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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

Floor: 1/WD/3R

03/03/2016 05:24 PM

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Senator Bean moved the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Between lines 33 and 34

insert:

Section 2. Subsection (12) of section 401.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

401.27 Personnel; standards and certification.—

(12) An applicant for certification as an emergency medical technician or paramedic who is trained outside the state, or trained in the military, must provide proof of a current, nationally recognized emergency medical technician or paramedic



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12 certification or registration that is recognized by the  
13 department and based upon successful completion of a training  
14 program approved by the department as being equivalent to the  
15 most recent EMT-Basic or EMT-Paramedic National Standard  
16 Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards of the United  
17 States Department of Transportation and hold a current  
18 certificate of successful course completion in cardiopulmonary  
19 resuscitation (CPR) or advanced cardiac life support for  
20 emergency medical technicians or paramedics, respectively, to be  
21 eligible for ~~the certification examination. The applicant must~~  
22 ~~successfully complete the certification examination within 2~~  
23 ~~years after the date of the receipt of his or her application by~~  
24 ~~the department. After 2 years, the applicant must submit a new~~  
25 ~~application, meet all eligibility requirements, and submit all~~  
26 ~~fees to reestablish eligibility to take the certification~~  
27 ~~examination.~~

28 Section 3. Subsection (3) of section 456.024, Florida  
29 Statutes, is amended to read:

30 456.024 Members of United States Armed Forces in good  
31 standing with administrative boards or the department; spouses;  
32 licensure.—

33 (3) (a) A person is eligible for licensure as a health care  
34 practitioner in this state if he or she:

35 1. ~~who~~ Serves or has served as a health care practitioner  
36 in the United States Armed Forces, the United States Reserve  
37 Forces, or the National Guard;

38 2. ~~or a person who~~ Serves or has served on active duty with  
39 the United States Armed Forces as a health care practitioner in  
40 the United States Public Health Service; or



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41           3. Is a health care practitioner, other than a dentist, in  
42 another state, the District of Columbia, or a possession or  
43 territory of the United States and is the spouse of a person  
44 serving on active duty with the United States Armed Forces, is  
45 eligible for licensure in this state.

46  
47 The department shall develop an application form, and each  
48 board, or the department if there is no board, shall waive the  
49 application fee, licensure fee, and unlicensed activity fee for  
50 such applicants. For purposes of this subsection, "health care  
51 practitioner" means a health care practitioner as defined in s.  
52 456.001 and a person licensed under part III of chapter 401 or  
53 part IV of chapter 468.

54           (b)-(a) The board, or the department if there is no board,  
55 shall issue a license to practice in this state to a person who:

56           1. Submits a complete application.

57           2. If he or she is member of the United States Armed  
58 Forces, the United States Reserve Forces, or the National Guard,  
59 submits proof that he or she has received ~~Receives~~ an honorable  
60 discharge within 6 months before, or will receive an honorable  
61 discharge within 6 months after, the date of submission of the  
62 application.

63           3.a. Holds an active, unencumbered license issued by  
64 another state, the District of Columbia, or a possession or  
65 territory of the United States and who has not had disciplinary  
66 action taken against him or her in the 5 years preceding the  
67 date of submission of the application;

68           b. Is a military health care practitioner in a profession  
69 for which licensure in a state or jurisdiction is not required



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70 to practice in the United States Armed Forces, if he or she  
71 submits to the department evidence of military training or  
72 experience substantially equivalent to the requirements for  
73 licensure in this state in that profession and evidence that he  
74 or she has obtained a passing score on the appropriate  
75 examination of a national or regional standards organization if  
76 required for licensure in this state; or

77 c. Is the spouse of a person serving on active duty in the  
78 United States Armed Forces and is a health care practitioner in  
79 a profession, excluding dentistry, for which licensure in  
80 another state or jurisdiction is not required, if he or she  
81 submits to the department evidence of training or experience  
82 substantially equivalent to the requirements for licensure in  
83 this state in that profession and evidence that he or she has  
84 obtained a passing score on the appropriate examination of a  
85 national or regional standards organization if required for  
86 licensure in this state.

87 4. Attests that he or she is not, at the time of submission  
88 of the application, the subject of a disciplinary proceeding in  
89 a jurisdiction in which he or she holds a license or by the  
90 United States Department of Defense for reasons related to the  
91 practice of the profession for which he or she is applying.

92 5. Actively practiced the profession for which he or she is  
93 applying for the 3 years preceding the date of submission of the  
94 application.

95 6. Submits a set of fingerprints for a background screening  
96 pursuant to s. 456.0135, if required for the profession for  
97 which he or she is applying.

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99 The department shall verify information submitted by the  
100 applicant under this subsection using the National Practitioner  
101 Data Bank.

102 (c)~~(b)~~ Each applicant who meets the requirements of this  
103 subsection shall be licensed with all rights and  
104 responsibilities as defined by law. The applicable board, or the  
105 department if there is no board, may deny an application if the  
106 applicant has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo  
107 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any felony or  
108 misdemeanor related to the practice of a health care profession  
109 regulated by this state.

110 (d)~~(e)~~ An applicant for initial licensure under this  
111 subsection must submit the information required by ss.  
112 456.039(1) and 456.0391(1) no later than 1 year after the  
113 license is issued.

114 Section 4. Section 456.0241, Florida Statutes, is created  
115 to read:

116 456.0241 Temporary certificate for active duty military  
117 health care practitioners.-

118 (1) As used in this section, the term:

119 (a) "Military health care practitioner" means:

120 1. A person practicing as a health care practitioner as  
121 defined in s. 456.001, as a person licensed under part III of  
122 chapter 401, or as a person licensed under part IV of chapter  
123 468 who is serving on active duty in the United States Armed  
124 Forces, the United States Reserve Forces, or the National Guard;  
125 or

126 2. A person who is serving on active duty in the United  
127 States Armed Forces and serving in the United States Public



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128 Health Service.  
129 (b) "Military platform" means a military training agreement  
130 with a nonmilitary health care provider which is designed to  
131 develop and support medical, surgical, or other health care  
132 treatment opportunities in a nonmilitary health care provider  
133 setting to authorize a military health care practitioner to  
134 develop and maintain the technical proficiency necessary to meet  
135 the present and future health care needs of the United States  
136 Armed Forces. Such agreements may include Training Affiliation  
137 Agreements and External Resource Sharing Agreements.  
138 (2) The department may issue a temporary certificate to a  
139 military health care practitioner to practice in a regulated  
140 profession in this state if the applicant:  
141 (a) Submits proof that he or she will be practicing  
142 pursuant to a military platform.  
143 (b) Submits a complete application and a nonrefundable  
144 application fee.  
145 (c) Holds an active, unencumbered license to practice as a  
146 health care professional issued by another state, the District  
147 of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States,  
148 or is a military health care practitioner in a profession for  
149 which licensure in a state or jurisdiction is not required for  
150 practice in the United States Armed Forces and provides evidence  
151 of military training and experience substantially equivalent to  
152 the requirements for licensure in this state in that profession.  
153 (d) Attests that he or she is not, at the time of  
154 submission of the application, the subject of a disciplinary  
155 proceeding in a jurisdiction in which he or she holds a license  
156 or by the United States Department of Defense for reasons



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157 related to the practice of the profession for which he or she is  
158 applying.

159 (e) Has been determined to be competent in the profession  
160 for which he or she is applying.

161 (f) Submits a set of fingerprints for a background  
162 screening pursuant to s. 456.0135, if required for the  
163 profession for which he or she is applying.

164  
165 The department shall verify information submitted by the  
166 applicant under this subsection using the National Practitioner  
167 Data Bank.

168 (3) A temporary certificate issued under this section  
169 expires 6 months after issuance but may be renewed upon proof of  
170 continuing military orders for active duty assignment in this  
171 state and evidence that the military health care practitioner  
172 continues to be a military platform participant.

173 (4) A military health care practitioner applying for a  
174 temporary certificate under this section is exempt from ss.  
175 456.039-456.046. All other provisions of this chapter apply to  
176 such military health care practitioner.

177 (5) An applicant for a temporary certificate under this  
178 section is deemed ineligible if he or she:

179 (a) Has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere  
180 to, regardless of adjudication, any felony or misdemeanor  
181 related to the practice of a health care profession;

182 (b) Has had a health care provider license revoked or  
183 suspended in another state, the District of Columbia, or a  
184 possession or territory of the United States;

185 (c) Has failed to obtain a passing score on an examination



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186 in this state required to receive a license to practice the  
187 profession for which he or she is applying; or

188 (d) Is under investigation in another jurisdiction for an  
189 act that would constitute a violation of the applicable  
190 licensing chapter or this chapter until the investigation is  
191 complete and all charges against him or her are disposed of by  
192 dismissal, nolle prosequi, or acquittal.

193 (6) The department shall, by rule, set an application fee  
194 not to exceed \$50 and a renewal fee not to exceed \$50.

195 (7) Application shall be made on a form prescribed and  
196 furnished by the department.

197 (8) The department shall adopt rules to administer this  
198 section.

199 Section 5. Section 489.1131, Florida Statutes, is created  
200 to read:

201 489.1131 Credit for relevant military training and  
202 education.-

203 (1) The department shall provide a method by which  
204 honorably discharged veterans may apply for licensure. The  
205 method must include a veteran-specific application and provide:

206 (a) To the fullest extent possible, credit toward the  
207 requirements for licensure for military experience, training,  
208 and education received and completed during service in the  
209 United States Armed Forces if the military experience, training,  
210 or education is substantially similar to the experience,  
211 training, or education required for licensure.

212 (b) Acceptance of up to 3 years of active duty service in  
213 the United States Armed Forces, regardless of duty or training,  
214 to meet the experience requirements of s. 489.111(2)(c). At





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215 least 1 additional year of active experience as a foreman in the  
216 trade, either civilian or military, is required to fulfill the  
217 experience requirement of s. 489.111(2) (c).

218  
219 The board may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54  
220 to administer this subsection.

221 (2) Notwithstanding any other law, beginning October 1,  
222 2017, and annually thereafter, the department, in conjunction  
223 with the board, is directed to prepare and submit a report  
224 titled "Construction and Electrical Contracting Veteran  
225 Applicant Statistics" to the Governor, the President of the  
226 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The  
227 report must include statistics and information relating to this  
228 section and s. 489.5161 which detail:

229 (a) The number of applicants who identified themselves as  
230 veterans.

231 (b) The number of veterans whose application for a license  
232 was approved.

233 (c) The number of veterans whose application for a license  
234 was denied, including the reasons for denial.

235 (d) Data on the application processing times for veterans.

236 (e) Recommendations on ways to improve the department's  
237 ability to meet the needs of veterans which would effectively  
238 address the challenges that veterans face when separating from  
239 military service and seeking a license regulated by the  
240 department pursuant to part I of this chapter.

241 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
242 489.511, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

243 489.511 Certification; application; examinations;



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244 endorsement.-

245 (1)

246 (b) Any person desiring to be certified as a contractor  
247 shall apply to the department in writing and must meet the  
248 following criteria:

249 1. Be of good moral character;

250 2. Pass the certification examination, achieving a passing  
251 grade as established by board rule; and

252 3. Meet eligibility requirements according to one of the  
253 following criteria:

254 a. Has, within the 6 years immediately preceding the filing  
255 of the application, at least 3 years of ~~years'~~ proven management  
256 experience in the trade or education equivalent thereto, or a  
257 combination thereof, but not more than one-half of such  
258 experience may be educational equivalent;

259 b. Has, within the 8 years immediately preceding the filing  
260 of the application, at least 4 years of ~~years'~~ experience as a  
261 supervisor or contractor in the trade for which he or she is  
262 making application, or at least 4 years of experience as a  
263 supervisor in electrical or alarm system work with the United  
264 States Armed Forces;

265 c. Has, within the 12 years immediately preceding the  
266 filing of the application, at least 6 years of comprehensive  
267 training, technical education, or supervisory experience  
268 associated with an electrical or alarm system contracting  
269 business, or at least 6 years of technical experience,  
270 education, or training in electrical or alarm system work with  
271 the United States Armed Forces or a governmental entity;

272 d. Has, within the 12 years immediately preceding the



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273 filing of the application, been licensed for 3 years as a  
274 professional engineer who is qualified by education, training,  
275 or experience to practice electrical engineering; or

276 e. Has any combination of qualifications under sub-  
277 subparagraphs a.-c. totaling 6 years of experience.

278 Section 7. Section 489.5161, Florida Statutes, is created  
279 to read:

280 489.5161 Credit for relevant military training and  
281 education.—

282 (1) The department shall provide a method by which  
283 honorably discharged veterans may apply for licensure. The  
284 method must include a veteran-specific application and provide,  
285 to the fullest extent possible, credit toward the requirements  
286 for licensure for military experience, training, and education  
287 received and completed during service in the United States Armed  
288 Forces if the military experience, training, or education is  
289 substantially similar to the experience, training, or education  
290 required for licensure. The board may adopt rules pursuant to  
291 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this subsection.

292 (2) Notwithstanding any other law, beginning October 1,  
293 2017, and annually thereafter, the department, in conjunction  
294 with the board, is directed to prepare and submit a report  
295 titled "Construction and Electrical Contracting Veteran  
296 Applicant Statistics" to the Governor, the President of the  
297 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The  
298 report must include statistics and information relating to this  
299 section and s. 489.1131 which detail:

300 (a) The number of applicants who identified themselves as  
301 veterans.



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302       (b) The number of veterans whose application for a license  
303 was approved.

304       (c) The number of veterans whose application for a license  
305 was denied, including data on the reasons for denial.

306       (d) Data on the application processing times for veterans.

307       (e) Recommendations on ways to improve the department's  
308 ability to meet the needs of veterans which would effectively  
309 address the challenges that veterans face when separating from  
310 military service and seeking a license regulated by the  
311 department pursuant to part II of this chapter.

312       Section 8. Section 493.61035, Florida Statutes, is created  
313 to read:

314       493.61035 Credit for relevant military training and  
315 education.—

316       (1) The department shall provide a method by which  
317 honorably discharged veterans may apply for licensure. The  
318 method must include:

319       (a) To the fullest extent possible, credit toward the  
320 requirements for licensure for military training and education  
321 received and completed during service in the United States Armed  
322 Forces if the military training or education is substantially  
323 similar to the training or education required for licensure.

324       (b) Identification of overlaps and gaps between the  
325 requirements for licensure and the military training or  
326 education received and completed by the veteran, and subsequent  
327 notification to the veteran of the overlaps and gaps.

328       (c) Assistance in identifying programs that offer training  
329 and education needed to meet the requirements for licensure.

330       (2) Notwithstanding any other law, beginning October 1,



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331 2017, and annually thereafter, the department is directed to  
332 prepare and submit a report to the Governor, the President of  
333 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. In  
334 addition to any other information that the Legislature may  
335 require, the report must include statistics and relevant  
336 information that detail:

337 (a) The number of applicants who identified themselves as  
338 veterans.

339 (b) The number of veterans whose application for a license  
340 was approved.

341 (c) The number of veterans whose application for a license  
342 was denied, including the reasons for denial.

343 (d) Data on the application processing times for veterans.

344 (e) The department's efforts to assist veterans in  
345 identifying programs that offer training and education needed to  
346 meet the requirements for licensure.

347 (f) The department's identification of the most common  
348 overlaps and gaps between the requirements for licensure and the  
349 military training and education received and completed by the  
350 veterans.

351 (g) Recommendations on ways to improve the department's  
352 ability to meet the needs of veterans which would effectively  
353 address the challenges that veterans face when separating from  
354 military service and seeking a license for a profession or an  
355 occupation regulated by the department pursuant to this chapter.

356 Section 9. (1) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
357 Vehicles and the Department of Military Affairs shall jointly  
358 conduct a pilot program to provide onsite commercial motor  
359 vehicle driver license testing opportunities to qualified



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360 members of the Florida National Guard pursuant to the Department  
361 of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles commercial motor vehicle  
362 driver license skills test waiver under s. 322.12, Florida  
363 Statutes. Testing must be held at a Florida National Guard  
364 armory, a Florida United States Armed Forces Reserve Center, or  
365 the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. The pilot program shall  
366 be accomplished using existing funds appropriated to each  
367 department.

368 (2) By June 30, 2017, the Department of Highway Safety and  
369 Motor Vehicles and the Department of Military Affairs shall  
370 jointly submit a report on the results of the pilot program to  
371 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
372 Representatives.

373 (3) This section is repealed October 1, 2017, and shall not  
374 be codified in the Florida Statutes.

375  
376 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

377 And the title is amended as follows:

378 Delete lines 2 - 9

379 and insert:

380 An act relating to military and veterans affairs;  
381 amending s. 295.07, F.S.; requiring each state agency  
382 and authorizing other political subdivisions of the  
383 state to develop and implement a veterans recruitment  
384 plan; requiring specified goals for veterans  
385 recruitment plans; requiring the Department of  
386 Management Services to collect specified data and to  
387 include the data in its annual workforce report and on  
388 its website; providing applicability; amending s.



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389 401.27, F.S.; revising the application requirements  
390 for emergency medical technician or paramedic  
391 certification; amending s. 456.024, F.S.; directing  
392 the Department of Health, or the applicable board  
393 pursuant to chapter 456, F.S., to issue health care  
394 practitioner licenses to eligible military health care  
395 practitioners and eligible health care practitioners  
396 who are spouses of active duty servicemembers;  
397 creating s. 456.0241, F.S.; defining terms; directing  
398 the Department of Health to issue temporary  
399 certificates to eligible active duty military health  
400 care practitioners; providing requirements for  
401 temporary certification; providing for expiration of  
402 such certification; providing exemptions; directing  
403 the department to set application and renewal fees,  
404 develop and furnish an application form, and adopt  
405 rules; creating s. 489.1131, F.S.; directing the  
406 Department of Business and Professional Regulation to  
407 provide a method by which honorably discharged  
408 veterans may apply for construction contracting  
409 licensure; authorizing the Construction Industry  
410 Licensing Board to adopt rules; directing the  
411 department, in conjunction with the board, to annually  
412 prepare and submit a specified report to the Governor  
413 and the Legislature; amending s. 489.511, F.S.;  
414 revising eligibility criteria for taking the  
415 electrical or alarm system contractor certification  
416 examination; creating s. 489.5161, F.S.; directing the  
417 Department of Business and Professional Regulation to



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418 provide a method by which honorably discharged  
419 veterans may apply for electrical or alarm system  
420 contracting licensure; authorizing the Electrical  
421 Contractors' Licensing Board to adopt rules; directing  
422 the department, in conjunction with the board, to  
423 annually prepare and submit a specified report to the  
424 Governor and the Legislature; creating s. 493.61035,  
425 F.S.; directing the Department of Agriculture and  
426 Consumer Services to provide a method by which  
427 honorably discharged veterans may apply for private  
428 investigative, private security, and repossession  
429 services licensure; authorizing the department to  
430 adopt rules; directing the department to annually  
431 prepare and submit a specified report to the Governor  
432 and the Legislature; directing the Department of  
433 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the Department  
434 of Military Affairs to conduct a commercial motor  
435 vehicle driver license testing pilot program;  
436 specifying testing locations and funding; requiring  
437 the departments to submit a report to the Legislature  
438 by a specified date; providing for repeal of the  
439 program; providing an