

## CHAPTER 99-160

### Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 714

An act relating to the Florida World War II Veterans Memorial; providing for the construction of a memorial to the Florida residents who served during World War II; specifying source of moneys; directing the Commission on Veterans' Affairs to cooperate with the Capitol Center Planning Commission to report on the cost and appropriate location of the memorial; directing the Governor to arrange for an appropriate ceremony; providing a contingent effective date.

WHEREAS, currently there are approximately 600,000 World War II veterans residing in the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, though it has been over 53 years since the end of World War II, these veterans still are not honored by a national or state war memorial, and

WHEREAS, legislation authorizing a national memorial honoring World War II veterans was introduced in Congress 12 years ago, in 1987, and

WHEREAS, because of years of debate over the project, and because a design for the memorial has failed to be approved by the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission, a national memorial has yet to become a reality, and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that the nation is losing World War II veterans at the rate of 1,000 each day, or 30,000 per month, and

WHEREAS, time is running out for the opportunity to honor these brave military soldiers and nurses during their lifetime, and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida recognizes the high moral purpose and idealism that motivated this nation's defenders in the defining event of the 20th century, and

WHEREAS, through the construction of a memorial to the residents of Florida who served on active military duty in the Armed Services of the United States during World War II, the State of Florida will appropriately honor its veterans for their sacrifices and commitment to the common defense of the nation and to the broader causes of securing freedom from tyranny and the restoration of peace throughout the world, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Florida World War II Veterans Memorial Act."

Section 2. The Florida World War II Veterans Memorial Matching Trust Fund, if created by law, within the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall

receive private contributions and matching state funds specifically appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose of matching private donations deposited into the trust fund to build a Florida World War II Veterans Memorial as provided by this act. The department is authorized to use moneys in the trust fund, if created by law, in a manner which will generate increased funding for the Florida World War II Veterans Memorial. Contributions to the Florida World War II Veterans Memorial Matching Trust Fund must be returned to those entities or individuals contributing to the trust fund if the Florida World War II Veterans Memorial is not constructed as provided for in section 3.

Section 3. If sufficient funds are available in the Florida World War II Veterans Memorial Matching Trust Fund to cover the full costs of the project, construction must have begun by June 30, 2005, from funds in the Florida World War II Veterans Memorial Matching Trust Fund, on an appropriate memorial to the residents of the State of Florida who served on active duty in the Armed Services of the United States during World War II. The memorial must be located within the Florida Capitol Center Planning District described in section 272.12, Florida Statutes. The memorial must contain the opening and closing dates of World War II, and other inscriptions and features as may be recommended by the Commission on Veterans' Affairs.

Section 4. The Commission on Veterans' Affairs shall consider the appropriate design of the memorial and may solicit design proposals from members of the public. The Commission on Veterans' Affairs, in cooperation with the Capitol Center Planning Commission, shall consider the location of the memorial within the Florida Capitol Center Planning District. On or before January 31, 2002, the Commission on Veterans' Affairs shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives its recommendations for the location and design of the memorial. The report must include an estimate of the cost to acquire the site for the memorial and of the cost to construct the memorial in accordance with the design proposal recommended by the Commission on Veterans' Affairs, as well as the life-cycle cost estimate required by section 255.255, Florida Statutes. The Department of Management Services shall assist the Commission on Veterans' Affairs in preparing the estimates for timely inclusion in the report.

Section 5. Upon completion of the memorial, the Governor shall arrange an appropriate dedication and unveiling ceremony. The ceremony shall be held on a date of the Governor's choosing which is the same as the date of the anniversary of a significant and meaningful event in the history of World War II.

Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999, if SB 716 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof.

Approved by the Governor May 13, 1999.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 13, 1999.