

By the Committee on Appropriations; and Senator Bean

576-01542-16

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to military and veterans affairs;  
3           amending s. 322.08, F.S.; requiring the application  
4           form for an original, renewal, or replacement driver  
5           license or identification card to include a voluntary  
6           checkoff authorizing veterans to request written or  
7           electronic information on federal, state, and local  
8           benefits and services for veterans; requiring the  
9           requested information to be delivered by a third-party  
10          provider; requiring the Department of Highway Safety  
11          and Motor Vehicles to report monthly to the Department  
12          of Veterans' Affairs the names and mailing or e-mail  
13          addresses of veterans who request information;  
14          requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs to  
15          disseminate veteran contact information to the third-  
16          party provider; requiring that the third-party  
17          provider be a nonprofit organization; defining the  
18          term "nonprofit organization"; requiring that the  
19          Department of Veterans' Affairs provide veteran  
20          contact information to the appropriate county or city  
21          veteran service officer; specifying that a third-party  
22          provider may use veteran contact information only as  
23          authorized; prohibiting a third-party provider from  
24          selling veteran contact information; requiring a  
25          third-party provider to maintain confidentiality of  
26          veteran contact information under specified  
27          provisions; providing a penalty; creating the Military  
28          and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force within the  
29          Department of State; specifying membership of the task

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30 force; authorizing reimbursement for per diem and  
31 travel expenses; prescribing duties of the task force;  
32 requiring submission of a report to the Governor and  
33 the Legislature by a specified date; providing for  
34 expiration of the task force; providing for staffing;  
35 providing legislative findings and intent regarding  
36 continuing education for veterans of the United States  
37 Armed Forces; providing legislative intent to require  
38 collaboration between the State Board of Education and  
39 the Board of Governors of the State University System  
40 in achieving specified goals regarding educational  
41 opportunities for veterans; providing an effective  
42 date.

43  
44 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

45  
46 Section 1. Present subsection (9) of section 322.08,  
47 Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (10), and a new  
48 subsection (9) is added to that section, to read:

49 322.08 Application for license; requirements for license  
50 and identification card forms.—

51 (9) (a) To support the carrying out of the duties of the  
52 Department of Veterans' Affairs prescribed in s. 292.05 and to  
53 facilitate its outreach to veterans residing in this state, the  
54 application form for an original, a renewal, or a replacement  
55 driver license or identification card must include a voluntary  
56 checkoff authorizing a veteran of the United States Armed Forces  
57 to request written or electronic information on federal, state,  
58 and local benefits and services available to veterans. The

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59 veteran may elect to receive requested information through  
60 United States mail or by e-mail. The requested information shall  
61 be delivered to the veteran by any third-party provider selected  
62 by the Department of Veterans' Affairs to act on its behalf.

63 (b) The department shall collaborate with the Department of  
64 Veterans' Affairs to administer this subsection. The department  
65 shall report monthly to the Department of Veterans' Affairs the  
66 name and mailing address or e-mail address of each veteran who  
67 requests information as provided in paragraph (a). Following  
68 receipt of the monthly report, the Department of Veterans'  
69 Affairs shall disseminate the contact information for each such  
70 veteran to the third-party provider acting on its behalf. The  
71 third-party provider must be a nonprofit organization with  
72 sufficient ability to communicate with veterans residing  
73 throughout this state. For purposes of this paragraph, the term  
74 "nonprofit organization" means an organization exempt from the  
75 federal income tax under s. 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
76 1986 or any federal, state, or local governmental entity.

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

82 (d)1. The contact information of a veteran which is  
83 obtained by a third-party provider pursuant to this subsection  
84 may be used only as authorized by this subsection. The third-  
85 party provider may not sell such contact information. Except as  
86 otherwise provided, the third-party provider must maintain the  
87 confidentiality of the contact information in accordance with

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88 chapter 119 and the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of  
89 1994, 18 U.S.C. ss. 2721 et seq.

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

93 Section 2. Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task  
94 Force.—The Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force, a  
95 task force as defined in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes, is created  
96 within the Department of State. The task force is created for  
97 the express purpose of studying issues involving the development  
98 and implementation of an online voting system that allows absent  
99 uniformed services voters who are overseas to electronically  
100 submit voted ballots.

101 (1) The task force is composed of 11 members, as follows:

102 (a) The Secretary of State or his or her designee, who  
103 shall serve as chair of the task force.

104 (b) The Adjutant General or his or her designee.

105 (c) The executive director of the Agency for State  
106 Technology or his or her designee.

107 (d) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of  
108 the Senate.

109 (e) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by  
110 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

111 (f) Three supervisors of elections appointed by the Florida  
112 State Association of Supervisors of Elections.

113 (g) Three individuals appointed by the Secretary of State,  
114 with relevant expertise in computers, the Internet, or other  
115 associated technologies.

116 (2) Members of the task force shall serve without

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117 compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and  
118 travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

119 (3) The task force, at a minimum, shall study and report on  
120 the following issues:

121 (a) Any factor that limits the ability of absent uniformed  
122 services voters who are overseas to request, receive, and return  
123 absentee ballots within the current statutory time period for  
124 casting absentee ballots.

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

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

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

132 (e) Procedures adopted by other states to facilitate  
133 greater electoral participation among absent uniformed services  
134 voters who are overseas.

135 (4) The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the  
136 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
137 House of Representatives by July 1, 2017, containing the task  
138 force's recommendation concerning whether the state should  
139 pursue the development and implementation of an online voting  
140 system that allows absent uniformed services voters who are  
141 overseas to electronically submit voted ballots. If the task  
142 force favorably recommends an online voting system, the report  
143 must include recommended steps for developing and implementing  
144 such a system. Upon submission of the report, the task force  
145 shall expire.

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146       (5) The Division of Elections of the Department of State  
147 shall provide support staff for the task force. The Agency for  
148 State Technology shall assist the task force upon request.

149       Section 3. Legislative findings and intent; continuing  
150 education of veterans of the United States Armed Forces.—The  
151 Legislature finds that many veterans of the United States Armed  
152 Forces in this state have completed training and coursework  
153 during their military service, including overseas deployments,  
154 resulting in tangible and quantifiable strides in their pursuit  
155 of a postsecondary degree. The Legislature further finds that  
156 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors of the  
157 State University System must work together to ensure that  
158 military training and coursework are granted academic credit in  
159 order to assist veterans in continuing their education.  
160 Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that the State  
161 Board of Education and the Board of Governors work  
162 collaboratively to:

163       (1) Align existing degree programs, including, but not  
164 limited to, vocational and technical degrees, at each state  
165 university and Florida College System institution with  
166 applicable military training and experience to maximize academic  
167 credit awarded for such training and experience.

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

171       (3) Incorporate outreach services tailored to disabled  
172 veterans into existing disability services on the campus of each  
173 state university and Florida College System institution to make  
174 available to such veterans information on disability services

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175 provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,  
176 other federal and state agencies, and private entities.

177 (4) Facilitate statewide meetings for personnel at state  
178 universities and Florida College System institutions who provide  
179 student services for veterans to discuss and develop best  
180 practices, exchange ideas and experiences, and attend  
181 presentations by individuals with expertise in the unique needs  
182 of veterans.

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

186 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.