

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to military affairs; amending s.  
3       115.01, F.S.; revising the authorization to be granted  
4       a leave of absence for military service to include the  
5       Coast Guard; removing the condition that such service  
6       be during war between the United States and a foreign  
7       government; amending s. 115.07, F.S.; clarifying a  
8       provision relating to leaves of absence for all  
9       officers and employees of the state and the counties,  
10      municipalities, and political subdivisions of the  
11      state for reserve or guard training; amending s.  
12      115.08, F.S.; revising the definition of the term  
13      "active military service"; amending s. 115.09, F.S.;  
14      specifying that an authorization for a leave of  
15      absence for public officials to perform active  
16      military service for a specified timeframe is based on  
17      a single order; amending s. 115.14, F.S.; specifying  
18      that an authorization for a leave of absence for all  
19      employees of the state and the counties,  
20      municipalities, and political subdivisions of the  
21      state to perform active military service for a  
22      specified timeframe is based on a single order;  
23      amending s. 121.055, F.S.; removing Department of  
24      Military Affairs positions from compulsory  
25      participation in the Senior Management Service Class;

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

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

71 115.07 Officers and employees' leaves of absence for  
72 reserve or guard training.—

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

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~~  
89 ~~force or federal service in training or on active duty~~ with any  
90 branch of the Armed Forces or Reservists of the Armed Forces,  
91 the Florida National Guard, the Coast Guard of the United  
92 States, and service of all officers of the United States Public  
93 Health Service detailed by proper authority for duty with the  
94 Armed Forces, and includes ~~shall include~~ the period during which  
95 a person in military service is absent from duty on account of  
96 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1)

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

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

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

250.10 Appointment and duties of the Adjutant General.—

(2) The Adjutant General shall:

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

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

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

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

**Section 8. Subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section 250.116, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

250.116 Soldiers and Airmen Assistance Program.—

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

(a) Servicemembers who are members of the Florida National Guard who are:

~~1-~~ traditional drilling guardsmen on state active duty or on Title 32 United States Code duty, who otherwise do not qualify for the assistance programs available to servicemembers serving under Title 10 United States Code, and who demonstrate valid financial need, and their eligible beneficiaries, are 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~~

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

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

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

~~2. The economic impact of deployment;~~

~~3. The overall financial situation of the applicant;~~

2.4. The assistance authorized under the program; and

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

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

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

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

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

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