Diaz de la Portilla) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 54 - 103

and insert:

(4) The grants awarded to a given small business under subsection (3) may not exceed \$25,000 per fiscal year.

(5) A small business must apply to and enter into an agreement with the corporation in order to participate in the program. The agreement must require that the small business:



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10 (a) Employ a qualifying veteran for at least 1 year in
11 order to become eligible for grants awarded under subsection
12 (3).

13 (b) Upon the request of the corporation, report information
14 regarding the employment status of each qualifying veteran.

15 (c) Pay each qualifying veteran an amount equal to at least
16 80 percent of the annual median income for veterans in this
17 state based on the most recent federal census or the most recent
18 American Community Survey 5-year estimates published by the
19 United States Census Bureau.

20 (d) Reinvest any awarded grant moneys in the small business
21 to facilitate further job creation. Reinvestment under this
22 subsection is limited to manufacturing, equipment, and
23 facilities expenditures, or other operating or fixed capital
24 outlay projects.

25 (e) Not receive an additional award for rehiring a veteran
26 previously claimed as an employee by the same small business for
27 purposes of obtaining funds under the program.

28 (f) Is eligible to receive a grant award only for a veteran
29 initially hired on or after October 1, 2015.

30 (6) The corporation shall notify the regional small
31 business center serving the county in which a participating
32 small business is located of a small business's participation in
33 the grant program in order to facilitate improved access to the
34 resources of the Florida Small Business Development Center
35 Network.

36 (7) The grant program terminates on the date that all funds
37 appropriated for the program are expended or on October 1, 2025,
38 whichever occurs first.



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39 (8) The Department of Veterans' Affairs may adopt rules to
40 implement and administer this section, including, but not
41 limited to, rules specifying requirements for the application
42 and approval process and the documentation necessary to claim
43 grant moneys awarded under this section.

44 Section 2. Effective July 1, 2015, for the 2015-2016 fiscal
45 year, the sum of \$10 million in nonrecurring funds from the
46 General Revenue Fund is appropriated to the Department of
47 Veterans' Affairs for transfer to Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.,
48 to implement and administer the Veterans Employment Small
49 Business Grant Program. The corporation may award grant moneys
50 up to a maximum of \$900,000 per fiscal year. The corporation may
51 spend up to \$100,000 per fiscal year of funds transferred by the
52 department for staffing and administrative costs associated with
53 implementation and administration of the program. If any
54 appropriated funds remain upon termination of the program,
55 Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., shall transfer such funds to the
56 Department of Veterans' Affairs to revert to the General Revenue
57 Fund.

58 Section 3. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this
59 act and except for this section, which shall take effect July 1,
60 2015, this act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

61
62 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

63 And the title is amended as follows:

64 Delete lines 17 - 23

65 and insert:

66 obtaining funds under the program; providing that the
67 award applies only to veterans hired after a specified



68 date; requiring the corporation to notify the
69 appropriate regional small business center of a small
70 business's participation; providing for termination of
71 the program; authorizing the department to adopt
72 rules; providing an appropriation; providing effective
73 dates.