

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

BILL: SB 876

INTRODUCER: Senator Dean

SUBJECT: Beirut Memorial

DATE: March 3, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Sanders	Ryon	MS	Favorable
2.			AGG	
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

SB 876 requires the Department of Management Services (DMS) to establish a memorial in the Capitol Complex to honor those who lost their lives in the October 23, 1983 attack on the U.S. Armed Forces in Beirut, Lebanon. The DMS is responsible for the design and placement of the memorial in coordination with the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Florida Historical Commission, and the Division of Historical Resources of the Department of State. The establishment of the Beirut Memorial is contingent upon a not yet identified legislative appropriation.

II. Present Situation:

Beirut Attack

In July of 1982, President Reagan authorized the deployment of U.S. Marines to join a multinational force (MNF) alongside French and Italian troops to contribute to peacekeeping efforts in Lebanon.¹ Lebanon was in the midst of a civil war that threatened the stability of the region and raised the specter of a wider war.² Syria and Israel were at ends supporting opposing Lebanese factions and perpetuating violence in an attempt to gain control of the country. In response, the MNF was tasked to protect Palestinian civilians from the ongoing conflict.³

¹ U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian, *The Reagan Administration and Lebanon, 1981-1984*, <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1981-1988/lebanon> (last visited March 2, 2015).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

On October 23, 1983, the headquarters and barracks of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines Regiment in Beirut, Lebanon was attacked.⁴ An explosion caused by a truck carrying 2,000 pounds of explosives drove into the facility and collapsed the structure killing 220 Marines and 21 other members of the United States Armed Forces.⁵ In February of 1984, President Reagan ordered that the Marines withdraw from Lebanon.⁶

Managing Agency for the Capitol Center

Chapter 272, F.S., provides that the Capitol Center⁷ is under the general control and supervision of the Department of Management Services (DMS),⁸ which includes the management and maintenance of both the grounds and buildings.⁹ Additionally, the DMS has the authority to provide for the establishment of parks, walkways, and parkways on the grounds of the Capitol Center.¹⁰ This responsibility has historically included assistance in establishing and maintaining public memorials throughout the Capitol Center, including project management oversight of the design and construction of memorials.¹¹ After an entity is assigned a designated space within the Capitol Center for an exhibit, the entity is the manager of the exhibit's content and display, in consultation with the DMS.¹²

The “Capitol Complex” is defined to include:

“that portion of Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, commonly referred to as the Capitol, the Historic Capitol, the Senate Office Building, the House Office Building, the Knott Building, the Pepper Building, the Holland Building, and the curtilage of each, including the state-owned lands and public streets adjacent thereto within an area bounded by and including Monroe Street, Jefferson Street, Duval Street, and Gaines Street. The term shall also include the State Capital Circle Office Complex located in Leon County, Florida.”¹³

Capitol Complex Monuments

The construction and placement of a monument on the premises of the Capitol Complex is prohibited unless authorized by general law and unless the design and placement of the monument is approved by the DMS after considering the recommendations of the Florida

⁴ Marines Blog: The Official Blog of the United States Marine Corps, *30th Anniversary of Beirut Bombing: Survivor Shares his Story*, <http://marines.dodlive.mil/2013/10/22/30th-anniversary-of-beirut-bombing-survivor-shares-his-story/> (last visited March 2, 2015).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian, *The Reagan Administration and Lebanon, 1981-1984*, <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1981-1988/lebanon> (last visited March 2, 2015).

⁷ Section 272.12, F.S., describes the Tallahassee area bounded by Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, College Avenue, Franklin Boulevard, East Jefferson Street, and the Seaboard Coastline Railway right-of-way as the Capitol Center.

⁸ Section 272.03, F.S.

⁹ Section 272.09, F.S.

¹⁰ Section 272.07, F.S.

¹¹ Department of Management Services, Senate Bill 608 Agency Analysis (February 19, 2014) (on file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security).

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Section 281.01, F.S.

Historical Commission.¹⁴ Additionally, the DMS must coordinate with the Division of Historical Resources of the Department of State regarding a monument's design and placement.¹⁵

Among the statutorily authorized Capitol Complex memorials to honor military servicemembers are:

- The Florida Veterans' Walk of Honor;¹⁶
- The Florida Veterans' Memorial Garden;¹⁷ and
- The POW-MIA Chair of Honor Memorial.¹⁸

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill creates s. 265.005, F.S. to establish the Beirut Memorial, subject to legislative appropriation, on the premises of the Capitol Complex to honor those who lost their lives in the October 23, 1983 attack on the U.S. Armed Forces in Beirut, Lebanon.

The bill directs the Department of Management Services (DMS) to approve the design and placement of the Beirut Memorial, taking into consideration recommendations from the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Florida Historical Commission. Additionally, the DMS will coordinate with the Division of Historical Resources regarding the Beirut Memorial's design and placement.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2015.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

¹⁴ Section 265.111(2), F.S.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Section 265.0031, F.S.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ Section 265.00301, F.S.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The cost to construct the Beirut Memorial is indeterminate at this time. The establishment of the memorial is contingent upon a not yet identified legislative appropriation.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates section 265.005 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.