

Committee Substitute for
Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1604

An act relating to military affairs; creating s. 163.3175, F.S.; providing legislative findings on the compatibility of development with military installations; providing for the exchange of information relating to proposed land use decisions between counties and local governments and military installations; providing for responsive comments by the commanding officer or his or her designee; providing for the county or affected local government to take such comments into consideration; providing for a representative of the military installation to be an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the county's or local government's land planning or zoning board; encouraging the commanding officer to provide information on community planning assistance grants; providing definitions; amending s. 163.3177, F.S.; providing for the future land use plan element of comprehensive plans to include compatibility with military installations; requiring the inclusion of criteria; requiring local governments to update or amend their comprehensive plan by a certain date; providing for the coordination by the state land planning agency and the Department of Defense on compatibility issues for military installations; amending s. 163.3187, F.S.; providing that amendments to address compatibility or include criteria do not count toward the limitation on frequency of amending comprehensive plans; amending s. 163.3191, F.S.; providing that evaluations of comprehensive plans include whether such criteria were successful in resolving land use compatibility uses with military installations; amending s. 288.980, F.S.; creating the Defense Infrastructure Grant Program; providing the purpose and for implementation of the program; amending s. 295.01, F.S.; revising certain requirements relating to scholarships for children of deceased veterans; amending s. 443.101, F.S.; providing eligibility for unemployment compensation benefits for the spouses of a member of the military under certain circumstances beginning on a date certain; amending s. 445.007, F.S.; providing for the appointment of a military representative to certain regional workforce boards; amending s. 464.009, F.S.; removing a scheduled repeal of provisions; providing for licensure by endorsement of certain nurses licensed in another state that is a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact; amending s. 464.022, F.S.; providing that certain nurses relocating to this state may perform nursing services for a period of 120 days after submitting application for licensure; amending s. 1002.39, F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for military dependents applying for a John M. McKay Scholarship; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules; amending s. 1003.05, F.S.; directing the Department of Education to assist in the development of memoranda of agreement between school districts and military installations; providing that qualifying military dependents receive priority admission to certain special academic programs; creating s. 1008.221, F.S.; providing for alternate assessments for the grade 10

FCAT for certain military dependents; amending s. 1009.21, F.S.; classifying dependents of active duty members of the armed forces and certain liaison officers and their spouses and dependent children as residents for tuition purposes; directing Workforce Florida, Inc., to establish an employment advocacy and assistance program targeting military spouses and dependents; directing the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to assess the housing needs of Florida's military families; requiring a report; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 163.3175, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

163.3175 Legislative findings on compatibility of development with military installations; exchange of information between local governments and military installations.—

(1) The Legislature finds that incompatible development of land close to military installations can adversely affect the ability of such an installation to carry out its mission. The Legislature further finds that such development also threatens the public safety because of the possibility of accidents occurring within the areas surrounding a military installation. In addition, the economic vitality of a community is affected when military operations and missions must relocate because of incompatible urban encroachment. Therefore, the Legislature finds it desirable for the local governments in the state to cooperate with military installations to encourage compatible land use, help prevent incompatible encroachment, and facilitate the continued presence of major military installations in this state.

(2) Each county in which a military installation is either wholly or partially located and each affected local government must transmit to the commanding officer of that installation information relating to proposed changes to comprehensive plans, plan amendments, and proposed changes to land development regulations which, if approved, would affect the intensity, density, or use of the land adjacent to or in close proximity to the military installation. Each county and affected local government shall provide the military installation an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed changes.

(3) The commanding officer or his or her designee may provide comments to the county or affected local government on the impact such proposed changes may have on the mission of the military installation. Such comments may include:

(a) If the installation has an airfield, whether such proposed changes will be incompatible with the safety and noise standards contained in the Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) adopted by the military installation for that airfield;

(b) Whether such changes are incompatible with the Installation Environmental Noise Management Program (IENMP) of the United States Army;

(c) Whether such changes are incompatible with the findings of a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for the area if one has been completed; and

(d) Whether the military installation's mission will be adversely affected by the proposed actions of the county or affected local government.

(4) The county or affected local government shall take into consideration any comments provided by the commanding officer or his or her designee when making such decision regarding comprehensive planning or land development regulation. The county or affected local government shall forward a copy of any such comments to the state land planning agency.

(5) To facilitate the exchange of information provided for in this section, a representative of a military installation acting on behalf of all military installations within that jurisdiction shall be included as an ex officio, non-voting member of the county's or affected local government's land planning or zoning board.

(6) The commanding officer is encouraged to provide information about any community planning assistance grants that may be available to a county or affected local government through the federal Office of Economic Adjustment as an incentive for communities to participate in a joint planning process that would facilitate the compatibility of community planning and the activities and mission of the military installation.

(7) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Affected local government" means a municipality adjacent to or in close proximity to the military installation as determined by the state land planning agency.

(b) "Military installation" means a base, camp, post, station, airfield, yard, center, home port facility for any ship, or other land area under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense, including any leased facility. Such term does not include any facility used primarily for civil works, rivers and harbors projects, or flood control projects.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) and paragraph (1) of subsection (10) of section 163.3177, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

163.3177 Required and optional elements of comprehensive plan; studies and surveys.—

(6) In addition to the requirements of subsections (1)-(5), the comprehensive plan shall include the following elements:

(a) A future land use plan element designating proposed future general distribution, location, and extent of the uses of land for residential uses, commercial uses, industry, agriculture, recreation, conservation, education, public buildings and grounds, other public facilities, and other categories of the public and private uses of land. Each future land use category must be defined in terms of uses included, and must include standards to be followed in the control and distribution of population densities and building and

structure intensities. The proposed distribution, location, and extent of the various categories of land use shall be shown on a land use map or map series which shall be supplemented by goals, policies, and measurable objectives. The future land use plan shall be based upon surveys, studies, and data regarding the area, including the amount of land required to accommodate anticipated growth; the projected population of the area; the character of undeveloped land; the availability of public services; the need for redevelopment, including the renewal of blighted areas and the elimination of nonconforming uses which are inconsistent with the character of the community; the compatibility of uses on lands adjacent to or closely proximate to military installations; and, in rural communities, the need for job creation, capital investment, and economic development that will strengthen and diversify the community's economy. The future land use plan may designate areas for future planned development use involving combinations of types of uses for which special regulations may be necessary to ensure development in accord with the principles and standards of the comprehensive plan and this act. The future land use plan element shall include criteria to be used to achieve the compatibility of adjacent or closely proximate lands with military installations. In addition, for rural communities, the amount of land designated for future planned industrial use shall be based upon surveys and studies that reflect the need for job creation, capital investment, and the necessity to strengthen and diversify the local economies, and shall not be limited solely by the projected population of the rural community. The future land use plan of a county may also designate areas for possible future municipal incorporation. The land use maps or map series shall generally identify and depict historic district boundaries and shall designate historically significant properties meriting protection. The future land use element must clearly identify the land use categories in which public schools are an allowable use. When delineating the land use categories in which public schools are an allowable use, a local government shall include in the categories sufficient land proximate to residential development to meet the projected needs for schools in coordination with public school boards and may establish differing criteria for schools of different type or size. Each local government shall include lands contiguous to existing school sites, to the maximum extent possible, within the land use categories in which public schools are an allowable use. All comprehensive plans must comply with the school siting requirements of this paragraph no later than October 1, 1999. The failure by a local government to comply with these school siting requirements by October 1, 1999, will result in the prohibition of the local government's ability to amend the local comprehensive plan, except for plan amendments described in s. 163.3187(1)(b), until the school siting requirements are met. Amendments proposed by a local government for purposes of identifying the land use categories in which public schools are an allowable use or for adopting or amending the school-siting maps pursuant to s. 163.31776(3) are exempt from the limitation on the frequency of plan amendments contained in s. 163.3187. The future land use element shall include criteria that encourage the location of schools proximate to urban residential areas to the extent possible and shall require that the local government seek to collocate public facilities, such as parks, libraries, and community centers, with schools to the extent possible and to encourage the use of elementary schools as focal points for neighborhoods. For schools

serving predominantly rural counties, defined as a county with a population of 100,000 or fewer, an agricultural land use category shall be eligible for the location of public school facilities if the local comprehensive plan contains school siting criteria and the location is consistent with such criteria. Local governments required to update or amend their comprehensive plan to include criteria and address compatibility of adjacent or closely proximate lands with existing military installations in their future land use plan element shall transmit the update or amendment to the department by June 30, 2006.

(10) The Legislature recognizes the importance and significance of chapter 9J-5, Florida Administrative Code, the Minimum Criteria for Review of Local Government Comprehensive Plans and Determination of Compliance of the Department of Community Affairs that will be used to determine compliance of local comprehensive plans. The Legislature reserved unto itself the right to review chapter 9J-5, Florida Administrative Code, and to reject, modify, or take no action relative to this rule. Therefore, pursuant to subsection (9), the Legislature hereby has reviewed chapter 9J-5, Florida Administrative Code, and expresses the following legislative intent:

(1) The state land planning agency shall consider land use compatibility issues in the vicinity of all airports in coordination with the Department of Transportation and adjacent to or in close proximity to all military installations in coordination with the Department of Defense.

Section 3. Paragraph (m) is added to subsection (1) of section 163.3187, Florida Statutes, to read:

163.3187 Amendment of adopted comprehensive plan.—

(1) Amendments to comprehensive plans adopted pursuant to this part may be made not more than two times during any calendar year, except:

(m) A comprehensive plan amendment that addresses criteria or compatibility of land uses adjacent to or in close proximity to military installations in a local government's future land use element does not count toward the limitation on the frequency of the plan amendments.

Section 4. Paragraph (n) is added to subsection (2) of section 163.3191, Florida Statutes, to read:

163.3191 Evaluation and appraisal of comprehensive plan.—

(2) The report shall present an evaluation and assessment of the comprehensive plan and shall contain appropriate statements to update the comprehensive plan, including, but not limited to, words, maps, illustrations, or other media, related to:

(n) An assessment of whether the criteria adopted pursuant to s. 163.3177(6)(a) was successful in achieving compatibility with military installations.

Section 5. Present subsections (4), (5), (6), (7), and (8) of section 288.980, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5), (6), (7), (8), and (9), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section to read:

288.980 Military base retention; legislative intent; grants program.—

(4) The Defense Infrastructure Grant Program is created. The director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall coordinate and implement this program, the purpose of which is to support local infrastructure projects deemed to have a positive impact on the military value of installations within the state. Funds are to be used for projects that benefit both the local community and the military installation. It is not the intent, however, to fund on-base military construction projects. Infrastructure projects to be funded under this program include, but are not limited to, those related to encroachment, transportation and access, utilities, communications, housing, environment, and security. Grant requests will be accepted only from economic development applicants serving in the official capacity of a governing board of a county, municipality, special district, or state agency that will have the authority to maintain the project upon completion. An applicant must represent a community or county in which a military installation is located. There is no limit as to the amount of any grant awarded to an applicant. A match by the county or local community may be required. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall establish guidelines to implement the purpose of this subsection.

Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 295.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

295.01 Children of deceased or disabled veterans; education.—

(1) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state to provide educational opportunity at state expense for dependent children either of whose parents was a resident of the state at the time such parent entered the Armed Forces and:

(a) Died as a result of service-connected injuries, disease, or disability sustained while on active duty; in that service or from injuries sustained or disease contracted during a period of wartime service as defined in s. 1.01(14) or has died since or may hereafter die from diseases or disability resulting from such war service, or

(b) Has been:

1. Determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor to have a service-connected 100-percent total and permanent disability rating for compensation;⁵

2. Determined to have a service-connected total and permanent disability rating of 100 percent and is in receipt of disability retirement pay from any branch of the United States Armed Services;⁵ or

3. Issued a valid identification card by the Department of Veterans' Affairs in accordance with s. 295.17,

when the parents of such children have been bona fide residents of the state for 5 years next preceding their application for the benefits hereof, and subject to the rules, restrictions, and limitations hereof.

Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 443.101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

443.101 Disqualification for benefits.—An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

(1)(a) For the week in which he or she has voluntarily left his or her work without good cause attributable to his or her employing unit or in which the individual has been discharged by his or her employing unit for misconduct connected with his or her work, based on a finding by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. As used in this paragraph, the term “work” means any work, whether full-time, part-time, or temporary.

1. Disqualification for voluntarily quitting continues for the full period of unemployment next ensuing after he or she has left his or her full-time, part-time, or temporary work voluntarily without good cause and until the individual has earned income equal to or in excess of 17 times his or her weekly benefit amount. As used in this subsection, the term “good cause” includes only that cause attributable to the employing unit or which consists of illness or disability of the individual requiring separation from his or her work. Any other disqualification may not be imposed. An individual is not disqualified under this subsection for voluntarily leaving temporary work to return immediately when called to work by the permanent employing unit that temporarily terminated his or her work within the previous 6 calendar months. For benefit years beginning on or after July 1, 2004, an individual is not disqualified under this subsection for voluntarily leaving work to relocate as a result of his or her military-connected spouse’s permanent change of station orders, activation orders, or unit deployment orders.

2. Disqualification for being discharged for misconduct connected with his or her work continues for the full period of unemployment next ensuing after having been discharged and until the individual has become reemployed and has earned income of at least 17 times his or her weekly benefit amount and for not more than 52 weeks that immediately follow that week, as determined by the Agency for Workforce Innovation in each case according to the circumstances in each case or the seriousness of the misconduct, under the agency’s rules adopted for determinations of disqualification for benefits for misconduct.

Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 445.007, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

445.007 Regional workforce boards; exemption from public meetings law.—

(1) One regional workforce board shall be appointed in each designated service delivery area and shall serve as the local workforce investment board pursuant to Pub. L. No. 105-220. The membership of the board shall be consistent with Pub. L. No. 105-220, Title I, s. 117(b), and contain one representative from a nonpublic postsecondary educational institution that is an authorized individual training account provider within the region and confers certificates and diplomas, one representative from a nonpublic postsecondary educational institution that is an authorized individual training

account provider within the region and confers degrees, and three representatives of organized labor. The board shall include one representative from a military installation if a military installation is located within the region. Individuals serving as members of regional workforce development boards or local WAGES coalitions, as of June 30, 2000, are eligible for appointment to regional workforce boards, pursuant to this section. It is the intent of the Legislature that, whenever possible and to the greatest extent practicable, membership of a regional workforce board include persons who are current or former recipients of welfare transition assistance as defined in s. 445.002(3) or workforce services as provided in s. 445.009(1), or that such persons be included as ex officio members of the board or of committees organized by the board. The importance of minority and gender representation shall be considered when making appointments to the board. If the regional workforce board enters into a contract with an organization or individual represented on the board of directors, the contract must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the entire board, and the board member who could benefit financially from the transaction must abstain from voting on the contract. A board member must disclose any such conflict in a manner that is consistent with the procedures outlined in s. 112.3143.

Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 464.009, Florida Statutes, is amended, present subsections (3), (4), and (5) of that section are redesignated as subsections (4), (5), and (6), respectively, and a new subsection (3) is added to that section, to read:

464.009 Licensure by endorsement.—

(1) The department shall issue the appropriate license by endorsement to practice professional or practical nursing to an applicant who, upon applying to the department and remitting a fee set by the board not to exceed \$100, demonstrates to the board that he or she:

(a) Holds a valid license to practice professional or practical nursing in another state or territory of the United States, provided that, when the applicant secured his or her original license, the requirements for licensure were substantially equivalent to or more stringent than those existing in Florida at that time;

(b) Meets the qualifications for licensure in s. 464.008 and has successfully completed a state, regional, or national examination which is substantially equivalent to or more stringent than the examination given by the department; or

(c) Has actively practiced nursing in another state, jurisdiction, or territory of the United States for 2 of the preceding 3 years without having his or her license acted against by the licensing authority of any jurisdiction. Applicants who become licensed pursuant to this paragraph must complete within 6 months after licensure a Florida laws and rules course that is approved by the board. Once the department has received the results of the national criminal history check and has determined that the applicant has no criminal history, the appropriate license by endorsement shall be issued to the applicant. ~~This paragraph is repealed July 1, 2004, unless reenacted by the Legislature.~~

(3) An applicant for licensure by endorsement who is relocating to this state pursuant to his or her military-connected spouse's official military orders and who is licensed in another state that is a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirements of subsection (1) and shall be issued a license by endorsement upon submission of the appropriate application and fees and completion of the criminal background check required under subsection (4).

Section 10. Subsection (8) of section 464.022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

464.022 Exceptions.—No provision of this part shall be construed to prohibit:

(8) Any nurse currently licensed in another state or territory of the United States from performing nursing services in this state for a period of 60 days after furnishing to the employer satisfactory evidence of current licensure in another state or territory and having submitted proper application and fees to the board for licensure prior to employment. If the nurse licensed in another state or territory is relocating to this state pursuant to his or her military-connected spouse's official military orders, this period shall be 120 days after furnishing to the employer satisfactory evidence of current licensure in another state or territory and having submitted proper application and fees to the board for licensure prior to employment. The board may extend this time for administrative purposes when necessary.

Section 11. Subsections (2) and (8) of section 1002.39, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.39 The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program.—There is established a program that is separate and distinct from the Opportunity Scholarship Program and is named the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program, pursuant to this section.

(2) SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—The parent of a public school student with a disability who is dissatisfied with the student's progress may request and receive from the state a John M. McKay Scholarship for the child to enroll in and attend a private school in accordance with this section if:

(a) By assigned school attendance area or by special assignment, the student has spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida public school. Prior school year in attendance means that the student was enrolled and reported by a school district for funding during the preceding October and February Florida Education Finance Program surveys in kindergarten through grade 12. However, this paragraph does not apply to a dependent child of a member of the United States Armed Forces who transfers to a school in this state from out of state or from a foreign country pursuant to a parent's permanent change of station orders. A dependent child of a member of the United States Armed Forces who transfers to a school in this state from out of state or from a foreign country pursuant to a parent's permanent

change of station orders must meet all other eligibility requirements to participate in the program.

(b) The parent has obtained acceptance for admission of the student to a private school that is eligible for the program under subsection (4) and has notified the school district of the request for a scholarship at least 60 days prior to the date of the first scholarship payment. The parental notification must be through a communication directly to the district or through the Department of Education to the district in a manner that creates a written or electronic record of the notification and the date of receipt of the notification.

This section does not apply to a student who is enrolled in a school operating for the purpose of providing educational services to youth in Department of Juvenile Justice commitment programs. For purposes of continuity of educational choice, the scholarship shall remain in force until the student returns to a public school or graduates from high school. However, at any time, the student's parent may remove the student from the private school and place the student in another private school that is eligible for the program under subsection (4) or in a public school as provided in subsection (3).

(8) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall ~~may~~ adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this section, including rules that school districts must use to expedite the development of a matrix of services based on a current individual education plan from another state or a foreign country for a transferring student with a disability who is a dependent child of a member of the United States Armed Forces. The rules must identify the appropriate school district personnel who must complete the matrix of services. For purposes of these rules, a transferring student with a disability is one who was previously enrolled as a student with a disability in an out-of-state or an out-of-country public or private school or agency program and who is transferring from out of state or from a foreign country pursuant to a parent's permanent change of station orders. However, the inclusion of eligible private schools within options available to Florida public school students does not expand the regulatory authority of the state, its officers, or any school district to impose any additional regulation of private schools beyond those reasonably necessary to enforce requirements expressly set forth in this section.

Section 12. Subsection (2) of section 1003.05, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (3) is added to that section to read:

1003.05 Assistance to transitioning students from military families.—

(2) The Department of Education shall facilitate the development and implementation of memoranda of agreement between school districts and military installations which address strategies for assisting students who are the children of active-duty military personnel in the transition to Florida schools. identify its efforts and strategies for assisting military-connected students in transitioning to the Florida school system, including the identification of acceptable equivalence for curriculum and graduation requirements, and report its findings to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 1, 2003.

(3) Dependent children of active-duty military personnel who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for special academic programs offered through public schools shall be given first preference for admission to such programs even if the program is being offered through a public school other than the school to which the student would generally be assigned and the school at which the program is being offered has reached its maximum enrollment. If such a program is offered through a public school other than the school to which the student would generally be assigned, the parent or guardian of the student must assume responsibility for transporting the student to that school. For purposes of this subsection special academic programs include charter schools, magnet schools, advanced studies programs, advanced placement, dual enrollment, and International Baccalaureate.

Section 13. Section 1008.221, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1008.221 Dependent children of military personnel transferring to Florida schools; equivalencies for standardized tests.—A dependent child of a member of the United States Armed Forces who enters a public school at the 12th grade from out of state or from a foreign country and provides satisfactory proof of attaining a score on an approved alternative assessment that is concordant to a passing score on the grade 10 FCAT shall satisfy the assessment requirement for a standard high school diploma as provided in s. 1003.43(5)(a). For purposes of this section, approved alternative assessments are the SAT and ACT.

Section 14. Paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of section 1009.21, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (k) is added to that subsection, to read:

1009.21 Determination of resident status for tuition purposes.—Students shall be classified as residents or nonresidents for the purpose of assessing tuition in community colleges and state universities.

(10) The following persons shall be classified as residents for tuition purposes:

(b) Active duty members of the Armed Services of the United States and their spouses and dependents attending a public community college or state university within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed, if such military establishment is within a county contiguous to Florida.

(k) Active duty members of a foreign nation's military who are serving as liaison officers and are residing or stationed in this state, and their spouses and dependent children, attending a community college or state university within 50 miles of the military establishment where the foreign liaison officer is stationed.

Section 15. (1) The Legislature finds that military families are faced with a variety of challenges, including frequent relocations, recurring deployments, lengthy periods of separation, and heightened anxiety and uncertainty during periods of conflict. A military spouse's ability to gain job skills and maintain a career contributes to the financial well-being of the family, spouse satisfaction with military life, and military retention and

readiness. Military spouses are often required to terminate their employment in order to support their spouse's highly mobile military commitment. The unemployment rate for military spouses is approximately four times the civilian unemployment rate, and military spouse earnings are significantly lower than those of their comparably educated civilian peers. Recognizing the employment challenges faced by military spouses and the importance of military families to our communities and economy, the Legislature declares its intent to establish an employment advocacy and assistance program to serve Florida's military families.

(2) Workforce Florida, Inc., shall establish an employment advocacy and assistance program targeting military spouses and dependents. This program shall deliver employment assistance services through military family employment advocates colocated within selected one-stop career centers. Persons eligible for assistance through this program shall include spouses and dependents of active-duty military personnel, Florida National Guard members, and military reservists.

(3) Military family employment advocates are responsible for providing the following services and activities:

(a) Coordination of employment assistance services through military base family support centers, Florida's one-stop career centers, and veteran support organizations.

(b) Training to one-stop career center managers and staff on the unique employment needs and skills of military family members.

(c) Promoting and marketing the benefits of employing military family members to prospective employers.

(d) Assisting employment-seeking military family members through job counseling, job search and placement services, the dissemination of information on educational and training programs, and the availability of support services.

(e) Other employment assistance services Workforce Florida, Inc., deems necessary.

(4) Workforce Florida, Inc., may enter into agreements with public and private entities to provide services authorized under this section.

Section 16. The Florida Housing Finance Corporation shall undertake an assessment of the needs of active duty military personnel and their families living in Florida for affordable housing. The needs assessment shall provide information on the population characteristics of the service personnel and their families having total gross incomes of up to 80 percent of the local area's median income who are living off base, including, but not limited to, the number of households by family size, income, and current tenancy; the condition of existing housing; and the availability of homeowner and rental housing that is affordable to these service personnel and their families. The corporation shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,

the Senate Minority Leader, and the House Minority Leader by December 31, 2004.

Section 17. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 25, 2004.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 25, 2004.