

CHAPTER 2011-116

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 663

An act relating to state forests; amending s. 589.19, F.S.; requiring the designation of “Wounded Warrior Special Hunt Areas” within state forests; limiting guest admittance to such areas for eligible veterans, service-members, and certain persons; requiring that funding for specialized accommodations be provided through specified sources; authorizing the Division of Forestry of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (4) is added to section 589.19, Florida Statutes, to read:

589.19 Creation of certain state forests; naming of certain state forests.

(4)(a) The Division of Forestry shall designate one or more areas of state forests as a “Wounded Warrior Special Hunt Area” to honor wounded veterans and servicemembers. The purpose of such designated areas is to provide special outdoor recreational opportunities for eligible veterans and servicemembers.

(b) The division shall limit guest admittance to such designated areas to any person who:

1. Is an active duty member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces and has a combat-related injury as determined by his or her branch of the United States Armed Forces; or

2. Is a veteran who served during a period of wartime service as defined in s. 1.01(14) or peacetime service as defined in s. 296.02 and:

a. Has a service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; or

b. Was discharged or released from military service because of a disability acquired or aggravated while serving on active duty.

(c) The division may grant admittance to such designated areas to a person who is not an eligible veteran or servicemember for purposes of accompanying an eligible veteran or servicemember who requires the person’s assistance to use such designated areas.

(d) Funding required for specialized accommodations shall be provided through the Friends of Florida State Forests Program created under s. 589.012.

(e) The division may adopt rules to administer this subsection.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.

Approved by the Governor June 2, 2011.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 2, 2011.