

HB 1211

2026

A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to military affairs; amending s. 115.01, F.S.; revising the authorization to be granted a leave of absence for military service to include the Coast Guard; removing the condition that such service be during war between the United States and a foreign government; amending s. 115.07, F.S.; clarifying a provision relating to leaves of absence for all officers and employees of the state and the counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions of the state for reserve or guard training; amending s. 115.08, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "active military service"; amending s. 115.09, F.S.; specifying that an authorization for a leave of absence for public officials to perform active military service for a specified timeframe is based on a single order; amending s. 115.14, F.S.; specifying that an authorization for a leave of absence for all employees of the state and the counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions of the state to perform active military service for a specified timeframe is based on a single order; amending s. 121.055, F.S.; removing Department of Military Affairs positions from compulsory participation in the Senior Management Service Class;

HB 1211

2026

26 providing that participation in such class for all  
27 other members employed within the Department of  
28 Military Affairs is separately governed by a specified  
29 provision; amending s. 250.10, F.S.; removing a  
30 requirement that the Adjutant General administer youth  
31 About Face Programs and adult Forward March programs;  
32 removing provisions governing the programs; amending  
33 s. 250.116, F.S.; revising eligibility for the  
34 Soldiers and Airmen Assistance Program to include  
35 traditional drilling guardsmen on state active duty or  
36 on Title 32 United States Code duty and their eligible  
37 beneficiaries demonstrating valid financial need;  
38 defining the term "beneficiary"; requiring requests  
39 for assistance to be reviewed, processed, and approved  
40 by the Florida National Guard Foundation's board of  
41 directors; requiring requests for assistance to be  
42 reviewed and evaluated based on specified criteria;  
43 requiring the board to annually review the bylaws that  
44 govern such program; requiring the board to provide a  
45 report to the Department of Military Affairs to be  
46 approved by the Adjutant General; removing provisions  
47 requiring the board's financial committee to review  
48 financial transactions quarterly and to provide a  
49 report to the department for a certain determination;  
50 reenacting s. 115.06, F.S., relating to reassumption

Page 2 of 11

CODING: Words **stricken** are deletions; words underlined are additions.

hb1211-00

HB 1211

2026

51       of duties for officers returning from the service of  
52       the United States, to incorporate the amendment made  
53       to s. 115.01, F.S., in a reference thereto; providing  
54       an effective date.

55

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

57

58       **Section 1. Section 115.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
59       read:**

60       115.01 Leave of absence for military service.—Any county  
61       or state official of the state, subject to the provisions and  
62       conditions hereinafter set forth, may be granted leave of  
63       absence from his or her office, to serve in the volunteer forces  
64       of the United States, or in the National Guard of any state, or  
65       in the regular Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard,  
66       or Space Force of the United States, when the same shall be  
67       called into active service of the United States ~~during war~~  
68       ~~between the United States and a foreign government.~~

69

70       **Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 115.07, Florida  
71       Statutes, is amended to read:**

72       115.07 Officers and employees' leaves of absence for  
73       reserve or guard training.—

74       (1) All officers or employees of the state, of the several  
75       counties of the state, and of the municipalities or political  
76       subdivisions of the state who are commissioned reserve officers

HB 1211

2026

76 or reserve enlisted personnel in the United States military or  
77 naval service or members of the National Guard are entitled to  
78 leaves of absence from their respective duties, without loss of  
79 vacation leave, pay, time, or efficiency rating, on all days  
80 during which they are engaged in training ordered under the  
81 provisions of the United States military or naval training  
82 regulations or applicable general law for such personnel when  
83 assigned to active or inactive duty.

84 **Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 115.08, Florida  
85 Statutes, is amended to read:**

86 115.08 Definitions.—

87 (1) The term "active military service" as used in this  
88 chapter means shall signify active duty ~~in the Florida defense~~  
~~force or federal service in training or on active duty with any~~  
89 branch of the Armed Forces or Reservists of the Armed Forces,  
90 the Florida National Guard, the Coast Guard of the United  
91 States, and service of all officers of the United States Public  
92 Health Service detailed by proper authority for duty with the  
93 Armed Forces, and includes shall include the period during which  
94 a person in military service is absent from duty on account of  
95 sickness, wounds, leave, or other lawful cause.

97 **Section 4. Section 115.09, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
98 read:**

99 115.09 Leave to public officials for military service.—All  
100 officials of the state, the several counties of the state, and

HB 1211

2026

101 the municipalities or political subdivisions of the state,  
102 including district school and Florida community College System  
103 officers, which officials are also servicemembers in the  
104 National Guard or a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the  
105 United States, must be granted leave of absence from their  
106 respective offices and duties to perform active military  
107 service, with the first 30 days of any such leave of absence to  
108 be with full pay for active federal military service that is  
109 equal to or greater than 90 consecutive days on a single order.

110 **Section 5. Section 115.14, Florida Statutes, is amended to**  
111 **read:**

112 115.14 Employees.—All employees of the state, the several  
113 counties of the state, and the municipalities or political  
114 subdivisions of the state must be granted leave of absence under  
115 the terms of this law; upon such leave of absence being granted,  
116 such employee must enjoy the same rights and privileges as are  
117 granted to officials under this law, including, without  
118 limitation, receiving full pay for the first 30 days for federal  
119 military service that is equal to or greater than 90 consecutive  
120 days on a single order. Notwithstanding s. 115.09, the employing  
121 authority may supplement the military pay of its officials and  
122 employees who are reservists called to active military service  
123 after the first 30 days in an amount necessary to bring their  
124 total salary, inclusive of their base military pay, to the level  
125 earned at the time they were called to active military duty. The

126 employing authority shall continue to provide all health  
127 insurance and other existing benefits to such officials and  
128 employees as required by the Uniformed Services Employment and  
129 Reemployment Rights Act, chapter 43 of Title 38 U.S.C.

130 **Section 6. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section  
131 121.055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

132 121.055 Senior Management Service Class.—There is hereby  
133 established a separate class of membership within the Florida  
134 Retirement System to be known as the "Senior Management Service  
135 Class," which shall become effective February 1, 1987.

136 (1)

137 (g) Effective July 1, 1996, participation in the Senior  
138 Management Service Class shall be compulsory for any member of  
139 the Florida Retirement System employed with the Department of  
140 Military Affairs in the positions of the Adjutant General,  
141 Assistant Adjutant General-Army, Assistant Adjutant General-Air,  
142 and State Quartermaster, Director of Human Resources, Director  
143 of Legislative Affairs, Inspector General, Executive Officer,  
144 and additional directors as designated by the agency head, not  
145 to exceed a total of 10 positions. In lieu of participation in  
146 the Senior Management Service Class, such members may  
147 participate in the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity  
148 Program as established in subsection (6). Eligibility for  
149 participation in the Senior Management Service Class for all  
150 other members of the Florida Retirement System employed within

151     the Department of Military Affairs is separately governed by s.  
152     110.205.

153       **Section 7. Paragraph (m) of subsection (2) of section**  
154       **250.10, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

155       250.10 Appointment and duties of the Adjutant General.—

156       (2) The Adjutant General shall:

157       (m) Subject to annual appropriations, administer youth  
158       About Face programs and adult Forward March programs at sites to  
159       be selected by the Adjutant General. Both programs must provide  
160       schoolwork assistance, focusing on the skills needed to master  
161       basic high school competencies and functional life skills,  
162       including teaching students to work effectively in groups;  
163       providing basic instruction in computer skills; teaching basic  
164       problem solving, decisionmaking, and reasoning skills; teaching  
165       how the business world and free enterprise work through computer  
166       simulations; and teaching home finance and budgeting and other  
167       daily living skills.

168       1. About Face is a summer and year-round after-school  
169       life-preparation program for economically disadvantaged and at-  
170       risk youths from 13 through 17 years of age. The program must  
171       provide training in academic study skills, and the basic skills  
172       that businesses require for employment consideration.

173       2. Forward March is a job readiness program for  
174       economically disadvantaged participants who are directed to  
175       Forward March by the local workforce development boards. The

176 Forward March program shall provide training on topics that  
177 directly relate to the skills required for real world success.  
178 The program shall emphasize functional life skills, computer  
179 literacy, interpersonal relationships, critical thinking skills,  
180 business skills, preemployment and work maturity skills, job-  
181 search skills, exploring careers activities, how to be a  
182 successful and effective employee, and some job specific skills.  
183 The program also shall provide extensive opportunities for  
184 participants to practice generic job skills in a supervised work  
185 setting. Upon completion of the program, Forward March shall  
186 return participants to the local workforce development boards  
187 for placement in a job placement pool.

188 **Section 8. Subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section**

189 **250.116, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

190 250.116 Soldiers and Airmen Assistance Program.—

191 (4) ELIGIBILITY.—Persons eligible for assistance from the  
192 program include:

193 (a) Servicemembers who are members of the Florida National  
194 Guard who are+

195 1. traditional drilling guardsmen on state active duty or  
196 on Title 32 United States Code duty, who otherwise do not  
197 qualify for the assistance programs available to servicemembers  
198 serving under Title 10 United States Code, and who demonstrate  
199 valid financial need, and their eligible beneficiaries, are  
200 authorized to apply for and receive financial assistance from

201 the program, as administered by the Florida National Guard  
202 Foundation's board of directors and its governing bylaws,  
203 contingent upon the availability of funds serving in the Global  
204 War on Terrorism or Overseas Contingency Operation or who  
205 request assistance within 120 days after the termination of  
206 orders for such service and return to their home of record.

207 2. Deployed by the Federal Government and participating in  
208 state operations for homeland defense or request assistance  
209 within 120 days after the termination of orders for such service  
210 and return to their home of record.

211 (b) 1. As used in this subsection, the term "beneficiary"  
212 means the current spouse, dependent children, or other  
213 designated beneficiaries as determined by the Adjutant General  
214 Beneficiaries of an eligible servicemember designated on United  
215 States Department of Defense Form 93.

216 2. Individuals demonstrating a financial need for  
217 authorized assistance who are dependents or family members of an  
218 eligible servicemember.

219 (5) REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE; REVIEW; AWARDS.—

220 (a) A request for assistance must shall be reviewed, and  
221 processed, and approved by the Florida National Guard  
222 Foundation's board of directors at the local level by an  
223 official designated by the Adjutant General. During the initial  
224 review and processing of the request, the Department of Military  
225 Affairs may accept assistance from the direct support

HB 1211

2026

226 organization. Final review and approval of requests for  
227 assistance shall be made by the Department of Military Affairs.

228 (b) Requests for assistance must shall be reviewed and  
229 evaluated based on the following criteria:

230 1. The impact of a servicemember's financial situation  
231 absence and inability to provide quality of life and other  
232 qualifying life-impacting assist in home and vehicle repairs or  
233 meet other family needs;

234 2. The economic impact of deployment;

235 3. The overall financial situation of the applicant;

236 2.4. The assistance authorized under the program; and

237 3.5. Any other consideration dictated in the bylaws of the  
238 Florida National Guard Foundation Other relevant information.

239 (6) ANNUAL BYLAW QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REVIEW.—The Florida  
240 National Guard Foundation's board of directors shall annually  
241 review the bylaws that govern the program. The board shall  
242 provide a report of such review to the Department of Military  
243 Affairs to be approved by the Adjutant General financial  
244 committee of the board of directors of the direct support  
245 organization shall review financial transactions of the program  
246 each quarter. This review shall be provided to the Department of  
247 Military Affairs in order to determine whether the direct-  
248 support organization is being operated in a manner that is  
249 consistent with the purposes of the Soldiers and Airmen  
250 Assistance Fund, and in the best interests of the department.

HB 1211

2026

251 ~~The financial committee may request the Office of Inspector~~  
252 ~~General to conduct additional reviews.~~

253 **Section 9. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment**  
254 **made by this act to section 115.01, Florida Statutes, in a**  
255 **reference thereto, section 115.06, Florida Statutes, is**  
256 **reenacted to read:**

257 115.06 Reassumption of duties.—Upon being mustered out of  
258 the service of the United States, such officer granted leave  
259 under s. 115.01 shall immediately enter into the duties of his  
260 or her office for the remainder of the term for which he or she  
261 was elected.

262 **Section 10.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.