

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 and Space

BILL: SB 748

INTRODUCER: Senator Harrell

SUBJECT: Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame

DATE: April 9, 2019

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Brown	Caldwell	MS	Favorable
2.			AHS	
3.			AP	

I. Summary:

SB 748 removes the current prohibition on the use of state funds for the:

- Administration of the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame (Hall of Fame); and
- Travel expenses incurred by members of the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council (Council).

The Hall of Fame is displayed at the Capitol and contains plaques honoring military veterans who have been inducted for making a significant contribution to the state.

II. Present Situation:

The 2011 Legislature established the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame (Hall of Fame) to recognize and honor military veterans who have made a significant contribution to the state during or after military service.¹ The Department of Management Services located the Hall of Fame on the Plaza Level of the Capitol Building, along the northeast front wall, in consultation with the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) on design and theme.²

The Hall of Fame is administered by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA).³ Within the FDVA, the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council (Council) operates as an advisory council for the Hall of Fame.⁴ The Council is composed by seven members, four of whom are members of a congressionally chartered veterans service organization. The Council is staffed with one member each, selected by the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, Commissioner of Agriculture, and

¹ Chapter 2011-168 L.O.F.; Section 265.003(1), F.S.

² Section 265.003(2)(b), F.S.

³ Section 265.003(2)(a), F.S.

⁴ Section 265.003(3)(a), F.S.

the Executive Director of the FDVA.⁵ A veteran who has received other than an honorable discharge from military service is disqualified from serving on the Council.

The process for the selection of inductees to the Hall of Fame is as follows. First, the Council annually accepts nominations for persons to be considered as inductees. Among the names received, the Council provides a list of up to 20 nominees to the FDVA for submission to the Governor and Cabinet. The Governor and Cabinet then make the final selection.⁶

The Council is authorized to establish a formal induction ceremony to coincide with Veterans' Day.⁷

Council members serve uncompensated, although members may be reimbursed for incurred travel expenses. However, s. 265.003, F.S., prohibits state funds being used for both the administration of the Hall of Fame and for travel expenses incurred by members of the Council.⁸

The Department of Veterans' Affairs states that the activities of the Florida Hall of Fame are currently supported with funding from the Florida Veterans Foundation and private donations.⁹

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 748 removes the current prohibition on the use of state funds for the administration of the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

The bill also removes the current prohibition on the use of state funds for travel expenses of members of the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

The mandate restrictions do not apply because the bill does not require counties and municipalities to spend funds, reduce the counties' or municipalities' ability to raise revenue, or reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties and municipalities.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

⁵ Section 265.003(3)(a), F.S.

⁶ Section 265.003(4)(a), F.S.

⁷ Section 265.003(5), F.S.

⁸ Section 265.003(2)(a) and (3)(c), F.S.

⁹ Department of Veterans' Affairs, *2019 Agency Legislative Bill Analysis, SB 748* (Aug. 22, 2018)(on file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Space).

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

The bill substantially amends section 265.003, 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.