

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

.

Representative Albert offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

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

115.01 Leave of absence for military service.—Any county or state official of the state, subject to the provisions and conditions hereinafter set forth, may be granted leave of absence from his or her office, to serve in the volunteer forces of the United States, or in the National Guard of any state, or in the regular Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Space Force of the United States, when the same shall be

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14 called into active service of the United States ~~during war~~
15 ~~between the United States and a foreign government.~~

16 **Section 2. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 115.07,**
17 **Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4) and (5),**
18 **respectively, subsections (1) and (2) are amended, and a new**
19 **subsection (3) is added to that section, to read:**

20 115.07 Officers and employees' leaves of absence for
21 reserve or guard training.-

22 (1) All officers or employees of the state, of the several
23 counties of the state, and of the municipalities or political
24 subdivisions of the state who are commissioned reserve officers
25 or reserve enlisted personnel in the United States military or
26 naval service or members of the National Guard are entitled to
27 leaves of absence from their respective duties, without loss of
28 vacation leave, pay, time, or efficiency rating, on all days
29 during which they are engaged in training ordered under the
30 provisions of the United States military or naval training
31 regulations or applicable general law for such personnel when
32 assigned to active or inactive duty.

33 (2) Leaves of absence granted as a matter of legal right
34 under the provisions of this section may not exceed 240 working
35 hours in any one annual period, except as provided in subsection
36 (3). Administrative leaves of absence for additional or longer
37 periods of time for assignment to duty functions of a military
38 character shall be without pay, except as provided in subsection

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39 (3), and shall be granted by the employing or appointing
40 authority of any state, county, municipal, or political
41 subdivision employee and when so granted shall be without loss
42 of time or efficiency rating.

43 (3) A county, municipality, or other political subdivision
44 of the state may adopt an ordinance or resolution providing that
45 an employee who is a commissioned reserve officer or reserve
46 enlisted personnel in the United States military or naval
47 service or who is a member of the National Guard may receive
48 more than 240 working hours of paid leave from his or her
49 respective duties, without loss of vacation leave, pay, time, or
50 efficiency rating, on all days during which he or she is engaged
51 in training ordered under the provisions of the United States
52 military or naval training regulations or applicable general law
53 for such personnel when assigned to active or inactive duty,
54 provided that no state funds are used for such supplemental
55 payments.

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

58 115.08 Definitions.—

59 (1) The term "active military service" as used in this
60 chapter ~~means shall signify active duty in the Florida defense~~
61 ~~force or federal service in training or on active duty~~ with any
62 branch of the Armed Forces or Reservists of the Armed Forces,
63 the Florida National Guard, the Coast Guard of the United

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64 States, and service of all officers of the United States Public
65 Health Service detailed by proper authority for duty with the
66 Armed Forces, and includes ~~shall include~~ the period during which
67 a person in military service is absent from duty on account of
68 sickness, wounds, leave, or other lawful cause.

69 **Section 4. Section 115.09, Florida Statutes, is amended to**
70 **read:**

71 115.09 Leave to public officials for military service.—All
72 officials of the state, the several counties of the state, and
73 the municipalities or political subdivisions of the state,
74 including district school and Florida community College System
75 officers, which officials are also servicemembers in the
76 National Guard or a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the
77 United States, must be granted leave of absence from their
78 respective offices and duties to perform active military
79 service, with the first 30 days of any such leave of absence to
80 be with full pay for active federal military service that is
81 equal to or greater than 90 consecutive days on a single order.

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

84 115.14 Employees.—All employees of the state, the several
85 counties of the state, and the municipalities or political
86 subdivisions of the state must be granted leave of absence under
87 the terms of this law; upon such leave of absence being granted,
88 such employee must enjoy the same rights and privileges as are

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89 granted to officials under this law, including, without
90 limitation, receiving full pay for the first 30 days for federal
91 military service that is equal to or greater than 90 consecutive
92 days on a single order. Notwithstanding s. 115.09, the employing
93 authority may supplement the military pay of its officials and
94 employees who are reservists called to active military service
95 after the first 30 days in an amount necessary to bring their
96 total salary, inclusive of their base military pay, to the level
97 earned at the time they were called to active military duty. The
98 employing authority shall continue to provide all health
99 insurance and other existing benefits to such officials and
100 employees as required by the Uniformed Services Employment and
101 Reemployment Rights Act, chapter 43 of Title 38 U.S.C.

102 **Section 6. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section**
103 **121.055, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

104 121.055 Senior Management Service Class.—There is hereby
105 established a separate class of membership within the Florida
106 Retirement System to be known as the "Senior Management Service
107 Class," which shall become effective February 1, 1987.

108 (1)

109 (g) Effective July 1, 1996, participation in the Senior
110 Management Service Class shall be compulsory for any member of
111 the Florida Retirement System employed with the Department of
112 Military Affairs in the uniformed positions of the Adjutant
113 General, Assistant Adjutant General—Army, Assistant Adjutant

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114 General-Air, State Quartermaster, ~~Director of Human Resources,~~
115 ~~Director of Legislative Affairs, Inspector General, Executive~~
116 ~~Officer,~~ and additional directors as designated by the agency
117 head, not to exceed two Special Projects Officers of the Florida
118 National Guard ~~a total of 10 positions.~~ In lieu of participation
119 in the Senior Management Service Class, such members may
120 participate in the Senior Management Service Optional Annuity
121 Program as established in subsection (6).

122 **Section 7. Paragraph (m) of subsection (2) of section**
123 **250.10, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

124 250.10 Appointment and duties of the Adjutant General.—

125 (2) The Adjutant General shall:

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

137 1. ~~About Face is a summer and year-round after-school~~
138 ~~life preparation program for economically disadvantaged and at-~~

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139 ~~risk youths from 13 through 17 years of age. The program must~~
140 ~~provide training in academic study skills, and the basic skills~~
141 ~~that businesses require for employment consideration.~~

142 ~~2. Forward March is a job readiness program for~~
143 ~~economically disadvantaged participants who are directed to~~
144 ~~Forward March by the local workforce development boards. The~~
145 ~~Forward March program shall provide training on topics that~~
146 ~~directly relate to the skills required for real-world success.~~
147 ~~The program shall emphasize functional life skills, computer~~
148 ~~literacy, interpersonal relationships, critical thinking skills,~~
149 ~~business skills, preemployment and work maturity skills, job-~~
150 ~~search skills, exploring careers activities, how to be a~~
151 ~~successful and effective employee, and some job-specific skills.~~
152 ~~The program also shall provide extensive opportunities for~~
153 ~~participants to practice generic job skills in a supervised work~~
154 ~~setting. Upon completion of the program, Forward March shall~~
155 ~~return participants to the local workforce development boards~~
156 ~~for placement in a job placement pool.~~

157 **Section 8. Subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section**
158 **250.116, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (7) is**
159 **added to that section, to read:**

160 250.116 Soldiers and Airmen Assistance Program.—

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

163 (a) Servicemembers who are members of the Florida National

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164 Guard who are:

165 ~~1. traditional drilling guardsmen on state active duty or~~
166 ~~on Title 32 United States Code duty, who otherwise do not~~
167 ~~qualify for the assistance programs available to servicemembers~~
168 ~~serving under Title 10 United States Code, and who demonstrate~~
169 ~~valid financial need, and their eligible beneficiaries, are~~
170 ~~authorized to apply for and receive financial assistance from~~
171 ~~the program, as administered by the Florida National Guard~~
172 ~~Foundation's board of directors and its governing bylaws,~~
173 ~~contingent upon the availability of funds serving in the Global~~
174 ~~War on Terrorism or Overseas Contingency Operation or who~~
175 ~~request assistance within 120 days after the termination of~~
176 ~~orders for such service and return to their home of record.~~

177 ~~2. Deployed by the Federal Government and participating in~~
178 ~~state operations for homeland defense or request assistance~~
179 ~~within 120 days after the termination of orders for such service~~
180 ~~and return to their home of record.~~

181 ~~(b)1. As used in this subsection, the term "beneficiary"~~
182 ~~means the current spouse, dependent children, or other~~
183 ~~designated beneficiaries as designated in the servicemember's~~
184 ~~service component records Beneficiaries of an eligible~~
185 ~~servicemember designated on United States Department of Defense~~
186 ~~Form 93.~~

187 ~~2. Individuals demonstrating a financial need for~~
188 ~~authorized assistance who are dependents or family members of an~~

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189 ~~eligible servicemember.~~

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

191 (a) A request for assistance must ~~shall~~ be reviewed, and
192 processed, and approved by the Florida National Guard
193 Foundation's board of directors at the local level by an
194 ~~official designated by the Adjutant General. During the initial~~
195 ~~review and processing of the request, the Department of Military~~
196 ~~Affairs may accept assistance from the direct-support~~
197 ~~organization. Final review and approval of requests for~~
198 ~~assistance shall be made by the Department of Military Affairs.~~

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

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

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

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

207 2.4. The assistance authorized under the program; and

208 ~~3.5.~~ Any other consideration dictated in the bylaws of the
209 Florida National Guard Foundation ~~Other relevant information.~~

210 (6) ~~QUARTERLY~~ FINANCIAL REVIEW.—The financial committee of
211 the board of directors of the direct-support organization shall
212 review financial transactions of the program each quarter. The
213 board of directors must also ensure an annual external audit is

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214 completed and published on the publicly available website of the
 215 direct-support organization. This audit must ~~review shall~~ be
 216 provided to the Department of Military Affairs in order to
 217 determine whether the direct-support organization is being
 218 operated in a manner that is consistent with the purposes of the
 219 Soldiers and Airmen Assistance Fund, and in the best interests
 220 of the department. The financial committee may request the
 221 Office of Inspector General to conduct additional reviews.

222 (7) ANNUAL BYLAW REVIEW.—The Florida National Guard
 223 Foundation's board of directors shall annually review the bylaws
 224 that govern the program. This review shall be provided in a
 225 report to the Department of Military Affairs and subject to
 226 approval by the Adjutant General.

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

231 115.06 Reassumption of duties.—Upon being mustered out of
 232 the service of the United States, such officer granted leave
 233 under s. 115.01 shall immediately enter into the duties of his
 234 or her office for the remainder of the term for which he or she
 235 was elected.

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

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T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

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; authorizing local governments to provide additional paid leave for officers and employees 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

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264 specified timeframe is based on a single order;
265 amending s. 121.055, F.S.; revising military positions
266 required to participate in the Senior Management
267 Service Class of the Florida Retirement System;
268 amending s. 250.10, F.S.; removing a requirement that
269 the Adjutant General administer youth About Face
270 Programs and adult Forward March programs; removing
271 provisions governing the programs; amending s.
272 250.116, F.S.; revising eligibility for the Soldiers
273 and Airmen Assistance Program to include traditional
274 drilling guardsmen on state active duty or on Title 32
275 United States Code duty and their eligible
276 beneficiaries demonstrating valid financial need;
277 defining the term "beneficiary"; requiring requests
278 for assistance to be reviewed, processed, and approved
279 by the Florida National Guard Foundation's board of
280 directors; requiring requests for assistance to be
281 reviewed and evaluated based on specified criteria;
282 requiring an annual external audit of the program;
283 requiring the board to annually review the bylaws that
284 govern the program; requiring the board to provide a
285 report to the Department of Military Affairs to be
286 approved by the Adjutant General; reenacting s.
287 115.06, F.S., relating to reassumption of duties for
288 officers returning from the service of the United

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289 States, to incorporate the amendment made to s.
290 115.01, F.S., in a reference thereto; providing an
291 effective date.

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