

Amendment No.

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	_____	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	_____	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	_____	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	_____	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	_____	(Y/N)
OTHER		

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1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Local Administration,  
 2 Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee  
 3 Representative Redondo offered the following:  
 4

**Amendment (with title amendment)**

6 Remove lines 130-450 and insert:

7 (b) "Servicemember" has the same meaning as in 250.01.

8 (c) "Spouse" means a person who is married to a veteran,  
 9 or an unremarried surviving spouse of a veteran.

10 (d) "Target industry business" is a business as defined in  
 11 s. 288.005.

12 (e) "Target market" has the same meaning as in s.  
 13 295.21(3)(a).

14 (f) "Veteran" means, irrespective of discharge status, a  
 15 person who otherwise meets the definition of veteran in s.  
 16 1.01(14) or who is a servicemember.

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17        (3) CREATION.—The Veterans Employment and Training  
18 Services Program is created within the Department of Veterans'  
19 Affairs to assist in connecting ~~linking~~ veterans or their  
20 spouses ~~in search of employment~~ with businesses seeking to hire  
21 dedicated, well-trained workers and with opportunities for  
22 entrepreneurship education, training, and resources. The purpose  
23 of the program is to meet the workforce demands of businesses in  
24 this ~~the~~ state by facilitating access to training and education  
25 in high-demand fields for veterans or their spouses and to  
26 inspire the growth and development of veteran-owned small  
27 businesses.

28        (4)~~(3)~~ ADMINISTRATION.—Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.,  
29 shall administer the Veterans Employment and Training Services  
30 Program and perform all of the following functions:

31        (a) Conduct marketing and recruiting efforts directed at  
32 veterans or their spouses within the target market who reside in  
33 or ~~who~~ have an interest in relocating to this state and who are  
34 seeking employment. Marketing must include information related  
35 to how a veteran's military experience can be valuable to a  
36 target industry or secondary industry business. Such efforts may  
37 include attending veteran job fairs and events, hosting events  
38 for veterans and their spouses or the business community, and  
39 using digital and social media and direct mail campaigns. The  
40 corporation shall also include such marketing as part of its  
41 main marketing campaign.

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42 (b) Assist veterans or their spouses who reside in or  
43 relocate to this state and who are seeking employment with  
44 target industry or secondary industry businesses. The  
45 corporation shall offer skills assessments to veterans or their  
46 spouses and assist them in establishing employment goals and  
47 applying for and achieving gainful employment.

48 1. Assessment may include skill match information, skill  
49 gap analysis, résumé creation, translation of military skills  
50 into civilian workforce skills, and translation of military  
51 achievements and experience into generally understood civilian  
52 workforce skills.

53 2. Assistance may include providing the veteran or his or  
54 her spouse with information on current workforce demand by  
55 industry or geographic region, creating employment goals, and  
56 aiding or teaching general knowledge related to completing  
57 applications. ~~The corporation may provide information related to~~  
58 ~~industry certifications approved by the Department of Education~~  
59 ~~under s. 1008.44 as well as information related to earning~~  
60 ~~academic college credit at public postsecondary educational~~  
61 ~~institutions for college-level training and education acquired~~  
62 ~~in the military under s. 1004.096.~~

63 3. ~~The corporation shall encourage veterans or their~~  
64 ~~spouses to register with the state's job bank system and may~~  
65 ~~refer veterans to local one-stop career centers for further~~  
66 ~~services. The corporation shall provide each veteran with~~

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67 ~~information about state workforce programs and shall consolidate~~  
68 ~~information about all available resources on one website that,~~  
69 ~~if possible, includes a hyperlink to each resource's website and~~  
70 ~~contact information, if available.~~

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

74 (c) Assist Florida target industry and secondary industry  
75 businesses in recruiting and hiring veterans and veterans'  
76 spouses. The corporation shall provide services to Florida  
77 businesses to meet their hiring needs by connecting businesses  
78 with suitable veteran applicants for employment. Suitable  
79 applicants include veterans or veterans' spouses who have  
80 appropriate job skills or may need additional training to meet  
81 the specific needs of a business. The corporation shall also  
82 provide information about the state and federal benefits of  
83 hiring veterans.

84 (d) Create a grant program to provide funding to assist  
85 veterans in meeting the workforce-skill needs of target industry  
86 and secondary industry businesses seeking to hire, promote, or  
87 generally improve specialized skills of veterans, establish  
88 criteria for approval of requests for funding, and maximize the  
89 use of funding for this program. Grant funds may be used only in  
90 the absence of available veteran-specific federally funded

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91 programs. Grants may fund specialized training specific to a  
92 particular business.

93 1. The program may prioritize ~~If grant funds to be are~~  
94 used to provide a ~~technical~~ certificate, a license licensure, or  
95 nondegree training from the Master Credentials List pursuant to  
96 s. 445.004(4)(h); any federally created certifications or  
97 licenses; and any skills-based industry certifications or  
98 licenses deemed relevant or necessary by the corporation. a  
99 ~~degree~~, Funds may be allocated only upon a review that includes,  
100 but is not limited to, documentation of accreditation and  
101 licensure. ~~Instruction funded through the program terminates~~  
102 ~~when participants demonstrate competence at the level specified~~  
103 ~~in the request but may not exceed 12 months. Preference shall be~~  
104 ~~given to target industry businesses, as defined in s. 288.005,~~  
105 ~~and to businesses in the defense supply, cloud virtualization,~~  
106 ~~health care, or commercial aviation manufacturing industries.~~

107 2. Costs and expenditures are ~~shall be~~ limited to \$8,000  
108 per veteran trainee. Qualified businesses must cover the entire  
109 cost for all of the training provided before receiving  
110 reimbursement from the corporation equal to 50 percent of the  
111 cost to train a veteran who is a permanent, full-time employee.  
112 Eligible costs and expenditures include, but are not limited to:

- 113 a. Tuition and fees.  
114 b. Books and classroom materials.  
115 c. Rental fees for facilities.

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

120 a. Identification of the personnel necessary to conduct  
121 the instructional program, instructional program description,  
122 and any vendors used to conduct the instructional program.

123 b. Identification of the estimated duration of the  
124 instructional program.

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

126 d. Identification of special program requirements that are  
127 not otherwise addressed in the agreement.

128 e. Permission to access aggregate information specific to  
129 the wages and performance of participants upon the completion of  
130 instruction for evaluation purposes. The agreement must specify  
131 that any evaluation published subsequent to the instruction may  
132 not identify the employer or any individual participant.

133 4. A business may receive a grant under any state program  
134 ~~the quick-response training program created under s. 288.047~~ and  
135 a grant under this section for the same veteran trainee.

136 5. A portion of grant funds, as determined by the  
137 corporation, may be used for veterans who are not active members  
138 of the United States Armed Forces for educational stipends while  
139 training at any location of the University of Florida's  
140 Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences within this state.

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141 The corporation and the University of Florida shall enter into a  
142 grant agreement before funds are expended. The corporation must  
143 determine the amount of the stipend. The training for any  
144 individual may not be less than 4 months and not more than 6  
145 months.

146 (e) Contract with one or more entities to administer an  
147 entrepreneur initiative program for veterans in this state which  
148 connects business leaders in the state with veterans seeking to  
149 become entrepreneurs.

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

153 a. Demonstrate the ability to implement the program and  
154 the commitment of resources, including financial resources, to  
155 such programs.

156 b. Have a demonstrated experience working with veteran  
157 entrepreneurs.

158 c. As determined by the corporation, have been recognized  
159 for their performance in assisting entrepreneurs to launch  
160 successful businesses in this ~~the~~ state.

161 2. Each contract must include performance metrics,  
162 including a focus on employment and business creation. The  
163 entity may also work with a university or college offering  
164 related programs to refer veterans or to provide services. The  
165 entrepreneur initiative program may include activities and

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166 assistance such as peer-to-peer learning sessions, mentoring,  
167 technical assistance, business roundtables, networking  
168 opportunities, support of student organizations, speaker series,  
169 or other tools within a virtual environment.

170 (f) Administer a ~~As the state's principal assistance~~  
171 ~~organization under the United States Department of Defense's~~  
172 SkillBridge initiative ~~program~~ for target industry and secondary  
173 industry ~~qualified~~ businesses in this state and for eligible  
174 veterans ~~transitioning servicemembers~~ who reside in, or who wish  
175 to reside in, this state. In administering the initiative, the  
176 corporation shall:

177 1. Establish and maintain, as applicable, its  
178 certification for the SkillBridge initiative ~~program~~ or any  
179 other similar workforce training and transition programs  
180 established by the United States Department of Defense;

181 2. Educate businesses, business associations, and eligible  
182 veterans ~~transitioning servicemembers~~ on the SkillBridge  
183 initiative ~~program~~ and its benefits, and educate military  
184 command and personnel within the state on the opportunities  
185 available to eligible veterans ~~transitioning servicemembers~~  
186 ~~through the SkillBridge program~~;

187 3. Assist businesses in obtaining approval for skilled  
188 workforce training curricula under the SkillBridge initiative  
189 ~~program~~, including, but not limited to, apprenticeships,  
190 internships, or fellowships; and



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191 4. Match eligible veterans ~~transitioning servicemembers~~  
192 ~~who are deemed eligible for SkillBridge participation by their~~  
193 ~~military command~~ with training opportunities offered by the  
194 corporation or participating businesses, with the intent of  
195 having them ~~transitioning servicemembers~~ achieve gainful  
196 employment in this state upon completion of their SkillBridge  
197 training.

198 ~~(g) Assist veterans and their spouses in accessing~~  
199 ~~training, education, and employment in health care professions.~~

200 ~~(h) Coordinate with the Office of Veteran Licensure~~  
201 ~~Services within the Department of Health to assist veterans and~~  
202 ~~their spouses in obtaining licensure pursuant to s. 456.024.~~

203 (5) COLLABORATION.—The corporation may assist state  
204 agencies and entities with recruiting veteran talent into their  
205 workforce. The corporation is encouraged to, and may collaborate  
206 with state agencies and other entities in efforts to, maximize  
207 access to and provide information on one website that, if  
208 possible, includes hyperlinks to the websites of and contact  
209 information, if available, for state agencies and other entities  
210 that maintain benefits, services, training, education, and other  
211 resources that are available to veterans and their spouses.

212 (a) Outreach, information exchange, marketing, and  
213 referrals between agencies, entities, and the corporation  
214 regarding programs and initiatives that may be conducted

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- 215 include, but are not limited to, the Veterans Employment and  
216 Training Services Program and those within any of the following:
- 217 1. The Department of Veterans' Affairs:
- 218 a. Access to benefits and assistance programs.
- 219 b. Hope Navigators Program.
- 220 2. The Department of Commerce:
- 221 a. The Disabled Veteran Outreach Program and Local Veteran  
222 Employment Representatives.
- 223 b. CareerSource Florida, Inc., and local workforce boards  
224 employment and recruitment services.
- 225 c. The Quick-Response Training Program.
- 226 d. Select Florida.
- 227 3. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation,  
228 reciprocity and the availability of certain license and fee  
229 waivers.
- 230 4. The Department of Education:
- 231 a. CAPE industry certifications under s. 1008.44.
- 232 b. Information related to earning postsecondary credit at  
233 public postsecondary educational institutions for college-level  
234 training and education acquired in the military under s.  
235 1004.096.
- 236 5. The Department of Health:
- 237 a. The Office of Veteran Licensure Services.
- 238 b. The Florida Veterans Application for Licensure Online  
239 Response expedited licensing.

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240       (b) The corporation may coordinate and collaborate with  
241 the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help, the State  
242 University System, the Florida College System, the Florida  
243 Defense Support Task Force, the Florida Small Business  
244 Development Center Network, and the Florida Talent Development  
245 Council, as necessary.

246       Section 1. Section 295.25, Florida Statutes, is created to  
247 read:

248       295.25 Veterans exempt from certain filing fees.—The  
249 Department of State may not charge veterans who reside in this  
250 state the applicable fees for filing articles of organization,  
251 articles of incorporation, a certificate of limited partnership,  
252 or a partnership registration statement, or for the designation  
253 of a registered agent, if applicable, as provided in s.  
254 605.0213, s. 607.0122, s. 617.0122, s. 620.1109, or s.  
255 620.81055.

256       Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 379.353, Florida  
257 Statutes, is amended to read:

258       379.353 Recreational licenses and permits; exemptions from  
259 fees and requirements.—

260       (1) The commission shall issue without fee hunting,  
261 freshwater fishing, and saltwater fishing licenses and permits  
262 ~~shall be issued without fee~~ to any resident who is certified or  
263 determined to be:

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264 (a) ~~To be~~ Totally and permanently disabled for purposes of  
265 workers' compensation under chapter 440 as verified by an order  
266 of a judge of compensation claims or written confirmation by the  
267 carrier providing workers' compensation benefits, or to be  
268 totally and permanently disabled by the Railroad Retirement  
269 Board, by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or  
270 its predecessor, or by any branch of the United States Armed  
271 Forces, or who holds a valid identification card issued under  
272 ~~the provisions of~~ s. 295.17, upon proof of such certification or  
273 determination ~~same~~. Any license issued under this paragraph  
274 after January 1, 1997, expires after 5 years and must be  
275 reissued, upon request, every 5 years thereafter.

276 (b) ~~To be~~ Disabled by the United States Social Security  
277 Administration, upon proof of such certification or  
278 determination ~~same~~. Any license issued under this paragraph  
279 after October 1, 1999, expires after 2 years and must be  
280 reissued, upon proof of certification of disability, every 2  
281 years thereafter.

282 (c) A disabled veteran of the United States Armed Forces  
283 who was honorably discharged upon separation from service and  
284 who is certified by the United States Department of Veterans  
285 Affairs or its predecessor or by any branch of the United States  
286 Armed Forces as having a service-connected disability percentage  
287 rating of 50 percent or greater, upon proof of such  
288 certification or determination. Any license issued under this

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289 paragraph after July 1, 2024, expires after 5 years and must be  
290 reissued, upon request, every 5 years thereafter.

291

292 A disability license issued after July 1, 1997, and before July  
293 1, 2000, retains the rights vested thereunder until the license  
294 has expired.

295 Section 3. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section  
296 381.78, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

297 381.78 Advisory council on brain and spinal cord  
298 injuries.—

299 (1) There is created within the department a 16-member  
300 advisory council on brain and spinal cord injuries. The council  
301 shall be composed of a minimum of:

302 (a) Two ~~four~~ individuals who have brain injuries or are  
303 family members of individuals who have brain injuries, with one  
304 individual appointed by the President of the Senate and the  
305 other individual appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
306 Representatives. ~~, a minimum of four~~

307 (b) Two individuals who have spinal cord injuries or are  
308 family members of individuals who have spinal cord injuries,   
309 with one individual appointed by the President of the Senate and  
310 the other individual appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
311 Representatives. ~~, and a minimum of~~

312 (c) Two individuals who represent the special needs of  
313 children who have brain or spinal cord injuries, with one

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314 individual appointed by the President of the Senate and the  
315 other individual appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
316 Representatives.

317 (d) Two individuals who have, or who are family members of  
318 individuals who have or had, a traumatic brain injury, chronic  
319 traumatic encephalopathy, or subconcussive impacts due to  
320 sports, with one individual appointed the President of the  
321 Senate and the other individual appointed by the Speaker of the  
322 House of Representatives.

323 (e) Two veterans as defined in s. 1.01(14) who have or  
324 have had a traumatic brain injury, chronic traumatic  
325 encephalopathy, or subconcussive impacts due to military  
326 service, or family members of such veterans, with one veteran or  
327 family member appointed by the President of the Senate and the  
328 other veteran or family member appointed by the Speaker of the  
329 House of Representatives.

330 (f) Six individuals, appointed by the State Surgeon  
331 General, who are ~~The balance of the council members shall be~~  
332 physicians, other allied health professionals, administrators of  
333 brain and spinal cord injury programs, or ~~and~~ representatives  
334 from support groups who ~~that~~ have expertise in areas related to  
335 the rehabilitation of individuals who have brain or spinal cord  
336 injuries.

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337 (2) ~~Members of the council shall be appointed to serve by~~  
338 ~~the State Surgeon General.~~ All members' terms shall be staggered  
339 terms of ~~for~~ 4 years. An

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**T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

343

Remove line 39 and insert:

344

veterans; providing that specified licenses issued to such

345

veterans expire periodically and must be reissued upon request

346

after such time period; amending s. 381.78, F.S.; revising the

347