

CHAPTER 2011-168

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 465

An act relating to the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame; creating s. 265.003, F.S.; establishing the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame; providing for administration by the Department of Veterans' Affairs; designating location; providing procedures for nomination, selection, and induction; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 265.003, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

265.003 Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.—

(1) It is the intent of the Legislature to recognize and honor those military veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the State of Florida.

(2) There is established the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

(a) The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame is administered by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs without appropriation of state funds.

(b) The Department of Management Services shall set aside an area on the Plaza Level of the Capitol Building along the northeast front wall and shall consult with the Department of Veterans' Affairs regarding the design and theme of the area.

(c) Each person who is inducted into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame shall have his or her name placed on a plaque displayed in the designated area of the Capitol Building.

(3)(a) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall annually accept nominations of persons to be considered for induction into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame and shall then transmit its recommendations to the Governor and the Cabinet who will select the nominees to be inducted.

(b) In making its recommendations to the Governor and the Cabinet, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall give preference to veterans who were born in Florida or adopted Florida as their home state or base of operation and who have made a significant contribution to the state in civic, business, public service, or other pursuits.

(4) The Department of Veterans' Affairs may establish criteria and set specific time periods for acceptance of nominations and for the process of selection of nominees for membership and establish a formal induction ceremony to coincide with the annual commemoration of Veterans' Day.

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

Approved by the Governor June 17, 2011.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 17, 2011.