

House Bill No. 509

An act relating to veterans; amending s. 295.16, F.S.; revising an exemption from license or permit fees required for improvements to a dwelling owned by a disabled veteran if the improvements are for the purpose of making the dwelling safe; removing a provision limiting the exemption to veterans confined to wheelchairs; amending s. 320.089, F.S.; deleting the monetary limitation on the amount of general revenue deposited into the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund within the Department of Veterans' Affairs; amending s. 1009.27, F.S.; authorizing an eligible student who receives benefits as a veteran who served on active duty in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, to defer college tuition and fees under certain circumstances; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Section 295.16, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

295.16 Disabled veterans exempt from certain license or permit fee.—~~A~~ No totally and permanently disabled veteran who is a resident of Florida and honorably discharged from the Armed Forces, who has been issued a valid identification card by the Department of Veterans' Affairs in accordance with s. 295.17 or has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor to have a service-connected 100-percent disability rating for compensation, or who has been determined to have a service-connected disability rating of 100 percent and is in receipt of disability retirement pay from any branch of the uniformed armed services is not shall be required to pay any license or permit fee, by whatever name known, to any county or municipality in order to make improvements upon a dwelling owned by the veteran which is used as the veteran's residence, if provided such improvements are limited to ramps, widening of doors, and similar improvements for the purpose of making the dwelling habitable or safe for the veteran ~~veterans confined to wheelchairs.~~

Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 320.089, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.089 Members of National Guard and active United States Armed Forces reservists; former prisoners of war; survivors of Pearl Harbor; Purple Heart medal recipients; Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom Veterans; special license plates; fee.—

(1)

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, beginning with fiscal year 2002-2003 and annually thereafter, the first \$100,000 in general revenue generated from the sale of license plates issued under this section shall be deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund, as described in s. 296.38(2), to be used for the purposes established by law

for that trust fund. Any additional general revenue generated from the sale of such plates, ~~up to \$100,000,~~ shall be deposited into the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund and used solely to construct, operate, and maintain domiciliary and nursing homes for veterans, subject to the requirements of chapter 216.

Section 3. Effective August 1, 2009, subsection (2) of section 1009.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.27 Deferral of fees.—

(2) Any veteran or other eligible student who receives benefits under chapter 30, chapter 31, chapter 32, chapter 33, chapter 34, or chapter 35 of Title 38, U.S.C., or chapter 106 of Title 10, U.S.C., is entitled to one deferment each academic year and an additional deferment each time there is a delay in the receipt of benefits.

Section 4. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2009.

Approved by the Governor June 1, 2009.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 1, 2009.