

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public records; amending s. 295.22,
 3 F.S.; providing an exemption from public records
 4 requirements for specified materials and information
 5 received, generated, ascertained, or discovered by
 6 Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., while administering the
 7 Veterans Florida Opportunity Program; providing for
 8 future legislative review and repeal of the exemption;
 9 providing a statement of public necessity; providing a
 10 contingent effective date.

11
 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13
 14 **Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 295.22, Florida**
 15 **Statutes, as amended by HB 1241, 2025 Regular Session, is**
 16 **amended to read:**

17 295.22 Veterans Florida Opportunity Program.—

18 (4) ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION.—

19 (a) Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., shall administer the
 20 Veterans Florida Opportunity Program and perform all of the
 21 following functions:

22 ~~1.(a)~~ Conduct marketing and recruiting efforts directed at
 23 individuals within the target market who reside in or have an
 24 interest in relocating to this state and who are seeking
 25 employment. Marketing must include information related to how

26 | military experience can be valuable to a target industry or
27 | secondary industry business. Such efforts may include attending
28 | job fairs and events; hosting events for servicemembers,
29 | veterans, and their spouses or the business community; and using
30 | digital and social media and direct mail campaigns. The
31 | corporation shall also include such marketing as part of its
32 | main marketing campaign.

33 | 2.~~(b)~~ Assist individuals in the target market who reside
34 | in or relocate to this state and who are seeking employment with
35 | target industry or secondary industry businesses. The
36 | corporation shall offer skills assessments to such individuals
37 | and assist them in establishing employment goals and applying
38 | for and achieving gainful employment.

39 | a.1. Assessment may include skill match information, skill
40 | gap analysis, résumé creation, translation of military skills
41 | into civilian workforce skills, and translation of military
42 | achievements and experience into generally understood civilian
43 | workforce skills.

44 | b.2. Assistance may include providing the servicemember,
45 | veteran, or his or her spouse with information on current
46 | workforce demand by industry or geographic region, creating
47 | employment goals, and aiding or teaching general knowledge
48 | related to completing applications.

49 | c.3. Assessment and assistance may be in person or by
50 | electronic means, as determined by the corporation to be most

51 efficient and best meet the needs of veterans or their spouses.

52 3.~~(e)~~ Assist Florida target industry and secondary
53 industry businesses in recruiting and hiring individuals in the
54 target market. The corporation shall provide services to Florida
55 businesses to meet their hiring needs by connecting businesses
56 with suitable applicants for employment. Suitable applicants
57 include veterans or veterans' spouses who have appropriate job
58 skills or may need additional training to meet the specific
59 needs of a business. The corporation shall also provide
60 information about the state and federal benefits of hiring
61 veterans.

62 4.~~(d)~~ Create a grant program to provide funding to assist
63 individuals in the target market in meeting the workforce-skill
64 needs of target industry and secondary industry businesses
65 seeking to hire, promote, or generally improve specialized
66 skills of veterans, establish criteria for approval of requests
67 for funding, and maximize the use of funding for this program.
68 Grant funds may be used only in the absence of available
69 veteran-specific federally funded programs. Grants may fund
70 specialized training specific to a particular business.

71 a.1.~~1.~~ The program may prioritize grant funds to be used to
72 provide a certificate, a license, or nondegree training from the
73 Master Credentials List pursuant to s. 445.004(4)(h); any
74 federally created certifications or licenses; and any skills-
75 based industry certifications or licenses deemed relevant or

76 necessary by the corporation. Funds may be allocated only upon a
 77 review that includes, but is not limited to, documentation of
 78 accreditation and licensure.

79 b.2. Grant reimbursements are limited to \$5,000 per
 80 eligible trainee per fiscal year. Qualified businesses must
 81 cover the entire cost for all of the training provided before
 82 receiving reimbursement from the corporation. Training costs for
 83 a trainee in a fiscal year must be equal to or greater than
 84 \$5,000. Eligible costs and expenditures include, but are not
 85 limited to:

86 (I)a. Tuition and fees.

87 (II)b. Books and classroom materials.

88 (III)c. Rental fees for facilities.

89 c.3. Before funds are allocated for a request pursuant to
 90 this section, the corporation shall prepare a grant agreement
 91 between the business requesting funds and the corporation. Such
 92 agreement must include, but need not be limited to:

93 (I)a. Identification of the personnel necessary to conduct
 94 the instructional program, instructional program description,
 95 and any vendors used to conduct the instructional program.

96 (II)b. Identification of the duration of the instructional
 97 program.

98 (III)c. Identification of all direct, training-related
 99 costs.

100 (IV)d. Identification of special program requirements that

101 are not otherwise addressed in the agreement.

102 (V)~~e.~~ Permission to access aggregate information specific
103 to the wages and performance of participants upon the completion
104 of instruction for evaluation purposes. The agreement must
105 specify that any evaluation published subsequent to the
106 instruction may not identify the employer or any individual
107 participant.

108 d.4. A business may receive a grant under any state
109 program and a grant under this section for the same veteran
110 trainee.

111 e.5. Notwithstanding sub-subparagraph b. ~~subparagraph 2.~~,
112 grant funds may be used as educational stipends for individuals
113 in the target market while training at any location of the
114 University of Florida's Institute for Food and Agricultural
115 Sciences within this state. The corporation and the University
116 of Florida shall enter into an agreement before any grant funds
117 are expended, and the corporation shall determine the amount and
118 structure of any educational stipend. Such stipend may be used
119 only for such training for a period of no less than 4 months and
120 no more than 6 months, in the absence of veteran-specific
121 federally funded programs.

122 5.~~(e)~~ Contract with one or more entities to administer an
123 entrepreneur initiative program for individuals in the target
124 market in this state which connects business leaders in the
125 state with such individuals seeking to become entrepreneurs.

126 a.1. The corporation shall award each contract in
127 accordance with the competitive bidding requirements in s.
128 287.057 to one or more public or private entities that:

129 (I)a. Demonstrate the ability to implement the program and
130 the commitment of resources, including financial resources, to
131 such programs.

132 (II)b. Have a demonstrated experience working with veteran
133 entrepreneurs.

134 (III)c. As determined by the corporation, have been
135 recognized for their performance in assisting entrepreneurs to
136 launch successful businesses in this state.

137 b.2. Each contract must include performance metrics,
138 including a focus on employment and business creation. The
139 entity may also work with a university or college offering
140 related programs to refer individuals in the target market or to
141 provide services. The entrepreneur initiative program may
142 include activities and assistance such as peer-to-peer learning
143 sessions, mentoring, technical assistance, business roundtables,
144 networking opportunities, support of student organizations,
145 speaker series, or other tools within a virtual environment.

146 6.(f) Administer a SkillBridge initiative for target
147 industry and secondary industry businesses in this state and for
148 eligible individuals in the target market who reside in, or who
149 wish to reside in, this state. In administering the initiative,
150 the corporation shall:

151 ~~a.1.~~ Establish and maintain, as applicable, its
152 certification for the SkillBridge initiative or any other
153 similar workforce training and transition programs established
154 by the United States Department of Defense;

155 ~~b.2.~~ Educate businesses, business associations, and
156 eligible individuals in the target market on the SkillBridge
157 initiative and its benefits, and educate military command and
158 personnel within the state on the opportunities available to
159 eligible individuals in the target market;

160 ~~c.3.~~ Assist businesses in obtaining approval for skilled
161 workforce training curricula under the SkillBridge initiative,
162 including, but not limited to, apprenticeships, internships, or
163 fellowships; and

164 ~~d.4.~~ Match eligible individuals in the target market with
165 training opportunities offered by the corporation or
166 participating businesses, with the intent of having them achieve
167 gainful employment in this state upon completion of their
168 SkillBridge training.

169 (b) Materials that relate to methods of manufacture or
170 production, potential trade secrets, potentially patentable
171 material, actual trade secrets, workforce training plans,
172 business transactions, business plans, military records, skills
173 assessments and career goals, resumes and contact information,
174 certificates, financial and proprietary information, and
175 agreements or proposals to receive funding which are received,

176 generated, ascertained, or discovered by Florida Is For
177 Veterans, Inc., including partnership and training participants,
178 such as private enterprises, educational institutions, and other
179 organizations, for the purposes of administering this subsection
180 are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art.
181 I of the State Constitution. Aggregated data with no personal
182 identifying information for reporting purposes is not exempt.
183 This paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review
184 Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on
185 October 2, 2030, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through
186 reenactment by the Legislature.

187 **Section 2.** The Legislature finds that it is a public
188 necessity that information pertaining to an individual or
189 organization that seeks assistance, services, or training under
190 s. 295.22(4), Florida Statutes, be made confidential and exempt
191 from public records requirements under s. 119.07(1), Florida
192 Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. The
193 Legislature created Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., and funds the
194 program under s. 295.22(4), Florida Statutes, administered by
195 the corporation, in order to provide assistance, services, and
196 training to separating servicemembers, veterans, and others
197 through organizations such as employers, nonprofits, and
198 universities in the areas of career placement and training and
199 entrepreneurship training to support workforce and economic
200 development within this state. Making information, such as

201 resumes of job seekers, entrepreneurship business plans, and
202 employer workforce training plans and curricula, publicly
203 available exposes those individuals and organizations to risk of
204 loss of personal privacy and theft of confidential business
205 information. Without the public records exemption, the state
206 would be unable to effectively and efficiently implement and
207 administer the program.

208 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect on the same date
209 that HB 1241 or similar legislation takes effect, if such
210 legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an
211 extension thereof and becomes a law.