

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to military and veteran support;  
3           amending s. 295.187, F.S.; requiring the Department of  
4           Veterans' Affairs to create a website to streamline  
5           the procedure for businesses applying for  
6           certification as a veteran business enterprise;  
7           amending s. 454.021, F.S.; authorizing the Supreme  
8           Court to admit on motion a bar applicant who is the  
9           spouse of a servicemember stationed in this state  
10          under certain circumstances; amending s. 1012.56,  
11          F.S.; requiring the Department of Education to  
12          expedite the processing of an application for educator  
13          certification submitted by a spouse of a servicemember  
14          stationed in this state; requiring the State Board of  
15          Education to adopt rules regarding extending validity  
16          of a temporary certificate if the applicant is a  
17          spouse of a servicemember stationed in this state;  
18          providing legislative findings and intent regarding  
19          continuing education for veterans of the United States  
20          Armed Forces; providing legislative intent to require  
21          collaboration between the State Board of Education and  
22          the Board of Governors of the State University System  
23          in achieving specified goals regarding educational  
24          opportunities for veterans; providing an effective  
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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Present paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of section 295.187, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (e), and a new paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, to read:

295.187 Florida Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunity Act.—

(6) DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS.—The department shall:

(d) Create a website to streamline the procedure for applying for certification as a veteran business enterprise.

Section 2. Subsection (4) is added to section 454.021, Florida Statutes, to read:

454.021 Attorneys; admission to practice law; Supreme Court to govern and regulate.—

(4) (a) The Supreme Court of Florida may admit on motion an applicant as an attorney at law authorized to practice in this state if the applicant is a spouse of a servicemember, as defined in s. 250.01, stationed in this state and upon certification by the Florida Board of Bar Examiners that the applicant meets the following requirements:

1. The applicant has registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System established by the United States

51 Department of Defense;

52 2. The applicant holds a Juris Doctor or Bachelor of Laws  
53 from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association;

54 3. The applicant is licensed to practice law in another  
55 state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United  
56 States after having passed a written examination;

57 4. The applicant can establish that he or she is a member  
58 in good standing in all jurisdictions where licensed to practice  
59 law and that he or she is not currently subject to discipline or  
60 a pending disciplinary matter relating to the practice of law;

61 5. The applicant can demonstrate his or her presence in  
62 this state as a spouse of a servicemember; and

63 6. The applicant has otherwise fulfilled all requirements  
64 for admission to practice law in this state.

65 (b) The Supreme Court of Florida may specify circumstances  
66 under which the license and authorization to practice law in  
67 this state of an attorney licensed in accordance with paragraph  
68 (a) terminates.

69 Section 3. Subsections (1) and (7) of section 1012.56,  
70 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

71 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

72 (1) APPLICATION.—Each person seeking certification  
73 pursuant to this chapter shall submit a completed application  
74 containing the applicant's social security number to the  
75 Department of Education and remit the fee required pursuant to

76 s. 1012.59 and rules of the State Board of Education. Pursuant  
77 to the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity  
78 Reconciliation Act of 1996, each party is required to provide  
79 his or her social security number in accordance with this  
80 section. Disclosure of social security numbers obtained through  
81 this requirement is limited to the purpose of administration of  
82 the Title IV-D program of the Social Security Act for child  
83 support enforcement. Pursuant to s. 120.60, the department shall  
84 issue within 90 calendar days after the stamped receipted date  
85 of the completed application:

86 (a) If the applicant meets the requirements, a  
87 professional certificate covering the classification, level, and  
88 area for which the applicant is deemed qualified and a document  
89 explaining the requirements for renewal of the professional  
90 certificate;

91 (b) If the applicant meets the requirements and if  
92 requested by an employing school district or an employing  
93 private school with a professional education competence  
94 demonstration program pursuant to paragraphs (6) (f) and (8) (b),  
95 a temporary certificate covering the classification, level, and  
96 area for which the applicant is deemed qualified and an official  
97 statement of status of eligibility; or

98 (c) If the ~~an~~ applicant does not meet the requirements for  
99 either certificate, an official statement of status of  
100 eligibility. The statement of status of eligibility must advise

101 the applicant of any qualifications that must be completed to  
102 qualify for certification. Each statement of status of  
103 eligibility is valid for 3 years after its date of issuance,  
104 except as provided in paragraph (2) (d).  
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106 If the applicant is the spouse of a servicemember, as defined in  
107 s. 250.01, stationed in this state and if the applicant holds a  
108 current professional standard teaching certificate issued by  
109 another state, the department shall expedite the processing of  
110 the application and issue a certificate or statement as provided  
111 under paragraphs (a)-(c) within 60 calendar days after the  
112 stamped receipted date of the completed application.

113 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

114 (a) The Department of Education shall issue a professional  
115 certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to any applicant  
116 who meets all the requirements outlined in subsection (2) or,  
117 for a professional certificate covering grades 6 through 12, any  
118 applicant who:

119 1. Meets the requirements of paragraphs (2) (a)-(h).

120 2. Holds a master's or higher degree in the area of  
121 science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

122 3. Teaches a high school course in the subject of the  
123 advanced degree.

124 4. Is rated highly effective as determined by the  
125 teacher's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part

126 on student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized  
127 assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International  
128 Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate  
129 examination.

130 5. Achieves a passing score on the Florida professional  
131 education competency examination required by state board rule.

132 (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to  
133 any applicant who completes the requirements outlined in  
134 paragraphs (2)(a)-(f) and completes the subject area content  
135 requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates  
136 mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5) and  
137 holds an accredited degree or a degree approved by the  
138 Department of Education at the level required for the subject  
139 area specialization in state board rule.

140 (c) The department shall issue one nonrenewable 2-year  
141 temporary certificate and one nonrenewable 5-year professional  
142 certificate to a qualified applicant who holds a bachelor's  
143 degree in the area of speech-language impairment to allow for  
144 completion of a master's degree program in speech-language  
145 impairment.

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147 Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years  
148 and is nonrenewable. However, the requirement in paragraph  
149 (2)(g) must be met within 1 calendar year of the date of  
150 employment under the temporary certificate. Individuals who are

151 employed under contract at the end of the 1 calendar year time  
152 period may continue to be employed through the end of the school  
153 year in which they have been contracted. A school district shall  
154 not employ, or continue the employment of, an individual in a  
155 position for which a temporary certificate is required beyond  
156 this time period if the individual has not met the requirement  
157 of paragraph (2)(g). The State Board of Education shall adopt  
158 rules to allow the department to extend the validity period of a  
159 temporary certificate for 2 years when the requirements for the  
160 professional certificate, not including the requirement in  
161 paragraph (2)(g), were not completed due to the serious illness  
162 or injury of the applicant, due to the fact that the applicant  
163 is the spouse of a servicemember stationed in this state, or due  
164 to other extraordinary extenuating circumstances. The department  
165 shall reissue the temporary certificate for 2 additional years  
166 upon approval by the Commissioner of Education. A written  
167 request for reissuance of the certificate shall be submitted by  
168 the district school superintendent, the governing authority of a  
169 university lab school, the governing authority of a state-  
170 supported school, or the governing authority of a private  
171 school.

172 Section 4. Legislative findings and intent; continuing  
173 education of veterans of the United States Armed Forces.—The  
174 Legislature finds that many veterans of the United States Armed  
175 Forces in this state have completed training and coursework

176 during their military service, including overseas deployments,  
177 resulting in tangible and quantifiable strides in their pursuit  
178 of a postsecondary degree. The Legislature further finds that  
179 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors of the  
180 State University System must work together to ensure that  
181 military training and coursework are granted academic credit in  
182 order to assist veterans in continuing their education.  
183 Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that the State  
184 Board of Education and the Board of Governors work  
185 collaboratively to:

186 (1) Align existing degree programs, including, but not  
187 limited to, vocational and technical degrees, at each state  
188 university and Florida College System institution with  
189 applicable military training and experience to maximize academic  
190 credit awarded for such training and experience.

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

194 (3) Incorporate outreach services tailored to disabled  
195 veterans into existing disability services on the campus of each  
196 state university and Florida College System institution to make  
197 available to such veterans information on disability services  
198 provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,  
199 other federal and state agencies, and private entities.

200 (4) Facilitate statewide meetings for personnel at state



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201 universities and Florida College System institutions who provide  
202 student services for veterans to discuss and develop best  
203 practices, exchange ideas and experiences, and attend  
204 presentations by individuals with expertise in the unique needs  
205 of veterans.

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

209 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.