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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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The Committee on Health Policy (Torres) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Section 295.126, Florida Statutes, is created to  
read:

295.126 Military Medics and Corpsmen of Florida (MMACOF)  
program.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Department" means the Department of Health.



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11 (b) "Military-trained health care veteran" means a person  
12 who:

13 1. Has served within the preceding consecutive 12 months as  
14 a medic in the United States Army, a medical technician in the  
15 United States Air Force, a hospital corpsman in the United  
16 States Navy, or a health services technician in the United  
17 States Coast Guard;

18 2. Was discharged or separated from military service under  
19 conditions other than dishonorable;

20 3. Has received MMACOF Health Care Program Qualified Status  
21 from the department under paragraph (3) (a);

22 4. Is enrolled, on at least a half-time basis, in an  
23 approved and accredited Florida health care education and  
24 training program specific to the health care field for which the  
25 department has issued the MMACOF Health Care Program Qualified  
26 Status; and

27 5. Has applied for and received approval from the  
28 department for the MMACOF Health Care Certification program.

29 (c) "Participating health care provider" means:

30 1. A physician licensed under chapter 458 or an osteopathic  
31 physician licensed under chapter 459;

32 2. A professional corporation or partnership of physicians  
33 licensed under chapter 458 or osteopathic physicians licensed  
34 under chapter 459;

35 3. A hospital or ambulatory surgical center licensed under  
36 chapter 395;

37 4. An office registered under s. 458.328 or s. 459.03198;

38 5. A commercial enterprise having medical facilities for  
39 its employees, which are supervised by one or more physicians



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40 licensed under chapter 458 or osteopathic physicians licensed  
41 under chapter 459; or

42 6. A facility that is licensed under chapter 395 which  
43 offers medical services to the public and is supervised by one  
44 or more physicians licensed under chapter 458 or osteopathic  
45 physicians licensed under chapter 459.

46 (d) "Veteran" has the same meaning as in s. 1.01(14) or  
47 means a former member of the Florida National Guard.

48 (2) PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.—The department, in  
49 collaboration with Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., may establish  
50 and administer the Military Medics and Corpsmen of Florida  
51 (MMACOF) program. The purpose of the program is to offer  
52 clinical, leadership, and nonclinical career pathways to  
53 veterans and their spouses seeking careers in health care or  
54 health care-related fields within this state.

55 (3) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—The MMACOF program shall consist of  
56 the following components:

57 (a) MMACOF Health Care Certification program.—

58 1. Florida Is For Veterans, Inc. shall recruit and review  
59 the military eligibility of veterans according to the military  
60 requirements for acceptance into the MMACOF Health Care  
61 Certification program.

62 2. Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., shall assist each  
63 individual veteran in completing a department MMACOF Health Care  
64 Certification program application form, which much be developed  
65 by the department and each board, or the department if there is  
66 no board. The department shall waive the application fee,  
67 certificate fee, and unlicensed activity fee for such  
68 applicants.



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69           3. The MMACOF Health Care Certification program application  
70 must include, but is not limited to the following information:

71           a. The individual's civilian and military education; health  
72 care education and training; a list of practice skills regularly  
73 performed in the military during service as a medic in the  
74 United States Army, a medical technician in the United States  
75 Air Force, a hospital corpsman in the United States Navy, or a  
76 health services technician in the United States Coast Guard; and  
77 any other health care-related education or experience the  
78 individual has received as a civilian or active duty  
79 servicemember; and

80           b. (I) A disclosure by the MMACOF Health Care Certification  
81 program applicant stating whether or not he or she is currently  
82 enrolled, on at least a half-time basis, in an approved and  
83 accredited Florida health care education and training program  
84 for a specified health care practice areas listed in  
85 subparagraph 6., and the status of that enrollment; or

86           (II) If the MMACOF Health Care Certification program  
87 applicant is not currently enrolled in an approved and  
88 accredited Florida health care education and training program,  
89 the applicant's preference for the health care practice area in  
90 which he or she seeks to pursue future education and training  
91 and, if known, which approved and accredited Florida health care  
92 education and training program he or she plans to enter under  
93 the MMACOF Health Care Certification program.

94           4. Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., shall recruit, establish,  
95 and maintain a statewide list of MMACOF Health Care  
96 Certification program participating health care providers.  
97 Participating health care providers must agree to employ



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98 unlicensed but military-trained health care veterans who hold an  
99 MMACOF Health Care Certificate in specific health care fields;  
100 who are qualified to perform specific health care skills under  
101 the direct supervision of a licensed health care provider in the  
102 specific field, and who are enrolled on at least a half-time  
103 basis in an approved and accredited Florida health care  
104 education and training program for the health care field  
105 specified on the veteran's MMACOF Health Care Certificate.

106 5. Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., shall assist veterans who  
107 hold an MMACOF Health Care Certificate in identifying  
108 participating health care providers for potential employment,  
109 including providing assistance with resume writing, application  
110 completion, and interviewing skills.

111 6. The Board of Medicine shall review, in consultation with  
112 any other professional board it deems appropriate, each  
113 veteran's individual MMACOF Health Care Certification program  
114 application and, based on criteria set forth in board rule,  
115 shall determine within 30 days in which of the following health  
116 care practice areas the individual veteran is eligible to  
117 practice under the direct supervision of a health care  
118 practitioner, as defined by the specific profession's practice  
119 act, while the veteran is enrolled on at least a half-time basis  
120 in an approved and accredited Florida health care education and  
121 training program for such practice areas:

- 122 a. Certified nursing assistant;
- 123 b. Dental assistant;
- 124 c. Dental hygienist;
- 125 d. Emergency medical technologist;
- 126 e. Licensed practical nurse;



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- 127        f. Laboratory technologist;  
128        g. Medical assistant;  
129        h. Optician;  
130        i. Physician assistant;  
131        j. Occupational therapy assistant;  
132        k. Radiologic technologist;  
133        l. Registered nurse;  
134        m. Respiratory care or therapy technician;  
135        n. Paramedic;  
136        o. Pharmacy technician;  
137        p. Physical therapist assistant; or  
138        q. Physical therapist.
- 139        7. The Board of Medicine shall delineate the practice  
140 skills that the military-trained health care veteran is  
141 permitted to perform under the direct supervision of a licensed  
142 health care practitioner in the field in which the veteran is to  
143 practice.
- 144        8. Once the Board of Medicine has determined from the  
145 information submitted by the MMACOF Health Care Certification  
146 program applicant that he or she has sufficient civilian or  
147 military health care education and training in one or more  
148 health care practice areas set out in subparagraph 6., the  
149 veteran's application shall be given "MMACOF Health Care Program  
150 Qualified" status and the veteran shall be notified of this  
151 status in writing within 14 days. The department must also  
152 provide the veteran with a list of practice skills the Board of  
153 Medicine has determined he or she has experience to perform  
154 under direct supervision when employed by a participating health  
155 care provider after obtaining his or her MMACOF Health Care



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156 Certificate. The notification to the veteran of "MMACOF Health  
157 Care program Qualified" status must include instructions on how  
158 the veteran may obtain an MMACOF Health Care Certificate.

159 9. The Board of Medicine's initial determination of the  
160 veteran's "MMACOF Program Health Care Qualified" status expires  
161 18 months after its first issuance, unless the veteran applies  
162 for an MMACOF Health Care Certificate before the expiration  
163 date.

164 10. To obtain an MMACOF Health Care Certificate, a veteran  
165 whose MMACOF Health Care Certification application is in "MMACOF  
166 Program Health Care Qualified" status must provide to the  
167 department documentation of his or her enrollment on at least a  
168 half-time basis, signed by the registrar or similar  
169 representative of the approved and accredited Florida health  
170 care education and training program, for his or her approved  
171 health care field on a form or in the manner prescribed by  
172 department rule.

173 11. Upon receipt by the department of the veteran's proof  
174 of at least half-time enrollment in an approved and accredited  
175 Florida health care education and training program for the  
176 health care field for which the veteran is "MMACOF Program  
177 Health Care Qualified," the department may issue to the veteran  
178 an MMACOF Health Care Certificate that qualifies the unlicensed  
179 veteran for employment with a participating health care provider  
180 in a position matching the health care field listed on the  
181 veteran's MMACOF Health Care Certificate.

182 12. The veteran's MMACOF Health Care Certificate is valid  
183 for the length of time the veteran remains actively enrolled on  
184 at least a half-time basis in an approved and accredited Florida



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185 health care education and training program, and he or she may  
186 continue to practice the skills approved by the Board of  
187 Medicine in a participating civilian health care provider  
188 setting while enrolled on at least a one-half time basis in an  
189 accredited and approved Florida health care educational and  
190 training program or accredited nursing program, as provided by  
191 s. 464.019(4) (a).

192 13. The department shall provide by rule a method for  
193 annual renewal of military-trained health care veterans' MMACOF  
194 Program Health Care Certifications.

195 14. A MMACOF Health Care Certificateholder must provide the  
196 department and Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., with the following  
197 information within 10 days after civilian employment under his  
198 or her MMACOF Health Care Certificate with a participating  
199 health care provider:

200 a. The name, address, and telephone number of the  
201 participating health care provider that employs the military-  
202 trained health care veteran; and

203 b. The name and phone number of a contact health care  
204 provider who is responsible for supervising the military-trained  
205 health care veteran and who shall be in possession of a copy of  
206 the list of practice skills for which the board has determined  
207 the military-trained health care veteran has sufficient  
208 experience to perform under supervision with his or her MMACOF  
209 Health Care Certificate.

210 15. An MMACOF Health Care Certificateholder must notify the  
211 department and Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., in writing within  
212 10 days after:

213 a. The military-trained health care veteran's termination





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214 of employment with his or her participating health care  
215 provider; or

216 b. The military-trained health care veteran's failure to  
217 remain in or maintain active enrollment on at least a half-time  
218 basis in an approved and accredited Florida health care  
219 education and training program.

220 16. A participating health care provider that employs a  
221 military-trained health care veteran in any capacity must notify  
222 the department and Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., in writing  
223 within 10 days after the employment termination of a military-  
224 trained health care veteran, including the reasons for the  
225 termination.

226 17. An approved and accredited Florida health care  
227 education and training program that has enrolled a military-  
228 trained health care veteran who holds a MMACOF Health Care  
229 Certificate and who is employed by a participating health care  
230 provider must notify the department and Florida Is For Veterans,  
231 Inc., in writing within 10 days after the:

232 a. Termination of the military-trained health care  
233 veteran's enrollment from the approved and accredited Florida  
234 health care education and training program for any reason,  
235 specifying the reasons for termination;

236 b. Military-trained health care veteran's enrollment  
237 dropping below a half-time basis; or

238 c. Military-trained health care veteran's class absences  
239 being of sufficient number to cause the military-trained health  
240 care veteran to drop or fail classes, dropping his or her  
241 enrollment to less than a half-time basis.

242 18. The following acts constitute grounds for denial of an



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243 MMACOF Health Care Certificate or disciplinary action, as  
244 specified in s. 456.072(2):

245 a. Obtaining or attempting to obtain an MMACOF Health Care  
246 Certificate by bribery, fraud, or knowing misrepresentation.

247 b. Having an MMACOF Health Care Certificate revoked,  
248 suspended, or otherwise acted against, including denial, in  
249 another jurisdiction.

250 c. Being convicted or found guilty of, or entering a plea  
251 of nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in  
252 any jurisdiction which relates to practicing as a military-  
253 trained health care veteran under an MMACOF Health Care  
254 Certificate.

255 d. Willfully making or filing a false report or record,  
256 willfully failing to file a report or record that directly  
257 relates to practicing as a military-trained health care veteran  
258 under an MMACOF Health Care Certificate, or willfully impeding  
259 or obstructing the filing of a report or record required by  
260 another person.

261 e. Circulating false, misleading, or deceptive advertising.

262 f. Engaging in unprofessional conduct, including any  
263 departure from or failure to conform to acceptable standards  
264 related to practicing as a military-trained health care veteran  
265 under an MMACOF Health Care Certificate.

266 g. Engaging or attempting to engage in the illegal  
267 possession, sale, or distribution of any illegal or controlled  
268 substance.

269 h. Willfully failing to report any known violation of  
270 chapter 457; chapter 458; chapter 459; chapter 460; chapter 461;  
271 chapter 462; chapter 463; chapter 464; chapter 465; chapter 466;



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272 chapter 467; part I, part II, part III, part V, part X, part  
273 XIII, or part XIV of chapter 468; chapter 478; chapter 480; part  
274 I, part II, or part III of chapter 483; chapter 484; chapter  
275 486; chapter 490; or chapter 491.

276 i. Engaging in the delivery of military-trained health care  
277 skills without an active MMACOF Health Care Certificate.

278 j. Failing to perform any statutory or legal obligation  
279 placed upon a military-trained health care veteran.

280 k. Accepting and performing professional responsibilities  
281 that the certificateholder knows, or has reason to know, he or  
282 she is not competent to perform.

283 l. Delegating military-trained health care skills to a  
284 person the certificateholder knows, or has reason to know, is  
285 unqualified by training, experience, or licensure to perform.

286 m. Being judicially determined mentally incompetent.

287 n. Being unable to practice as a military-trained health  
288 care veteran with reasonable skill and safety because of a  
289 mental or physical condition or illness or the use of alcohol,  
290 controlled substances, or any other substance that impairs one's  
291 ability to practice.

292 o. Disclosing the identity of or information about a  
293 patient without written permission, except for information that  
294 does not identify a patient and is used for training purposes in  
295 an approved training program.

296 p. Violating any provision of this section or chapter 456,  
297 or any rules adopted pursuant thereto.

298 q. The department may, upon probable cause, compel a  
299 certificateholder to submit to a mental or physical examination  
300 by physicians designated by the department. The cost of an



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301 examination shall be borne by the certificateholder, and his or  
302 her failure to submit to such an examination shall constitute an  
303 admission of the allegations against him or her, consequent upon  
304 which a default and a final order may be entered without the  
305 taking of testimony or presentation of evidence, unless the  
306 failure was due to circumstances beyond his or her control.

307 r. A certificateholder who is disciplined under this  
308 paragraph shall, at reasonable intervals, be afforded an  
309 opportunity to demonstrate that he or she can resume the  
310 practice as a military-trained health care veteran with  
311 reasonable skill and safety.

312 s. In any proceeding under this subparagraph, the record of  
313 proceedings or the orders entered by the board may not be used  
314 against a certificateholder in any other proceeding.

315 19. The department or Board of Medicine may enter an order  
316 denying certification or imposing any of the penalties in s.  
317 456.072(2) against any applicant for certification who is found  
318 guilty of any of the violations specified in s. 456.072(1).

319 20. The department or Board of Medicine may not issue or  
320 reinstate a military-trained health care veteran's MMACOF Health  
321 Care Certificate to a person it has deemed unqualified until it  
322 is satisfied that such person has complied with the terms and  
323 conditions of the final order and that the certificateholder can  
324 safely practice as a medically-trained health care veteran.

325 21. The Board of Medicine may, by rule, establish  
326 guidelines for the disposition of disciplinary cases involving  
327 specific violations. The guidelines may include minimum and  
328 maximum fines, periods of supervision on probation, or  
329 conditions upon probation or reissuance of a military-trained



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330 health care veteran's MMACOF Health Care Certificate.

331 (b) No Veteran Left Behind.—Veterans who do not meet the  
332 definition of the term "military-trained health care veteran"  
333 but who have served in health care-related fields shall receive  
334 assistance from the MMACOF program in resume writing,  
335 mentorship, and obtaining employment with participating health  
336 care providers.

337 (c) Health Care Leadership.—The MMACOF program shall assist  
338 veterans and their spouses, in the course of the veterans'  
339 military service, who have gained management experience or  
340 completed any advanced degree in finding civilian health care  
341 leadership and management employment in a variety of health care  
342 disciplines.

343 (4) RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.—The department and the Board of  
344 Medicine may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54  
345 to implement this section.

346 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 295.21, Florida  
347 Statutes, is amended to read:

348 295.21 Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.—

349 (2) PURPOSE.—

350 (a) The purpose of the corporation is to promote Florida as  
351 a veteran-friendly state that seeks to provide veterans with  
352 employment opportunities and that promotes the hiring of  
353 veterans by the business community. The corporation shall  
354 encourage retired and recently separated military personnel to  
355 remain in the state or to make the state their permanent  
356 residence. The corporation shall promote the value of military  
357 skill sets to businesses in the state, assist in tailoring the  
358 training of veterans to match the needs of the employment



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359 marketplace, and enhance the entrepreneurial skills of veterans.

360 (b) A subprogram dedicated to health care services  
361 employment may be created under the Veterans Employment and  
362 Training Services Program. The purpose of the health care  
363 service program is to link veterans who have armed service  
364 health care training and who are seeking employment in health  
365 care fields to health care organizations seeking to hire  
366 dedicated, well-trained workers. The program is to meet the  
367 health care workforce demands of this state by facilitating  
368 access to training and education in health fields for veterans  
369 and to promote the health care licensing programs provided by  
370 the state.

371 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

372  
373 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

374 And the title is amended as follows:

375 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
376 and insert:

377 A bill to be entitled  
378 An act relating to the Military Medics and Corpsmen of  
379 Florida program; creating s. 295.126, F.S.; defining  
380 terms; authorizing the Department of Health to  
381 establish the Military Medics and Corpsmen of Florida  
382 (MMACOF) program in collaboration with Florida Is For  
383 Veterans, Inc.; providing the purpose of MMACOF;  
384 providing the components of the program; requiring  
385 Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to recruit and review  
386 the eligibility of certain veterans for the program;  
387 requiring Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to assist



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388 certain veterans with certain applications; requiring  
389 the department to waive certain fees for such  
390 applicants; providing application requirements;  
391 requiring certain disclosures by an applicant;  
392 requiring Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to recruit,  
393 establish, and maintain a statewide list of  
394 participating health care providers; requiring the  
395 participating health care providers to agree to  
396 specified terms; requiring Florida Is For Veterans,  
397 Inc., to assist such veterans with identifying and  
398 applying to a participating health care providers for  
399 employment; requiring the board to determine the areas  
400 in which such veterans are eligible to practice;  
401 requiring the board to specify which skills such  
402 veterans may practice under direct supervision;  
403 requiring the board to place such veterans in a  
404 specified status if certain conditions are met;  
405 requiring the department to provide such veterans with  
406 specified information; providing that a certain status  
407 expires within a certain timeframe if not renewed  
408 before a specified date; requiring certain veterans to  
409 provide specified information to the department;  
410 authorizing the department to issue a certain  
411 certificate to such veterans under specified  
412 conditions; requiring the department to provide by  
413 rule a method to renew such certificate; requiring  
414 such veterans to provide the department specified  
415 information within a certain timeframe after  
416 employment; requiring a certificateholder to provide



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417 Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., with specified  
418 information within a certain timeframe; requiring  
419 participating health care providers to provide certain  
420 information to the department and to Florida Is For  
421 Veterans, Inc., within a certain timeframe; requiring  
422 certain education and training programs to provide the  
423 department and Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., with  
424 specified information within a specified timeframe;  
425 providing acts that are grounds for denial of a  
426 certificate or disciplinary action authorizing the  
427 department or the board to enter certain orders;  
428 prohibiting the department or the board from issuing  
429 or reinstating a certificate until certain conditions  
430 are met by the veteran; requiring the board to adopt  
431 rules relating to disciplinary action; providing that  
432 veterans who do not meet program requirements may  
433 receive certain assistance from the program; requiring  
434 the program to assist veterans and their spouses with  
435 obtaining certain employment; authorizing the  
436 department and the board to adopt rules; amending s.  
437 295.21, F.S.; providing the purpose for a health care  
438 service program for veterans through Florida Is For  
439 Veterans, Inc.; providing an effective date.