



26 | fees for veterans and their spouses under certain  
27 | circumstances; providing requirements for application  
28 | for such waiver; removing a limitation on the period  
29 | in which a member of the United States Armed Forces  
30 | must receive an honorable discharge from service in  
31 | order to be issued a license to practice a health care  
32 | profession in this state; requiring the appropriate  
33 | board or the department to expedite health care  
34 | licensure applications submitted by veterans and to  
35 | issue a license within a specified period; amending s.  
36 | 456.0241, F.S.; removing provisions relating to  
37 | application and renewal fees for temporary  
38 | certification of an active duty military health care  
39 | practitioner to practice in a regulated profession in  
40 | this state; requiring the department to waive the  
41 | temporary licensing fee; creating s. 456.0242, F.S.;  
42 | establishing the Office of Veteran Licensure Services  
43 | within the Division of Medical Quality Assurance;  
44 | requiring the office to designate a veteran as  
45 | executive director of the office; providing duties of  
46 | the office; requiring an annual report to the Governor  
47 | and Legislature; providing report requirements;  
48 | authorizing the department to adopt rules; providing  
49 | an effective date.

50

51 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

52

53 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section  
54 288.0001, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

55 288.0001 Economic Development Programs Evaluation.—The  
56 Office of Economic and Demographic Research and the Office of  
57 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA)  
58 shall develop and present to the Governor, the President of the  
59 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the  
60 chairs of the legislative appropriations committees the Economic  
61 Development Programs Evaluation.

62 (2) The Office of Economic and Demographic Research and  
63 OPPAGA shall provide a detailed analysis of economic development  
64 programs as provided in the following schedule:

65 (d) By January 1, 2019, and every 3 years thereafter, an  
66 analysis of the program ~~grant and entrepreneur initiative~~  
67 ~~programs~~ established under s. 295.22(2) ~~s. 295.22(3)(d) and (e)~~.

68 Section 2. Subsections (1) and (5) of section 292.05,  
69 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

70 292.05 Duties of Department of Veterans' Affairs.—

71 (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall provide  
72 assistance to all former, present, and future members of the  
73 Armed Forces of the United States and their spouses and  
74 dependents in preparing claims for and securing such  
75 compensation, hospitalization, career training, and other

76 | benefits or privileges to which such persons or any of them are  
77 | or may become entitled under any federal or state law or  
78 | regulation by reason of their service in the Armed Forces of the  
79 | United States. All services rendered under this subsection shall  
80 | be without charge to the claimant.

81 |         (5) The department shall conduct an ongoing study on the  
82 | problems and needs of those residents of this state who are  
83 | veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States and the  
84 | problems and needs of their spouses and dependents. The study  
85 | shall include, but not be limited to:

86 |             (a) A survey of existing state and federal programs  
87 | available for such persons that specifies the extent to which  
88 | such programs presently are being implemented, with  
89 | recommendations for the improved implementation, extension, or  
90 | improvement of such programs.

91 |             (b) A survey of the needs of such persons in the areas of  
92 | social services, health care, education, and employment, and any  
93 | other areas of determined need, with recommendations regarding  
94 | federal, state, and community services that would meet those  
95 | needs.

96 |             (c) A survey of federal, state, public, and private moneys  
97 | available that could be used to defray the costs of state or  
98 | community services needed for such persons.

99 |         Section 3. Subsection (2), paragraph (b) of subsection  
100 | (3), paragraph (g) of subsection (4), and paragraph (a) of

101 subsection (8) of section 295.21, Florida Statutes, are amended  
 102 to read:

103 295.21 Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.—

104 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the corporation is to promote  
 105 Florida as a veteran-friendly state that seeks to provide  
 106 veterans and their spouses with employment opportunities and  
 107 that promotes the hiring of veterans and their spouses by the  
 108 business community. The corporation shall encourage retired and  
 109 recently separated military personnel to remain in the state or  
 110 to make the state their permanent residence. The corporation  
 111 shall promote the value of military skill sets to businesses in  
 112 the state, assist in tailoring the training of veterans and  
 113 their spouses to match the needs of the employment marketplace,  
 114 and enhance the entrepreneurial skills of veterans and their  
 115 spouses.

116 (3) DUTIES.—The corporation shall:

117 (b) Advise the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing  
 118 Corporation, pursuant to s. 295.23, on:

119 1. The target market as identified in paragraph (a).

120 2. Development and implementation of a marketing campaign  
 121 to encourage members of the target market to remain in the state  
 122 or to make the state their permanent residence.

123 3. Methods for disseminating information to the target  
 124 market that relates to the interests and needs of veterans and  
 125 their spouses of all ages and facilitates veterans' knowledge of

126 and access to benefits.

127 (4) GOVERNANCE.—

128 (g) A majority of the members of the board of directors  
 129 constitutes a quorum. Board ~~Council~~ meetings may be held via  
 130 teleconference or other electronic means.

131 (8) ANNUAL REPORT.—The corporation shall submit an annual  
 132 progress report and work plan by December 1 to the Governor, the  
 133 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
 134 Representatives. The report must include:

135 (a) Status and summary of findings regarding the target  
 136 market, veteran and spouse benefits, and any identified gaps in  
 137 services.

138 Section 4. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section  
 139 295.22, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

140 295.22 Veterans Employment and Training Services Program.—

141 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—The Legislature finds  
 142 that the state has a compelling interest in ensuring that each  
 143 veteran or his or her spouse who is a resident of the state  
 144 finds employment that meets his or her professional goals and  
 145 receives the training or education necessary to meet those  
 146 goals. The Legislature also finds that connecting dedicated,  
 147 well-trained veterans with businesses that need a dedicated,  
 148 well-trained workforce is of paramount importance. The  
 149 Legislature recognizes that veterans or their spouses may not  
 150 currently have the skills to meet the workforce needs of Florida

151 employers and may require assistance in obtaining additional  
152 workforce training or in transitioning their skills to meet the  
153 demands of the marketplace. It is the intent of the Legislature  
154 that the Veterans Employment and Training Services Program  
155 coordinate and meet the needs of veterans and their spouses and  
156 the business community to enhance the economy of this state.

157 (2) CREATION.—The Veterans Employment and Training  
158 Services Program is created within the Department of Veterans'  
159 Affairs to assist in linking veterans or their spouses in search  
160 of employment with businesses seeking to hire dedicated, well-  
161 trained workers. The purpose of the program is to meet the  
162 workforce demands of businesses in the state by facilitating  
163 access to training and education in high-demand fields for  
164 veterans or their spouses.

165 (3) ADMINISTRATION.—Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., shall  
166 administer the Veterans Employment and Training Services Program  
167 and perform all of the following functions:

168 (a) Conduct marketing and recruiting efforts directed at  
169 veterans or their spouses who reside in or who have an interest  
170 in relocating to this state and who are seeking employment.  
171 Marketing must include information related to how a veteran's  
172 military experience can be valuable to a business. Such efforts  
173 may include attending veteran job fairs and events, hosting  
174 events for veterans and their spouses or the business community,  
175 and using digital and social media and direct mail campaigns.

176 The corporation shall also include such marketing as part of its  
177 main marketing campaign.

178 (b) Assist veterans or their spouses who reside in or  
179 relocate to this state and who are seeking employment. The  
180 corporation shall offer skills assessments to veterans or their  
181 spouses and assist them in establishing employment goals and  
182 applying for and achieving gainful employment.

183 1. Assessment may include skill match information, skill  
184 gap analysis, resume creation, translation of military skills  
185 into civilian workforce skills, and translation of military  
186 achievements and experience into generally understood civilian  
187 workforce skills.

188 2. Assistance may include providing the veteran or his or  
189 her spouse with information on current workforce demand by  
190 industry or geographic region, creating employment goals, and  
191 aiding or teaching general knowledge related to completing  
192 applications. The corporation may provide information related to  
193 industry certifications approved by the Department of Education  
194 under s. 1008.44 as well as information related to earning  
195 academic college credit at public postsecondary educational  
196 institutions for college-level training and education acquired  
197 in the military under s. 1004.096.

198 3. The corporation shall encourage veterans or their  
199 spouses to register with the state's job bank system and may  
200 refer veterans to local one-stop career centers for further



201 services. The corporation shall provide each veteran with  
202 information about state workforce programs and shall consolidate  
203 information about all available resources on one website that,  
204 if possible, includes a hyperlink to each resource's website and  
205 contact information, if available.

206 4. Assessment and assistance may be in person or by  
207 electronic means, as determined by the corporation to be most  
208 efficient and best meet the needs of veterans or their spouses.

209 (c) Assist Florida businesses in recruiting and hiring  
210 veterans and veterans' spouses. The corporation shall provide  
211 services to Florida businesses to meet their hiring needs by  
212 connecting businesses with suitable veteran applicants for  
213 employment. Suitable applicants include veterans or veterans'  
214 spouses who have appropriate job skills or may need additional  
215 training to meet the specific needs of a business. The  
216 corporation shall also provide information about the state and  
217 federal benefits of hiring veterans.

218 (d) Create a grant program to provide funding to assist  
219 veterans in meeting the workforce-skill needs of businesses  
220 seeking to hire, promote, or generally improve specialized  
221 skills of veterans, establish criteria for approval of requests  
222 for funding, and maximize the use of funding for this program.  
223 Grant funds may be used only in the absence of available  
224 veteran-specific federally funded programs. Grants may fund  
225 specialized training specific to a particular business.

226 1. If grant funds are used to provide a technical  
 227 certificate, a licensure, or a degree, funds may be allocated  
 228 only upon a review that includes, but is not limited to,  
 229 documentation of accreditation and licensure. Instruction funded  
 230 through the program terminates when participants demonstrate  
 231 competence at the level specified in the request but may not  
 232 exceed 12 months. Preference shall be given to target industry  
 233 businesses, as defined in s. 288.106, and to businesses in the  
 234 defense supply, cloud virtualization, health care, or commercial  
 235 aviation manufacturing industries.

236 2. Costs and expenditures shall be limited to \$8,000 per  
 237 veteran trainee. Qualified businesses must cover the entire cost  
 238 for all of the training provided before receiving reimbursement  
 239 from the corporation equal to 50 percent of the cost to train a  
 240 veteran who is a permanent, full-time employee. Eligible costs  
 241 and expenditures include:

- 242 a. Tuition and fees.
- 243 b. Books and classroom materials.
- 244 c. Rental fees for facilities.

245 3. Before funds are allocated for a request pursuant to  
 246 this section, the corporation shall prepare a grant agreement  
 247 between the business requesting funds and the corporation. Such  
 248 agreement must include, but need not be limited to:

- 249 a. Identification of the personnel necessary to conduct  
 250 the instructional program, instructional program description,

251 and any vendors used to conduct the instructional program.

252 b. Identification of the estimated duration of the  
253 instructional program.

254 c. Identification of all direct, training-related costs.

255 d. Identification of special program requirements that are  
256 not otherwise addressed in the agreement.

257 e. Permission to access aggregate information specific to  
258 the wages and performance of participants upon the completion of  
259 instruction for evaluation purposes. The agreement must specify  
260 that any evaluation published subsequent to the instruction may  
261 not identify the employer or any individual participant.

262 4. A business may receive a grant under the Quick-Response  
263 Training Program created under s. 288.047 and a grant under this  
264 section for the same veteran trainee. ~~If a business receives  
265 funds under both programs, one grant agreement may be entered  
266 into with CareerSource Florida, Inc., as the grant  
267 administrator.~~

268 (e) Contract with one or more entities to administer an  
269 entrepreneur initiative program for veterans in this state which  
270 connects business leaders in the state with veterans seeking to  
271 become entrepreneurs.

272 1. The corporation shall award each contract in accordance  
273 with the competitive bidding requirements in s. 287.057 to one  
274 or more public or private entities that:

275 a. Demonstrate the ability to implement the program and

276 the commitment of resources, including financial resources, to  
277 such programs.

278 b. Have a demonstrated experience working with veteran  
279 entrepreneurs.

280 c. As determined by the corporation, have been recognized  
281 for their performance in assisting entrepreneurs to launch  
282 successful businesses in the state.

283 2. Each contract must include performance metrics,  
284 including a focus on employment and business creation. The  
285 entity may also work with a university or college offering  
286 related programs to refer veterans or to provide services. The  
287 entrepreneur initiative program may include activities and  
288 assistance such as peer-to-peer learning sessions, mentoring,  
289 technical assistance, business roundtables, networking  
290 opportunities, support of student organizations, speaker series,  
291 or other tools within a virtual environment.

292 (f) As the state's principal assistance organization under  
293 the United States Department of Defense's SkillBridge program  
294 for qualified businesses in this state and for transitioning  
295 servicemembers who reside in, or who wish to reside in, this  
296 state, the corporation shall:

297 1. Establish and maintain, as applicable, its  
298 certification for the SkillBridge program or any other similar  
299 workforce training and transition programs established by the  
300 United States Department of Defense;

301           2. Educate businesses, business associations, and  
 302 transitioning servicemembers on the SkillBridge program and its  
 303 benefits, and educate military command and personnel within the  
 304 state on the opportunities available to transitioning  
 305 servicemembers through the SkillBridge program;

306           3. Assist businesses in obtaining approval for skilled  
 307 workforce training curricula under the SkillBridge program,  
 308 including, but not limited to, apprenticeships, internships, or  
 309 fellowships; and

310           4. Match transitioning servicemembers who are deemed  
 311 eligible for SkillBridge participation by their military command  
 312 with training opportunities offered by the corporation or  
 313 participating businesses, with the intent of having  
 314 transitioning servicemembers achieve gainful employment in this  
 315 state upon completion of their SkillBridge training.

316           (g) Assist veterans and their spouses in accessing  
 317 training, education, and employment in health care professions.

318           (h) Coordinate with the Office of Veteran Licensure  
 319 Services within the Department of Health to assist veterans and  
 320 their spouses in obtaining licensure pursuant to s. 456.024.

321           Section 5. Subsection (13) of section 456.013, Florida  
 322 Statutes, is amended to read:

323           456.013 Department; general licensing provisions.—

324           ~~(13) The department shall waive the initial licensing fee,~~  
 325 ~~the initial application fee, and the initial unlicensed activity~~

326 ~~fee for a military veteran or his or her spouse at the time of~~  
 327 ~~discharge, if he or she applies to the department for an initial~~  
 328 ~~license within 60 months after the veteran is honorably~~  
 329 ~~discharged from any branch of the United States Armed Forces.~~  
 330 ~~The applicant must apply for the fee waiver using a form~~  
 331 ~~prescribed by the department and must submit supporting~~  
 332 ~~documentation as required by the department.~~

333 Section 6. Section 456.024, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 334 to read:

335 456.024 Members of Armed Forces and veterans ~~in good~~  
 336 ~~standing with administrative boards or the department; spouses;~~  
 337 ~~licensure.-~~

338 (1) A ~~Any~~ member of the United States Armed Forces ~~of the~~  
 339 ~~United States now or hereafter~~ on active duty who, at the time  
 340 of becoming such a member, was in good standing with a health  
 341 care practitioner ~~any administrative board of the state, or the~~  
 342 ~~department when there is no board, and was entitled to practice~~  
 343 a health care ~~or engage in his or her profession or vocation in~~  
 344 this ~~the~~ state shall be kept in good standing ~~by such~~  
 345 ~~administrative board, or the department when there is no board,~~  
 346 ~~without registering, paying dues or fees, or performing any~~  
 347 ~~other act on his or her part to be performed, as long as the~~  
 348 member is ~~he or she is a member of the Armed Forces of the~~  
 349 ~~United States on active duty and for a period of 6 months after~~  
 350 ~~discharge and from active duty as a member of the Armed Forces~~

351 ~~of the United States, provided he or she is not practicing~~  
352 ~~engaged in his or her licensed profession or vocation in the~~  
353 private sector for profit.

354 (2) The department shall waive the initial licensing fee,  
355 the initial application fee, and the initial unlicensed activity  
356 fee for a veteran or his or her spouse if the veteran is  
357 honorably discharged from any branch of the United States Armed  
358 Forces. The applicant must apply for the fee waiver using a form  
359 prescribed by the department and must submit supporting  
360 documentation as required by the department. The applicant may  
361 apply for a fee waiver up to 6 months before discharge.

362 (3)-(2) The boards listed in s. 20.43, or the department  
363 when there is no board, shall adopt rules exempting the spouses  
364 of members of the Armed Forces of the United States from  
365 licensure renewal provisions, but only in cases of absence from  
366 the state because of their spouses' duties with the Armed  
367 Forces.

368 (4)-(3)(a) A person is eligible for licensure as a health  
369 care practitioner in this state if he or she:

370 1. Serves or has served as a health care practitioner in  
371 the United States Armed Forces, the United States Reserve  
372 Forces, or the National Guard;

373 2. Serves or has served on active duty with the United  
374 States Armed Forces as a health care practitioner in the United  
375 States Public Health Service; or

376           3. Is a health care practitioner in another state, the  
 377 District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United  
 378 States and is the spouse of a person serving on active duty with  
 379 the United States Armed Forces.

380  
 381 The department shall develop an application form, and each  
 382 board, or the department if there is no board, shall waive the  
 383 application fee, licensure fee, and unlicensed activity fee for  
 384 such applicants. For purposes of this subsection, "health care  
 385 practitioner" means a health care practitioner as defined in s.  
 386 456.001 and a person licensed under part III of chapter 401 or  
 387 part IV of chapter 468.

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

390           1. Submits a complete application.

391           2. If he or she is a member of the United States Armed  
 392 Forces, the United States Reserve Forces, or the National Guard,  
 393 submits proof that he or she has received an honorable discharge  
 394 within 6 months before, or will receive an honorable discharge  
 395 ~~within 6 months~~ after, the date of submission of the  
 396 application.

397           3.a. Holds an active, unencumbered license issued by  
 398 another state, the District of Columbia, or a possession or  
 399 territory of the United States and who has not had disciplinary  
 400 action taken against him or her in the 5 years preceding the



401 date of submission of the application;

402       b. Is a military health care practitioner in a profession  
403 for which licensure in a state or jurisdiction is not required  
404 to practice in the United States Armed Forces, if he or she  
405 submits to the department evidence of military training or  
406 experience substantially equivalent to the requirements for  
407 licensure in this state in that profession and evidence that he  
408 or she has obtained a passing score on the appropriate  
409 examination of a national or regional standards organization if  
410 required for licensure in this state; or

411       c. Is the spouse of a person serving on active duty in the  
412 United States Armed Forces and is a health care practitioner in  
413 a profession for which licensure in another state or  
414 jurisdiction is not required, if he or she submits to the  
415 department evidence of training or experience substantially  
416 equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this state in  
417 that profession and evidence that he or she has obtained a  
418 passing score on the appropriate examination of a national or  
419 regional standards organization if required for licensure in  
420 this state.

421       4. Attests that he or she is not, at the time of  
422 submission of the application, the subject of a disciplinary  
423 proceeding in a jurisdiction in which he or she holds a license  
424 or by the United States Department of Defense for reasons  
425 related to the practice of the profession for which he or she is

426 | applying.

427 |         5. Actively practiced the profession for which he or she  
428 | is applying for the 3 years preceding the date of submission of  
429 | the application.

430 |         6. Submits a set of fingerprints for a background  
431 | screening pursuant to s. 456.0135, if required for the  
432 | profession for which he or she is applying.

433 |

434 | The department shall verify information submitted by the  
435 | applicant under this subsection using the National Practitioner  
436 | Data Bank.

437 |         (c) Each applicant who meets the requirements of this  
438 | subsection shall be licensed with all rights and  
439 | responsibilities as defined by law. The applicable board, or the  
440 | department if there is no board, may deny an application if the  
441 | applicant has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo  
442 | contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a ~~any~~ felony or  
443 | misdemeanor related to the practice of a health care profession  
444 | regulated by this state.

445 |         (d) An applicant for initial licensure under this  
446 | subsection must submit the information required by ss.  
447 | 456.039(1) and 456.0391(1) no later than 1 year after the  
448 | license is issued.

449 |         ~~(5)-(4)~~(a) The board, or the department if there is no  
450 | board, shall issue a professional license to the spouse of an

451 active duty member of the United States Armed Forces ~~of the~~  
 452 ~~United States~~ who submits all of the following to the  
 453 department:

454 1. A completed application upon a form prepared and  
 455 furnished by the department in accordance with the board's  
 456 rules.†

457 2. Proof that the applicant is married to a member of the  
 458 United States Armed Forces ~~of the United States~~ who is on active  
 459 duty.†

460 3. Proof that the applicant holds a valid license for the  
 461 profession issued by another state, the District of Columbia, or  
 462 a possession or territory of the United States~~†~~ and is not the  
 463 subject of any disciplinary proceeding in any jurisdiction in  
 464 which the applicant holds a license to practice a profession  
 465 regulated by this chapter.†

466 4. Proof that the applicant's spouse is assigned to a duty  
 467 station in this state pursuant to the member's official active  
 468 duty military orders.†~~and~~

469 5. Proof that the applicant would otherwise be entitled to  
 470 full licensure under the appropriate practice act~~†~~ and is  
 471 eligible to take the respective licensure examination as  
 472 required in Florida.

473 (b) The applicant must also submit to the Department of  
 474 Law Enforcement a complete set of fingerprints. The Department  
 475 of Law Enforcement shall conduct a statewide criminal history

476 check and forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of  
477 Investigation for a national criminal history check.

478 (c) Each board, or the department if there is no board,  
479 shall review the results of the state and federal criminal  
480 history checks according to the level 2 screening standards in  
481 s. 435.04 when granting an exemption and when granting or  
482 denying the license.

483 (d) The applicant shall pay the cost of fingerprint  
484 processing. If the fingerprints are submitted through an  
485 authorized agency or vendor, the agency or vendor shall collect  
486 the required processing fees and remit the fees to the  
487 Department of Law Enforcement.

488 (e) The department shall waive the applicant's licensure  
489 application fee.

490 (f) An applicant for a license under this subsection is  
491 subject to ~~the requirements under~~ s. 456.013(3)(a) and (c).

492 (g) An applicant shall be deemed ineligible for a license  
493 pursuant to this section if the applicant:

494 1. Has been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to,  
495 regardless of adjudication, any felony or misdemeanor related to  
496 the practice of a health care profession;

497 2. Has had a health care provider license revoked or  
498 suspended from another of the United States, the District of  
499 Columbia, or a United States territory;

500 3. Has been reported to the National Practitioner Data

501 Bank, unless the applicant has successfully appealed to have his  
 502 or her name removed from the data bank; or

503 4. Has previously failed the Florida examination required  
 504 to receive a license to practice the profession for which the  
 505 applicant is seeking a license.

506 (h) The board, or the department if there is no board, may  
 507 revoke a license upon finding that the individual violated the  
 508 profession's governing practice act.

509 (i) The board, or the department if there is no board,  
 510 shall expedite all applications submitted by a spouse of an  
 511 active duty member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces  
 512 ~~of the United States~~ pursuant to this subsection and shall issue  
 513 a license within 7 days after receipt of all required  
 514 documentation for such application.

515 ~~(6)-(5)~~ The spouse of a person serving on active duty with  
 516 the United States Armed Forces shall have a defense to any  
 517 citation and related cause of action brought under s. 456.065 if  
 518 the following conditions are met:

519 (a) The spouse holds an active, unencumbered license  
 520 issued by another state or jurisdiction to provide health care  
 521 services for which there is no equivalent license in this state.

522 (b) The spouse is providing health care services within  
 523 the scope of practice of the out-of-state license.

524 (c) The training or experience required by the out-of-  
 525 state license is substantially similar to the license

526 requirements to practice a similar health care profession in  
527 this state.

528 Section 7. Subsection (7) of section 456.0241, Florida  
529 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (6), paragraph (b) of  
530 subsection (2) and present subsection (6) are amended, and a new  
531 subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

532 456.0241 Temporary certificate for active duty military  
533 health care practitioners.—

534 (2) The department may issue a temporary certificate to an  
535 active duty military health care practitioner to practice in a  
536 regulated profession in this state if the applicant:

537 (b) Submits a complete application ~~and a nonrefundable~~  
538 ~~application fee.~~

539  
540 The department shall verify information submitted by the  
541 applicant under this subsection using the National Practitioner  
542 Data Bank.

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

545 (7) The department shall waive the temporary licensing  
546 fee.

547 Section 8. Section 456.0242, Florida Statutes, is created  
548 to read:

549 456.0242 Office of Veteran Licensure Services.—

550 (1) The Office of Veteran Licensure Services is

551 established within the Division of Medical Quality Assurance.  
552 The office shall assist active duty members of the United States  
553 Armed Forces, the United States Reserve Forces, and the National  
554 Guard, veterans, and the spouses of veterans who seek to become  
555 a licensed health care practitioner in this state.

556 (2) The office shall be headed by an executive director,  
557 designated by the department, who must be a veteran.

558 (3) The office shall:

559 (a) Provide information, guidance, direction, and  
560 assistance with the licensure process.

561 (b) Coordinate with each board, or the department if there  
562 is no board, to expedite all applications submitted pursuant to  
563 s. 456.024.

564 (c) Refer an individual requesting assistance with resume  
565 writing and proofreading, job application completion, and  
566 interviewing skills and techniques to Florida Is For Veterans,  
567 Inc.

568 (d) Refer an individual requesting information about  
569 educational or employment opportunities in health care  
570 professions to Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.

571 (e) Submit a report by November 11 of each year to the  
572 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
573 House of Representatives. The report must categorize each  
574 individual as an active duty member, a veteran, or a veteran's  
575 spouse and must include, but is not limited to:

- 576        1. The number of individuals served.
- 577        2. The educational and training background of each  
 578 individual seeking licensure.
- 579        3. Each health care license an individual holds in another  
 580 state, irrespective of the current status of such license.
- 581        4. The number of licensure applications received.
- 582        5. The average number of calendar days required to license  
 583 a qualified applicant.
- 584        6. The number of referrals made for vocational assistance.
- 585        (4) The department may adopt rules necessary to implement  
 586 this section.
- 587        Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.