

CS/HB 1455 — Misrepresentation of Military Status

by Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee; and Rep. Sachs and others (CS/SB 1824 by Commerce Committee; and Senators Gelber, Oelrich, Garcia, Justice, Peaden, Crist, Lynn, Rich, Sobel, Gaetz, and Dockery)

The bill makes it unlawful for a person to solicit funds by falsely stating or representing that he or she is a member or representative of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard.

In addition, the bill prohibits a person from wearing the uniform of, or any medal or insignia authorized for use by members or veterans of, the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard, and misrepresenting himself or herself as a member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard while soliciting for charitable contributions.

Any person who commits a prohibited act in the bill commits a felony of the third degree. A person that commits a second or subsequent offense for soliciting funds by falsely stating or representing that he or she is a member or representative of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard, commits a second degree felony.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect October 1, 2010.

Vote: Senate 36-0; House 108-0