By Senator Wright

8-00553-25 2025402

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to unlawful use of uniforms, medals, or insignia; amending s. 817.312, F.S.; prohibiting persons from wearing the uniform of or any medal or insignia authorized for use by members or veterans of the Space Force; making technical changes; providing criminal penalties; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 817.312, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

817.312 Unlawful use of uniforms, medals, or insignia.—
(1) (a) A person may not:

1. Misrepresent himself or herself as a member or veteran of the <u>armed forces as defined in s. 250.01</u> United States Air Force, United States Army, United States Coast Guard, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Space Force, or the National Guard; or

2. Wear the uniform of or any medal or insignia authorized for use by members or veterans of the <u>armed forces as defined in s. 250.01</u> United States Air Force, United States Army, United States Coast Guard, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, or the National Guard which he or she is not authorized to wear,

while soliciting for charitable contributions or for the purpose of material gain, including, but not limited to, obtaining employment or public office resulting in receiving compensation.

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(b) This subsection does not prohibit persons in the theatrical profession from wearing such uniforms, medals, or insignia while actually engaged in such profession.

- (2) A person who violates subsection (1) commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.
 - Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2025.