

CHAPTER 2010-181

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1455

An act relating to misrepresentation of military status; amending s. 496.415, F.S.; prohibiting a person from falsely representing himself or herself as a member of or representing the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard for the purpose of solicitation of charitable contributions or participation in a charitable or sponsor sales promotion; creating s. 817.312, F.S.; prohibiting 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 with the intent to misrepresent himself or herself as a member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard while soliciting for charitable contributions; providing criminal penalties; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 496.415, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

496.415 Prohibited acts.—It is unlawful for any person in connection with the planning, conduct, or execution of any solicitation or charitable or sponsor sales promotion to:

(6) Falsely state that he or she ~~the person~~ is a member of or represents a representative of a charitable organization or sponsor, or falsely state or represent that he or she ~~the person~~ is a member of or represents the United States Air Force, United States Army, United States Coast Guard, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, the National Guard, or a law enforcement or emergency service organization.

Section 2. Section 817.312, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

817.312 Unlawful use of uniforms, medals, or insignia.—

(1) A person may not misrepresent himself or herself as a member or veteran of the United States Air Force, United States Army, United States Coast Guard, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, or National Guard and wear the uniform of or any medal or insignia authorized for use by members or veterans of the United States Air Force, United States Army, United States Coast Guard, United States Marine Corps, United States Navy, or the National Guard while soliciting for charitable contributions.

(2) A person who violates subsection (1) commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2010.

Approved by the Governor June 1, 2010.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 1, 2010.