

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

BILL #: [CS/HB 821](#)

TITLE: Business Development Incentives for Veterans and Military Spouses

SPONSOR(S): Gantt, Rayner

COMPANION BILL: [CS/SB 1172](#) (Jones)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Intergovernmental Affairs](#)

17 Y, 0 N, As CS

[Ways & Means](#)

[State Affairs](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill requires the Department of State (DOS) to waive all fees for a new business established by a veteran or military spouse or an existing veteran-owned or military spouse-owned small business that relocates to Florida. The bill requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature including various data regarding veteran-owned and military spouse-owned businesses.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill may have an indeterminate negative impact on state government revenues to the extent that veteran-owned or military spouse-owned businesses that would otherwise have paid fees to the DOS receive fee waivers.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill creates the Florida Veterans and Military Spouse Business Development Act (Act) to attract and support veteran-owned and military spouse-owned businesses by providing incentives. (Section [1](#))

The bill defines a veteran-owned or military spouse-owned business as a business entity that:

- Employs 200 or fewer permanent full-time employees;
- Has a net worth of \$5 million or less, including its affiliates or a net worth of \$5 million or less, including personal or business investments, if the business is a sole proprietorship;
- Is organized to engage in commercial transactions;
- Is domiciled in the state;
- Is at least 51 percent owned by one or more veterans or military spouses who are residents of this state;
- One or more veterans or military spouses control the management and daily business operations; and
- Has a professional license in the name of a veteran or military spouse who owns the business entity, if applicable.

The bill defines "military spouse" as the spouse of an active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces or a veteran. (Section [1](#))

The bill requires the Department of State (DOS) to waive all [fees](#) for a new business established by a veteran or military spouse or an existing veteran-owned or military spouse-owned business that relocates to Florida. The bill requires DOS to establish registration requirements for the fee waivers, which must include:

- For veterans, a DD Form 214 or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; or
- For military spouses, verification of a relationship with a spouse who is an active duty servicemember or a veteran. (Section [1](#))

STORAGE NAME: h0821.IAS

DATE: 4/9/2025

The fee waivers apply to such businesses established or certified between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2030. (Section [1](#))

The bill requires [Department of Veterans' Affairs \(FDVA\)](#) to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31 of each year that includes:

- The number of veteran-owned or military spouse-owned businesses that were established in Florida or relocated to Florida.
- Economic metrics such as jobs created by and tax revenue impact of veteran-owned or military spouse-owned businesses.
- Demographic data for the participating veterans and military spouses. (Section [1](#))

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2025. (Section [2](#)).

RULEMAKING:

The bill requires the FDVA and the DOS to develop rules to administer the Act.

Lawmaking is a legislative power; however, the Legislature may delegate a portion of such power to executive branch agencies to create rules that have the force of law. To exercise this delegated power, an agency must have a grant of rulemaking authority and a law to implement.

FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

STATE GOVERNMENT:

The bill may have an indeterminate negative impact on state government revenues to the extent that veteran-owned or military spouse-owned businesses that would otherwise have paid fees to the DOS receive fee waivers.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

[Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs \(FDVA\)](#)

The FDVA is a nearly 1,500-member constitutionally chartered¹ department with a budget of \$218 million for Fiscal Year 2024-25.² FDVA operates a network of nine state veterans' homes and provides statewide outreach to connect veterans and their spouses with services, benefits, and support.³ FDVA is currently required to provide benefits and services in the fields of health care, mental health and substance abuse, claims support, education, employment, housing, burial benefits, and legal assistance to veterans and their spouses.⁴

Florida is home to 21 military installations⁵ and 66,971 military personnel.⁶ Florida also has the nation's third-largest veteran⁷ population, with almost 1.4 million veterans.⁸

¹ [Art. IV, s. 11, Fla. Const.](#)

² FDVA, [2024 Annual Report](#), pg. 3 (last visited Apr. 4, 2025).

³ FDVA, [Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs – Our Vision and Mission](#) (last visited Apr. 4, 2025).

⁴ FDVA, [Benefits & Services](#) (last visited Apr. 4, 2025).

⁵ Select Florida, [Defense & Homeland Security](#) (last visited Apr. 4, 2025).

⁶ Florida Commerce, [Florida Military & Defense: Economic Impact Summary \(January 2024\)](#) (last visited Apr. 4, 2025).

⁷ [Section 1.01\(14\), F.S.](#), defines a "veteran" as a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under honorable conditions, or who later received an upgraded discharge under honorable conditions.

⁸ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, [VetPop2023 Living Veterans by State, Age Group, Gender, 2023-2053](#) (last visited Apr. 4, 2025). The Veteran Population Projection Model 2023 (VetPop2023) provides an official veteran population projection from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Corporation Fees

The DOS is the state's central location responsible for receiving and maintaining a number of corporate records.⁹ Florida law requires certain documents to be filed with the Division of Corporations (division) of the DOS for a business to be organized as a corporation, partnership, LLC, or other business/commercial entity.¹⁰ Business entities can file these documents and check their status through an internet portal maintained by the division.

A Limited Liability Company (LLC) is a type of business entity recognized by and regulated under chapter 605, F.S., the Florida Revised Limited Liability Company Act. The benefits to forming a business as an LLC include a flexible tax structure and a vertical liability shield, which limits the personal liability of the LLC's members and managers for company obligations.¹¹

A for-profit corporation is a type of business entity recognized and regulated under chapter 607, F.S. To organize, a corporation must file articles of incorporation, including specifics such as a corporate name, address, number of shares, and the designation of a registered office and agent.¹²

To help maintain these records, the DOS is statutorily allowed to collect fees, such as:¹³

Corporation Fees	
New Florida/Foreign Corporation	
Filing Fees	\$35.00
Registered Agent Designation	\$35.00
Annual Reports	
Annual Report of a For Profit Corporation	\$150.00
Annual Report of Not for Profit Corporation	\$61.25
Resignation of Agent	
Resignation of Registered Agent of an Active Corporation	\$87.50
Resignation of Registered Agent of an Administratively Dissolved/Voluntarily Dissolved/Withdrawn Corporation/Inactive Corporation	\$35.00

Limited Liability Company Fees	
New Florida/Foreign LLC	
Filing Fee	\$100.00
Registered Agent Designation Fee	\$25.00
Annual Reports	
Annual Report	\$138.75
Resignation of Agent	
Resignation of Registered Agent for an active LLC	\$85.00
Resignation of Registered Agent for a dissolved/inactive LLC	\$25.00

⁹ S. [606.01\(2\), F.S.](#)

¹⁰ Florida Dept. of State, Division of Corporations, [Start E-Filing](#) (last visited Apr. 4, 2025).

¹¹ U.S. Small Business Administration, [Choose a Business Structure](#) (last visited Apr. 4, 2025).

¹² S. [607.0202, F.S.](#)

¹³ The Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations, [Fees](#) (last visited Apr. 4, 2025).

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee	17 Y, 0 N, As CS	4/9/2025	Darden	Burgess
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removes provisions concerning vendor preferences.• Revises the definition of “veteran-owned or military spouse-owned business.”• Specifies the date for the FDVA to submit annual reporting concerning veteran-owned or military spouse-owned businesses to the Governor and Legislature.			
Ways & Means Committee				
State Affairs Committee				

THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.
