

CHAPTER 2012-159

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 922

An act relating to military support; amending s. 14.34, F.S.; revising the definition of “exceptional meritorious service” with respect to the Governor’s Medal of Merit; amending s. 163.3175, F.S.; authorizing the Florida Defense Support Task Force to recommend to the Legislature specified changes in military installations and local governments under the Community Planning Act; clarifying and revising procedures related to exchange of information between military installations and local governments under the act; amending s. 196.173, F.S.; authorizing servicemembers who receive a homestead exemption and who are deployed in certain military operations to receive an additional ad valorem tax exemption; providing a deadline for claiming tax exemptions for qualifying deployments during the 2011 calendar year; providing procedures and requirements for filing applications and petitions to receive the tax exemption after expiration of the deadline; providing application; amending s. 265.003, F.S.; creating the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame Council; providing for membership and terms of appointment; providing for the appointment of a chair; providing for meetings, a quorum, and voting; providing for reimbursement of travel expenses; providing for the removal of an appointee; providing for the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame Council rather than the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to select nominees for induction into the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame and to establish the criteria for selection; amending s. 288.972, F.S.; revising legislative intent with respect to proposed closure or reuse of military bases; amending s. 288.980, F.S.; creating the Military Base Protection Program within the Department of Economic Opportunity; providing for use of program funds; revising provisions relating to the award of grants for retention of military installations; revising a definition; eliminating the Florida Economic Reinvestment Initiative; establishing the Florida Defense Reinvestment Grant Program to be administered by the Department of Economic Opportunity; specifying purposes of the program; specifying activities for which grant awards may be provided; eliminating the Defense-Related Business Adjustment Program, the Florida Defense Planning Grant Program, the Florida Defense Implementation Grant Program, the Florida Military Installation Reuse Planning and Marketing Grant Program, and the Retention of Military Installations Program; transferring and reassigning the functions and responsibilities of the Florida Council on Military Base and Mission Support within the Department of Economic Opportunity to the Florida Defense Support Task Force within the Department of Economic Opportunity by type two transfer; repealing s. 288.984, F.S., which establishes the Florida Council on Military Base and Mission Support and provides purposes thereof; amending s. 288.985, F.S.; conforming provisions relating to exempt records and meetings of the Council on Military Base and Mission Support; amending s. 288.987, F.S.;

revising provisions relating to the Florida Defense Support Task Force, to conform; amending s. 295.187, F.S.; revising legislative intent; renaming and revising the Florida Service-Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunity Act to expand the vendor preference in state contracting to include certain businesses owned and operated by wartime veterans or veterans of a period of war; amending s. 320.089, F.S.; providing for the issuance of a Combat Infantry Badge license plate; providing qualifications and requirements for the plate; providing for the use of proceeds from the sale of the plate; providing for issuance of a Vietnam War Veterans' license plate and the Korean Conflict Veterans' license plate; providing qualifications and requirements for the plates; creating s. 320.0892, F.S.; providing for the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue Silver Star, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, and Air Force Cross license plates, without payment of the license tax, to persons meeting specified criteria; creating s. 683.146, F.S.; designating August 7 of each year as "Purple Heart Day"; providing a short title; creating s. 394.47891, F.S.; authorizing the chief judge of each judicial circuit to establish a Military Veterans and Servicemembers Court Program for specified veterans and servicemembers; providing criteria for entry into the program; authorizing a judge to impose a condition of supervision upon specified probationers and community controllees requiring such person to participate in a treatment program; requiring the court to give preference to certain treatment programs; providing that the Department of Corrections is not required to spend state funds to implement these provisions; amending s. 948.08, F.S.; creating a pretrial veterans' and servicemembers' treatment intervention program; providing requirements for a defendant to be voluntarily admitted to the pretrial program; providing certain exceptions to such admission; providing for the disposition of pending charges following a defendant's completion of the pretrial intervention program; providing for the charges to be expunged under certain circumstances; amending s. 948.16, F.S.; creating a misdemeanor pretrial veterans' treatment intervention program; providing requirements for voluntary admission to the misdemeanor pretrial program; providing for the misdemeanor charges to be expunged under certain circumstances; exempting treatment services provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs from certain contract requirements; creating s. 948.21, F.S.; authorizing a judge to impose a condition of supervision upon specified probationers and community controllees requiring such person to participate in a treatment program; requiring the court to give preference to certain treatment programs; providing that the Department of Corrections is not required to spend state funds to implement these provisions; creating s. 1004.075, F.S.; requiring certain Florida College System institutions and state universities to provide priority course registration for veterans; providing eligibility requirements; creating s. 1005.09, F.S.; encouraging certain independent postsecondary educational institutions to provide priority course registration for veterans; providing honorary designations of certain transportation facilities in specified counties; directing the

Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 14.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

14.34 Governor's Medal of Merit.—

(1) The Governor may present, in the name of the State of Florida, a medal to be known as the “Governor’s Medal of Merit,” which shall bear a suitable inscription and ribbon of appropriate design, to:

(a) Any legal resident of this state who has rendered exceptional meritorious service to the citizens of this state;

(b) Any legal resident of this state who is serving under honorable conditions on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces, the Florida National Guard, or the United States Reserve Forces and has rendered exceptional meritorious service to the citizens of this state while on active duty; or

(c) Any legal resident of this state who has been honorably discharged from active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces, the Florida National Guard, or the United States Reserve Forces and, while on active duty, rendered exceptional meritorious service to the citizens of this state.

As used in this subsection, the term “exceptional meritorious service” means acts of bravery above and beyond the level of duty normally required by that person’s respective military or civilian position.

Section 2. Subsections (3), (5), and (6) of section 163.3175, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

(3) ~~The Florida Defense Support Task Force Council on Military Base and Mission Support~~ may recommend to the Legislature changes to the military installations and local governments specified in subsection (2) based on a military base’s potential for impacts from encroachment, and incompatible land uses and development.

(5) The commanding officer or his or her designee may provide advisory comments to the affected local government on the impact such proposed changes may have on the mission of the military installation. Such advisory comments shall be based on appropriate data and analyses provided with the comments and 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.

The commanding officer's comments, underlying studies, and reports shall be considered by the local government in the same manner as the comments received from other reviewing agencies pursuant to s. 163.3184 ~~are not binding on the local government.~~

(6) The affected local government shall take into consideration any comments and accompanying data and analyses provided by the commanding officer or his or her designee pursuant to subsection (4) as they relate to the strategic mission of the base, public safety, and the economic vitality associated with the base's operations, while also respecting and must also be ~~sensitive to~~ private property rights and not being ~~be~~ unduly restrictive on those rights. The affected local government shall forward a copy of any comments regarding comprehensive plan amendments to the state land planning agency.

Section 3. Effective upon becoming a law and first applying to ad valorem tax rolls for 2012, subsection (2) of section 196.173, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

196.173 Exemption for deployed servicemembers.—

(2) The exemption is available to servicemembers who were deployed during the preceding calendar year on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of:

(a) Operation Noble Eagle, which began on September 15, 2001;

~~(b)(a)~~ Operation Enduring Freedom, which began on October 7, 2001;

~~(c)(b)~~ Operation Iraqi Freedom, which began on March 19, 2003, and ended on August 31, 2010; or

~~(d)(e)~~ Operation New Dawn, which began on September 1, 2010, and ended on December 15, 2011; or

(e) Operation Odyssey Dawn, which began on March 19, 2011, and ended on October 31, 2011.

The Department of Revenue shall notify all property appraisers and tax collectors in this state of the designated military operations.

Section 4. This section is effective upon becoming a law. Notwithstanding the application deadline in s. 196.173(5), Florida Statutes, the deadline for an eligible servicemember to file a claim for an additional ad valorem tax exemption for a qualifying deployment during the 2011 calendar year is June 1, 2012. Any applicant who seeks to claim the additional exemption and who fails to file an application by June 1 must file an application for the exemption with the property appraiser on or before the 25th day following the mailing by the property appraiser of the notices required under s. 194.011(1), Florida Statutes. Upon receipt of sufficient evidence, as determined by the property appraiser, demonstrating the applicant was unable to apply for the exemption in a timely manner or otherwise demonstrating extenuating circumstances judged by the property appraiser to warrant granting the exemption, the property appraiser may grant the exemption. If the applicant fails to produce sufficient evidence demonstrating the applicant was unable to apply for the exemption in a timely manner or otherwise demonstrating extenuating circumstances as judged by the property appraiser, the applicant may file, pursuant to s. 194.011(3), Florida Statutes, a petition with the value adjustment board requesting that the exemption be granted. Such petition must be filed during the taxable year on or before the 25th day following the mailing of the notice by the property appraiser as provided in s. 194.011(1), Florida Statutes. Notwithstanding s. 194.013, Florida Statutes, the applicant is not required to pay a filing fee for such a petition. Upon reviewing the petition, if the applicant is qualified to receive the exemption and demonstrates particular extenuating circumstances judged by the value adjustment board to warrant granting the exemption, the value adjustment board may grant the exemption for the current year.

Section 5. Section 265.003, Florida Statutes, is amended 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 Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council is created within the Department of Veterans' Affairs as an advisory council, as defined in s. 20.03(7), consisting of seven members who shall all be honorably discharged veterans, and at least four of whom must be members of a congressionally chartered veterans service organization. The Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Attorney General, the Chief Financial Officer, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and the executive director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall each appoint one member. For the purposes of ensuring staggered terms, the council members appointed by the Governor, the Attorney General, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Commissioner of Agriculture shall be appointed to 4-year terms beginning on January 1 of the year of appointment, and the council members appointed by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the executive director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall be appointed to 2-year terms beginning on January 1 of the year of appointment. After the initial appointments, all appointees shall be appointed to 4-year terms. A member whose term expires shall continue to serve on the council until such time as a replacement is appointed.

(b) The members shall annually elect a chair from among their number. The council shall meet at the call of its chair, at the request of the executive director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, or at such times as may be prescribed by the council. A majority of the members of the council currently appointed constitutes a quorum, and a meeting may not be held unless a quorum is present. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the council present is necessary for any official action by the council.

(c) Members of the council may not receive compensation or honorarium for their services. Members may be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, as provided in s. 112.061, however, no state funds may be used for this purpose.

(d) The original appointing authority may remove his or her appointee from the council for misconduct or malfeasance in office, neglect of duty, incompetence, or permanent inability to perform official duties or if the member is adjudicated guilty of a felony.

(4)(3)(a) The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council 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 a list of up to 20 nominees its recommendations to the

Department of Veterans' Affairs for submission to the Governor and the Cabinet who will select the nominees to be inducted.

(b) In selecting its nominees for submission ~~making its recommendations~~ to the Governor and the Cabinet, the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council ~~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.

~~(5)(4)~~ The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council ~~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 6. Subsections (9) and (10) of section 288.972, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

288.972 Legislative intent.—It is the policy of this state, once the Federal Government has proposed any base closure or has determined that military bases, lands, or installations are to be closed and made available for reuse, to:

~~(9)—Coordinate the development of the Defense-Related Business Adjustment Program to increase commercial technology development by defense companies.~~

~~(9)(10)~~ Coordinate the development, maintenance, and analysis of a workforce database to assist workers adversely affected by defense-related activities in their relocation efforts.

Section 7. Section 288.980, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(1)(a) It is the intent of this state to provide the necessary means to assist communities with military installations in supporting and sustaining those installations ~~that would be adversely affected by federal base realignment or closure actions~~. It is further the intent to encourage communities to initiate a coordinated program of response and plan of action in advance of future actions of the federal government relating to realignments and closures ~~Base Realignment and Closure Commission~~. It is critical that ~~closure-vulnerable~~ communities develop and implement strategies such a program to preserve and protect ~~affected~~ military installations. The Legislature hereby recognizes that the state needs to coordinate all efforts that can support ~~facilitate~~ ~~the retention of all remaining military installations throughout~~ in the state. The Legislature, therefore, declares that providing such assistance to support the defense-related initiatives within this section is a public purpose for which public money may be used.

(b) The Florida Defense Alliance, an organization within Enterprise Florida, is designated as the organization to ensure that Florida, its resident military bases and missions, and its military host communities are in competitive positions as the United States continues its defense realignment and downsizing. The defense alliance shall serve as an overall advisory body for defense-related activity of Enterprise Florida, Inc. The Florida Defense Alliance may receive funding from appropriations made for that purpose administered by the department.

(2) The Military Base Protection Program is created. Funds appropriated to this program may be used to address emergent needs relating to mission sustainment and base retention. All funds appropriated for the purposes of this program are eligible to be used for matching of federal funds. The department shall coordinate and implement this program.

~~(3)(2)(a) The department is authorized to award grants on a competitive basis from any funds available to it to support activities related to the Florida Defense Reinvestment Grant Program and the Florida Defense Infrastructure Grant Program retention of military installations potentially affected by federal base closure or realignment.~~

(b) The term “activities” as used in this section means studies, presentations, analyses, plans, and modeling. For the purposes of the Florida Defense Infrastructure Grant Program, the term “activities” also includes, but is not limited to, construction, land purchases, and easements. Staff salaries are not considered an “activity” for which grant funds may be awarded. Travel costs and costs incidental thereto incurred by a grant recipient shall be considered an “activity” for which grant funds may be awarded.

~~(c) Except for grants issued pursuant to the Florida Military Installation Reuse Planning and Marketing Grant Program as described in paragraph (3)(e), the amount of any grant provided to an applicant may not exceed \$250,000. The department shall require that an applicant:~~

1. Represent a local government with a military installation or military installations that could be adversely affected by federal actions ~~base realignment or closure.~~

2. Agree to match at least 30 percent of any grant awarded.

3. Prepare a coordinated program or plan of action delineating how the eligible project will be administered and accomplished.

4. Provide documentation describing the potential for changes to the mission ~~realignment or closure~~ of a military installation located in the applicant’s community and the potential ~~adverse~~ impacts such changes ~~realignment or closure~~ will have on the applicant’s community.

(d) In making grant awards the department ~~office~~ shall consider, at a minimum, the following factors:

1. The relative value of the particular military installation in terms of its importance to the local and state economy relative to other military installations ~~vulnerable to closure~~.

2. The potential job displacement within the local community should the mission of the military installation be changed closed.

3. The potential adverse impact on industries and technologies which service the military installation.

~~(4)(3)~~ The Florida Defense Reinvestment Grant Program Economic Reinvestment Initiative is established to respond to the need for this state to work in conjunction with defense-dependent communities in developing and implementing strategies and approaches that will help communities support the missions of military installations, and in developing and implementing and defense-dependent communities in this state to develop alternative economic diversification strategies to transition from a defense economy to a nondefense economy lessen reliance on national defense dollars in the wake of base closures and reduced federal defense expenditures and the need to formulate specific base reuse plans and identify any specific infrastructure needed to facilitate reuse. Eligible applicants include defense-dependent counties and cities, and local economic development councils located within such communities. The program initiative shall consist of the following two distinct grant programs to be administered by the department and grant awards may be provided to support community-based activities that:

(a) Protect existing military installations; The Florida Defense Planning Grant Program, through which funds shall be used to analyze the extent to which the state is dependent on defense dollars and defense infrastructure and prepare alternative economic development strategies. The state shall work in conjunction with defense-dependent communities in developing strategies and approaches that will help communities make the transition from a defense economy to a nondefense economy. Grant awards may not exceed \$250,000 per applicant and shall be available on a competitive basis.

(b) Diversify the economy of a defense-dependent community; or The Florida Defense Implementation Grant Program, through which funds shall be made available to defense-dependent communities to implement the diversification strategies developed pursuant to paragraph (a). Eligible applicants include defense-dependent counties and cities, and local economic development councils located within such communities. Grant awards may not exceed \$100,000 per applicant and shall be available on a competitive basis. Awards shall be matched on a one-to-one basis.

(c) The Florida Military Installation Reuse Planning and Marketing Grant Program, through which funds shall be used to help counties, cities, and local economic development councils Develop and implement plans for the reuse of closed or realigned military installations, including any plans

necessary for infrastructure improvements needed to facilitate reuse and related marketing activities.

Applications for grants under this subsection must include a coordinated program of work or plan of action delineating how the eligible project will be administered and accomplished, which must include a plan for ensuring close cooperation between civilian and military authorities in the conduct of the funded activities and a plan for public involvement.

(5)(4) The Defense Infrastructure Grant Program is created. The department 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 program may not be used to fund on-base military construction projects. The department shall establish guidelines to implement the purpose of this subsection.

~~(5)(a) The Defense-Related Business Adjustment Program is hereby created. The department shall coordinate the development of the Defense-Related Business Adjustment Program. Funds shall be available to assist defense-related companies in the creation of increased commercial technology development through investments in technology. Such technology must have a direct impact on critical state needs for the purpose of generating investment-grade technologies and encouraging the partnership of the private sector and government defense-related business adjustment. The following areas shall receive precedence in consideration for funding commercial technology development: law enforcement or corrections, environmental protection, transportation, education, and health care. Travel and costs incidental thereto, and staff salaries, are not considered an "activity" for which grant funds may be awarded.~~

~~(b) The department shall require that an applicant:~~

~~1. Be a defense-related business that could be adversely affected by federal base realignment or closure or reduced defense expenditures.~~

~~2. Agree to match at least 50 percent of any funds awarded by the United States Department of Defense in cash or in-kind services. Such match shall be directly related to activities for which the funds are being sought.~~

3.— Prepare a coordinated program or plan delineating how the funds will be administered.

4.— Provide documentation describing how defense-related realignment or closure will adversely impact defense-related companies.

~~(6) The Retention of Military Installations Program is created. The department shall coordinate and implement this program.~~

~~(6)(7)~~ The department may award nonfederal matching funds specifically appropriated for construction, maintenance, and analysis of a Florida defense workforce database. Such funds will be used to create a registry of worker skills that can be used to match the worker needs of companies that are relocating to this state or to assist workers in relocating to other areas within this state where similar or related employment is available.

~~(7)(8)~~ Payment of administrative expenses shall be limited to no more than 10 percent of any grants issued pursuant to this section.

~~(8)(9)~~ The department shall establish guidelines to implement and carry out the purpose and intent of this section.

Section 8. (1) This section shall take effect upon this act becoming a law.

(2) The powers, duties, functions, records, personnel, property, pending issues, existing contracts, administrative authority, administrative rules, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds of the Florida Council on Military Base and Mission Support within the Department of Economic Opportunity are transferred by a type two transfer, as defined in s. 20.06(2), Florida Statutes, to the Florida Defense Support Task Force within the Department of Economic Opportunity.

Section 9. (1) This section shall take effect upon this act becoming a law.

(2) Section 288.984, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 10. Effective upon this act becoming a law, subsections (1) and (2) of section 288.985, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

288.985 Exemptions from public records and public meetings requirements.—

(1) The following records held by the Florida Defense Support Task Force Council on Military Base and Mission Support are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution:

(a) That portion of a record which relates to strengths and weaknesses of military installations or military missions in this state relative to the selection criteria for the realignment and closure of military bases and missions under any United States Department of Defense base realignment and closure process.

(b) That portion of a record which relates to strengths and weaknesses of military installations or military missions in other states or territories and the vulnerability of such installations or missions to base realignment or closure under the United States Department of Defense base realignment and closure process, and any agreements or proposals to relocate or realign military units and missions from other states or territories.

(c) That portion of a record which relates to the state's strategy to retain its military bases during any United States Department of Defense base realignment and closure process and any agreements or proposals to relocate or realign military units and missions.

(2) Meetings or portions of meetings of the Florida Defense Support Task Force Council on Military Base and Mission Support, or a workgroup of the task force council, at which records are presented or discussed which are exempt under subsection (1) are exempt from s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution.

Section 11. Effective upon this act becoming a law, subsections (2), (5), (6), and (7) of section 288.987, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

288.987 Florida Defense Support Task Force.—

(2) The mission of the task force is to make recommendations to preserve and protect military installations ~~prepare the state to effectively compete in any federal base realignment and closure action,~~ to support the state's position in research and development related to or arising out of military missions and contracting, and to improve the state's military-friendly environment for service members, military dependents, military retirees, and businesses that bring military and base-related jobs to the state.

(5) The executive director of Department of Economic Opportunity the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development ~~within the Executive Office of the Governor~~, or his or her designee, shall serve as the ex officio, nonvoting executive director of the task force.

(6) ~~The chair shall schedule and conduct the first meeting of the task force by October 1, 2011. The task force shall submit an annual a progress report and work plan for the remainder of the 2011-2012 fiscal year to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 1, 2012, and shall submit an annual report each February 1 thereafter.~~

(7) The department ~~Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development~~ shall contract with the task force for expenditure of appropriated funds, which may be used by the task force for economic and product research and development, joint planning with host communities to accommodate military missions and prevent base encroachment, advocacy on the state's behalf with federal civilian and military officials, assistance to school districts in providing a smooth transition for large numbers of additional military-

related students, job training and placement for military spouses in communities with high proportions of active duty military personnel, and promotion of the state to military and related contractors and employers. The task force may annually spend up to \$200,000 of funds appropriated to the ~~department Executive Office of the Governor, Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development~~, for the task force for staffing and administrative expenses of the task force, including travel and per diem costs incurred by task force members who are not otherwise eligible for state reimbursement.

Section 12. Section 295.187, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

295.187 Florida ~~Service-Disabled~~ Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunity Act.—

(1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Florida ~~Service-Disabled~~ Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunity Act.”

(2) INTENT.—It is the intent of the Legislature to rectify the economic disadvantage of service-disabled veterans, who are statistically the least likely to be self-employed when compared to the veteran population as a whole and who have made extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of the nation, the state, and the public, by providing opportunities for service-disabled veteran business enterprises as set forth in this section. The Legislature also intends to recognize wartime veterans and veterans of a period of war for their sacrifices as set forth in this section.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of this section, the term:

(a) “~~Certified service-disabled~~ veteran business enterprise” means a business that has been certified by the Department of Management Services to be a ~~service-disabled~~ veteran business enterprise as defined in paragraph (c).

(b) “Service-disabled veteran” means a veteran who is a permanent Florida resident with a service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or who has been terminated from military service by reason of disability by the United States Department of Defense.

(c) “~~Service-disabled~~ Veteran business enterprise” means an independently owned and operated business that:

1. Employs 200 or fewer permanent full-time employees;
2. Together with its affiliates has a net worth of \$5 million or less or, if a sole proprietorship, has a net worth of \$5 million or less including both personal and business investments;
3. Is organized to engage in commercial transactions;
4. Is domiciled in this state;

5. Is at least 51 percent owned by one or more wartime veterans or service-disabled veterans; and

6. The management and daily business operations of which are controlled by one or more wartime veterans or service-disabled veterans or, for a service-disabled veteran having with a permanent and total disability, by the spouse or permanent caregiver of the veteran.

(d) "Wartime veteran" means:

1. A wartime veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14); or

2. A veteran of a period of war, as used in 38 U.S.C. s. 1521, who served in the active military, naval, or air service:

a. For 90 days or more during a period of war;

b. During a period of war and was discharged or released from such service for a service-connected disability;

c. For a period of 90 consecutive days or more and such period began or ended during a period of war; or

d. For an aggregate of 90 days or more in two or more separate periods of service during more than one period of war.

(4) **VENDOR PREFERENCE.—**

(a) A state agency, when considering two or more bids, proposals, or replies for the procurement of commodities or contractual services, at least one of which is from a ~~certified service-disabled veteran business enterprise, which that~~ are equal with respect to all relevant considerations, including price, quality, and service, shall award such procurement or contract to the ~~certified service-disabled veteran business enterprise.~~

(b) Notwithstanding s. 287.057(11), if a ~~service-disabled veteran business enterprise~~ entitled to the vendor preference under this section and one or more businesses entitled to this preference or another vendor preference provided by law submit bids, proposals, or replies for procurement of commodities or contractual services which ~~that~~ are equal with respect to all relevant considerations, including price, quality, and service, ~~then~~ the state agency shall award the procurement or contract to the business having the smallest net worth.

(c) Political subdivisions of the state are encouraged to offer a similar consideration to businesses certified under this section.

(5) **CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE.—**

(a) The application for certification as a ~~service-disabled veteran business enterprise~~ must, at a minimum, include:

1. The name of the business enterprise applying for certification and the name of the ~~service-disabled~~ veteran submitting the application on behalf of the business enterprise.

2. The names of all owners of the business enterprise, including owners who are wartime veterans, ~~service-disabled veterans~~, and owners who are not a wartime veteran or a service-disabled veteran ~~veterans~~, and the percentage of ownership interest held by each owner.

3. The names of all persons involved in both the management and daily operations of the business, including the spouse or permanent caregiver of a veteran who has with a permanent and total disability.

4. The service-connected disability rating of all persons listed under subparagraphs 1., 2., and 3., as applicable, with supporting documentation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States Department of Defense.

5. Documentation of the wartime service of all persons listed under subparagraphs 1., 2., and 3., as applicable, from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States Department of Defense.

~~6.5.~~ The number of permanent full-time employees.

~~7.6.~~ The location of the business headquarters.

~~8.7.~~ The total net worth of the business enterprise and its affiliates. In the case of a sole proprietorship, the net worth includes personal and business investments.

(b) To maintain certification, a ~~service-disabled~~ veteran business enterprise shall renew its certification biennially.

(c) ~~The provisions of Chapter 120, relating to application, denial, and revocation procedures,~~ applies ~~shall apply~~ to certifications under this section.

(d) A certified ~~service-disabled~~ veteran business enterprise must notify the Department of Management Services within 30 business days after any event that may significantly affect the certification of the business, including, but not limited to, a change in ownership or change in management and daily business operations.

(e) The certification of a ~~service-disabled~~ veteran business enterprise shall be revoked for 12 months if the Department of Management Services determines that the business enterprise violated paragraph (d). An owner of a certified ~~service-disabled~~ veteran business enterprise whose certification is revoked may is not permitted to reapply for certification under this section as an owner of any business enterprise during the 12-month revocation period.

1. During the 12-month revocation period, a ~~service-disabled~~ veteran business enterprise whose certification has been revoked may bid on state contracts but is not eligible for any preference available under this section.

2. A ~~service-disabled~~ veteran business enterprise whose certification has been revoked may apply for certification at the conclusion of the 12-month revocation period by complying with requirements applicable to initial certifications.

(6) DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS.—The department shall:

(a) Assist the Department of Management Services in establishing a certification procedure, which shall be reviewed biennially and updated as necessary.

(b) Identify eligible ~~service-disabled~~ veteran business enterprises by any electronic means, including electronic mail or Internet website, or by any other reasonable means.

(c) Encourage and assist eligible ~~service-disabled~~ veteran business enterprises to apply for certification under this section.

(d) Provide information regarding services that are available from the Office of Veterans' Business Outreach of the Florida Small Business Development Center to ~~service-disabled~~ veteran business enterprises.

(7) DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES. The department shall:

(a) With assistance from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, establish a certification procedure, which shall be reviewed biennially and updated as necessary.

(b) Grant, deny, or revoke the certification of a ~~service-disabled~~ veteran business enterprise under this section.

(c) Maintain an electronic directory of certified ~~service-disabled~~ veteran business enterprises for use by the state, political subdivisions of the state, and the public.

(8) REPORT.—The Small Business Development Center shall include in its report required by s. 288.705 the percentage of certified ~~service-disabled~~ veteran business enterprises using the statewide contracts register.

(9) RULES.—The Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Management Services, as appropriate, may adopt rules as necessary to administer this section.

Section 13. Effective October 1, 2012, 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; Combat Infantry Badge recipients; Vietnam War Veterans; Korean Conflict Veterans; special license plates; fee.—

(1)(a) Each owner or lessee of an automobile or truck for private use or recreational vehicle as specified in s. 320.08(9)(c) or (d), which is not used for hire or commercial use, who is a resident of the state and an active or retired member of the Florida National Guard, a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor, a recipient of the Purple Heart medal, ~~or an active or retired member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces Reserve, or a recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge~~ shall, upon application to the department, accompanied by proof of active membership or retired status in the Florida National Guard, proof of membership in the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association or proof of active military duty in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, proof of being a Purple Heart medal recipient, ~~or proof of active or retired membership in any branch of the Armed Forces Reserve, or proof of membership in the Combat Infantrymen's Association, Inc., or other proof of being a recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge,~~ and upon payment of the license tax for the vehicle as provided in s. 320.08, be issued a license plate as provided by s. 320.06, upon which, in lieu of the serial numbers prescribed by s. 320.06, shall be stamped the words "National Guard," "Pearl Harbor Survivor," "Combat-wounded veteran," ~~or "U.S. Reserve," or "Combat Infantry Badge,"~~ as appropriate, followed by the serial number of the license plate. Additionally, the Purple Heart plate may have the words "Purple Heart" stamped on the plate and the likeness of the Purple Heart medal appearing on the plate.

(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 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.

(c) Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, an applicant for a Pearl Harbor Survivor license plate or a Purple Heart license plate who also qualifies for a disabled veteran's license plate under s. 320.084 shall be issued the appropriate special license plate without payment of the license tax imposed by s. 320.08.

(2) Each owner or lessee of an automobile or truck for private use, truck weighing not more than 7,999 pounds, or recreational vehicle as specified in s. 320.08(9)(c) or (d), which is not used for hire or commercial use, who is a resident of the state and who is a former prisoner of war, or their unremarried surviving spouse, shall, upon application therefor to the

department, be issued a license plate as provided in s. 320.06, on which license plate are stamped the words “Ex-POW” followed by the serial number. Each application shall be accompanied by proof that the applicant meets the qualifications specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b).

(a) A citizen of the United States who served as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or the armed forces of a nation allied with the United States who was held as a prisoner of war at such time as the Armed Forces of the United States were engaged in combat, or their unremarried surviving spouse, may be issued the special license plate provided for in this subsection without payment of the license tax imposed by s. 320.08.

(b) A person who was serving as a civilian with the consent of the United States Government, or a person who was a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who was not a United States citizen and was held as a prisoner of war when the Armed Forces of the United States were engaged in combat, or their unremarried surviving spouse, may be issued the special license plate provided for in this subsection upon payment of the license tax imposed by s. 320.08.

(3) Each owner or lessee of an automobile or truck for private use, truck weighing not more than 7,999 pounds, or recreational vehicle as specified in s. 320.08(9)(c) or (d), which is not used for hire or commercial use, who is a resident of this state and who is the unremarried surviving spouse of a recipient of the Purple Heart medal shall, upon application therefor to the department, with the payment of the required fees, be issued a license plate as provided in s. 320.06, on which license plate are stamped the words “Purple Heart” and the likeness of the Purple Heart medal followed by the serial number. Each application shall be accompanied by proof that the applicant is the unremarried surviving spouse of a recipient of the Purple Heart medal.

(4) The owner or lessee of an automobile or truck for private use, a truck weighing not more than 7,999 pounds, or a recreational vehicle as specified in s. 320.08(9)(c) or (d) which automobile, truck, or recreational vehicle is not used for hire or commercial use who is a resident of the state and a current or former member of the United States military who was deployed and served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom or in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom shall, upon application to the department, accompanied by proof of active membership or former active duty status during one of these operations, and upon payment of the license tax for the vehicle as provided in s. 320.08, be issued a license plate as provided by s. 320.06 upon which, in lieu of the registration license number prescribed by s. 320.06, shall be stamped the words “Operation Iraqi Freedom” or “Operation Enduring Freedom,” as appropriate, followed by the registration license number of the plate.

(5) The owner or lessee of an automobile or truck for private use, a truck weighing not more than 7,999 pounds, or a recreational vehicle as specified in s. 320.08(9)(c) or (d) which automobile, truck, or recreational vehicle is not

used for hire or commercial use, who is a resident of the state and a current or former member of the United States military, and who was deployed and served in Vietnam during United States military deployment in Indochina shall, upon application to the department, accompanied by proof of active membership or former active duty status during these operations, and upon payment of the license tax for the vehicle as provided in s. 320.08, be issued a license plate as provided by s. 320.06 upon which, in lieu of the registration license number prescribed by s. 320.06, shall be stamped the words “Vietnam War Veteran,” followed by the registration license number of the plate.

(6) The owner or lessee of an automobile or truck for private use, a truck weighing not more than 7,999 pounds, or a recreational vehicle as specified in s. 320.08(9)(c) or (d) which automobile, truck, or recreational vehicle is not used for hire or commercial use, who is a resident of the state and a current or former member of the United States military, and who was deployed and served in Korea during United States military deployment in Korea shall, upon application to the department, accompanied by proof of active membership or former active duty status during these operations, and upon payment of the license tax for the vehicle as provided in s. 320.08, be issued a license plate as provided by s. 320.06 upon which, in lieu of the registration license number prescribed by s. 320.06, shall be stamped the words “Korean Conflict Veteran,” followed by the registration license number of the plate.

Section 14. Effective October 1, 2012, section 320.0892, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

320.0892 Motor vehicle license plates for recipients of the Silver Star, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross.—Upon receipt of an application and proof that the applicant meets the qualifications listed in this section for the applicable license plate, the department shall issue the license plate without payment of the license tax imposed under s. 320.08:

(1) SILVER STAR.—Any United States citizen who is a resident of Florida and who was awarded the Silver Star while serving as a member of the United States Armed Forces shall be issued a license plate on which is stamped the words “Silver Star” followed by the serial number.

(2) DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.—Any United States citizen who is a resident of Florida and who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross while serving as a member of the United States Armed Forces shall be issued a license plate on which is stamped the words “Distinguished Service Cross” followed by the serial number.

(3) NAVY CROSS.—Any United States citizen who is a resident of Florida and who was awarded the Navy Cross while serving as a member of the United States Armed Forces shall be issued a license plate on which is stamped the words “Navy Cross” followed by the serial number.

(4) AIR FORCE CROSS.—Any United States citizen who is a resident of Florida and who was awarded the Air Force Cross while serving as a member of the United States Armed Forces shall be issued a license plate on which is stamped the words “Air Force Cross” followed by the serial number.

Section 15. Section 683.146, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

683.146 Purple Heart Day.—

(1) August 7 of each year is designated as “Purple Heart Day.”

(2) The Governor may annually issue a proclamation designating August 7 as “Purple Heart Day.” Public officials, schools, private organizations, and all residents of the state are encouraged to commemorate Purple Heart Day and honor those wounded or killed while serving in any branch of the United States Armed Services.

Section 16. Sections 16 through 20 of this act may be cited as the “T. Patt Maney Veterans’ Treatment Intervention Act.”

Section 17. Section 394.47891, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

394.47891 Military veterans and servicemembers court programs.—The chief judge of each judicial circuit may establish a Military Veterans and Servicemembers Court Program under which veterans, as defined in s. 1.01, and servicemembers, as defined in s. 250.01, who are convicted of a criminal offense and who suffer from a military-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem can be sentenced in accordance with chapter 921 in a manner that appropriately addresses the severity of the mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem through services tailored to the individual needs of the participant. Entry into any Military Veterans and Servicemembers Court Program must be based upon the sentencing court’s assessment of the defendant’s criminal history, military service, substance abuse treatment needs, mental health treatment needs, amenability to the services of the program, the recommendation of the state attorney and the victim, if any, and the defendant’s agreement to enter the program.

Section 18. Present subsection (7) of section 948.08, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (8), and a new subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

948.08 Pretrial intervention program.—

(7)(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a person who is charged with a felony, other than a felony listed in s. 948.06(8)(c), and identified as a veteran, as defined in s. 1.01, or servicemember, as defined in s. 250.01, who suffers from a military service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem, is eligible for voluntary admission into a pretrial veterans’ treatment

intervention program approved by the chief judge of the circuit, upon motion of either party or the court's own motion, except:

1. If a defendant was previously offered admission to a pretrial veterans' treatment intervention program at any time before trial and the defendant rejected that offer on the record, the court may deny the defendant's admission to such a program.

2. If a defendant previously entered a court-ordered veterans' treatment program, the court may deny the defendant's admission into the pretrial veterans' treatment program.

(b) While enrolled in a pretrial intervention program authorized by this subsection, the participant shall be subject to a coordinated strategy developed by a veterans' treatment intervention team. The coordinated strategy should be modeled after the therapeutic jurisprudence principles and key components in s. 397.334(4), with treatment specific to the needs of servicemembers and veterans. The coordinated strategy may include a protocol of sanctions that may be imposed upon the participant for noncompliance with program rules. The protocol of sanctions may include, but need not be limited to, placement in a treatment program offered by a licensed service provider or in a jail-based treatment program or serving a period of incarceration within the time limits established for contempt of court. The coordinated strategy must be provided in writing to the participant before the participant agrees to enter into a pretrial veterans' treatment intervention program or other pretrial intervention program. Any person whose charges are dismissed after successful completion of the pretrial veterans' treatment intervention program, if otherwise eligible, may have his or her arrest record to the dismissed charges expunged under s. 943.0585.

(c) At the end of the pretrial intervention period, the court shall consider the recommendation of the treatment program and the recommendation of the state attorney as to disposition of the pending charges. The court shall determine, by written finding, whether the defendant has successfully completed the pretrial intervention program. If the court finds that the defendant has not successfully completed the pretrial intervention program, the court may order the person to continue in education and treatment, which may include treatment programs offered by licensed service providers or jail-based treatment programs, or order that the charges revert to normal channels for prosecution. The court shall dismiss the charges upon a finding that the defendant has successfully completed the pretrial intervention program.

Section 19. Section 948.16, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

948.16 Misdemeanor pretrial substance abuse education and treatment intervention program; misdemeanor pretrial veterans' treatment intervention program.—

(1)(a) A person who is charged with a misdemeanor for possession of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia under chapter 893, and who has not previously been convicted of a felony nor been admitted to a pretrial program, is eligible for voluntary admission into a misdemeanor pretrial substance abuse education and treatment intervention program, including a treatment-based drug court program established pursuant to s. 397.334, approved by the chief judge of the circuit, for a period based on the program requirements and the treatment plan for the offender, upon motion of either party or the court's own motion, except, if the state attorney believes the facts and circumstances of the case suggest the defendant is involved in dealing and selling controlled substances, the court shall hold a preadmission hearing. If the state attorney establishes, by a preponderance of the evidence at such hearing, that the defendant was involved in dealing or selling controlled substances, the court shall deny the defendant's admission into the pretrial intervention program.

(b) While enrolled in a pretrial intervention program authorized by this section, the participant is subject to a coordinated strategy developed by a drug court team under s. 397.334(4). The coordinated strategy may include a protocol of sanctions that may be imposed upon the participant for noncompliance with program rules. The protocol of sanctions may include, but is not limited to, placement in a substance abuse treatment program offered by a licensed service provider as defined in s. 397.311 or in a jail-based treatment program or serving a period of incarceration within the time limits established for contempt of court. The coordinated strategy must be provided in writing to the participant before the participant agrees to enter into a pretrial treatment-based drug court program or other pretrial intervention program. Any person whose charges are dismissed after successful completion of the treatment-based drug court program, if otherwise eligible, may have his or her arrest record and plea of nolo contendere to the dismissed charges expunged under s. 943.0585.

(2)(a) A veteran, as defined in s. 1.01, or servicemember, as defined in s. 250.01, who suffers from a military service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem, and who is charged with a misdemeanor is eligible for voluntary admission into a misdemeanor pretrial veterans' treatment intervention program approved by the chief judge of the circuit, for a period based on the program's requirements and the treatment plan for the offender, upon motion of either party or the court's own motion. However, the court may deny the defendant admission into a misdemeanor pretrial veterans' treatment intervention program if the defendant has previously entered a court-ordered veterans' treatment program.

(b) While enrolled in a pretrial intervention program authorized by this section, the participant shall be subject to a coordinated strategy developed by a veterans' treatment intervention team. The coordinated strategy should be modeled after the therapeutic jurisprudence principles and key components in s. 397.334(4), with treatment specific to the needs of veterans and servicemembers. The coordinated strategy may include a protocol of

sanctions that may be imposed upon the participant for noncompliance with program rules. The protocol of sanctions may include, but need not be limited to, placement in a treatment program offered by a licensed service provider or in a jail-based treatment program or serving a period of incarceration within the time limits established for contempt of court. The coordinated strategy must be provided in writing to the participant before the participant agrees to enter into a misdemeanor pretrial veterans' treatment intervention program or other pretrial intervention program. Any person whose charges are dismissed after successful completion of the misdemeanor pretrial veterans' treatment intervention program, if otherwise eligible, may have his or her arrest record to the dismissed charges expunged under s. 943.0585.

(3)(2) At the end of the pretrial intervention period, the court shall consider the recommendation of the treatment program and the recommendation of the state attorney as to disposition of the pending charges. The court shall determine, by written finding, whether the defendant successfully completed the pretrial intervention program. Notwithstanding the coordinated strategy developed by a drug court team pursuant to s. 397.334(4) or by the veterans' treatment intervention team, if the court finds that the defendant has not successfully completed the pretrial intervention program, the court may order the person to continue in education and treatment or return the charges to the criminal docket for prosecution. The court shall dismiss the charges upon finding that the defendant has successfully completed the pretrial intervention program.

(4)(3) Any public or private entity providing a pretrial substance abuse education and treatment program under this section shall contract with the county or appropriate governmental entity. The terms of the contract shall include, but not be limited to, the requirements established for private entities under s. 948.15(3). This requirement does not apply to services provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Section 20. Section 948.21, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

948.21 Condition of probation or community control; military service-members and veterans.—Effective for a probationer or community controllee whose crime was committed on or after July 1, 2012, and who is a veteran, as defined in s. 1.01, or servicemember, as defined in s. 250.01, who suffers from a military service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem, the court may, in addition to any other conditions imposed, impose a condition requiring the probationer or community controllee to participate in a treatment program capable of treating the probationer or community controllee's mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem. The court shall give preference to treatment programs for which the probationer or community controllee is eligible through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Department of Corrections is not required to spend state funds to implement this section.

Section 21. Section 1004.075, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1004.075 Priority course registration for veterans.—Each Florida College System institution and state university that offers priority course registration for a segment of the student population, or upon implementation of priority course registration for a segment of the student population, shall provide priority course registration for each veteran of the United States Armed Forces who is receiving GI Bill educational benefits or for the spouse or dependent children of the veteran to whom the GI Bill educational benefits have been transferred. Each eligible veteran, or his or her spouse or dependent children, shall be granted priority for course registration until the expiration of the GI Bill educational benefits.

Section 22. Section 1005.09, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1005.09 Priority course registration for veterans.—Each independent postsecondary educational institution defined in s. 1005.02(11) that offers priority course registration for a segment of the student population, or upon implementation of priority course registration for a segment of the student population, is encouraged to provide priority course registration for each veteran of the United States Armed Forces, or his or her spouse or dependent children, who is receiving GI Bill educational benefits, in accordance with s. 1004.075.

Section 23. SP4 Thomas Berry Corbin Memorial Highway designated; Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.—

(1) That portion of U.S. Highway 19/27A/98/State Road 55 between the Suwannee River Bridge and N.E. 592nd Street/Chavous Road/Kate Green Road in Dixie County is designated as “SP4 Thomas Berry Corbin Memorial Highway.”

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers designating SP4 Thomas Berry Corbin Memorial Highway as described in subsection (1).

Section 24. U.S. Navy BMC Samuel Calhoun Chavous, Jr., Memorial Highway designated; Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.—

(1) That portion of U.S. Highway 19/98/State Road 55 between N.E. 592nd Street/Chavous Road/Kate Green Road and N.E. 170th Street in Dixie County is designated as “U.S. Navy BMC Samuel Calhoun Chavous, Jr., Memorial Highway.”

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers designating U.S. Navy BMC Samuel Calhoun Chavous, Jr., Memorial Highway as described in subsection (1).

Section 25. Marine Lance Corporal Brian R. Buesing Memorial Highway designated; Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.—

(1) That portion of State Road 24 between County Road 347 and Bridge Number 340053 in Levy County is designated as “Marine Lance Corporal Brian R. Buesing Memorial Highway.”

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers designating Marine Lance Corporal Brian R. Buesing Memorial Highway as described in subsection (1).

Section 26. United States Army Sergeant Karl A. Campbell Memorial Highway designated; Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.—

(1) That portion of U.S. Highway 19/98/State Road 55/S. Main Street between N.W. 1st Avenue and S.E. 2nd Avenue in Levy County is designated as “United States Army Sergeant Karl A. Campbell Memorial Highway.”

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers designating United States Army Sergeant Karl A. Campbell Memorial Highway as described in subsection (1).

Section 27. U.S. Army SPC James A. Page Memorial Highway designated; Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.—

(1) That portion of U.S. Highway 27A/State Road 500/Hathaway Avenue between State Road 24/Thrasher Drive and Town Court in Levy County is designated as “U.S. Army SPC James A. Page Memorial Highway.”

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers designating U.S. Army SPC James A. Page Memorial Highway as described in subsection (1).

Section 28. USS Stark Memorial Drive designated; Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.—

(1) That portion of State Road 101/Mayport Road between State Road A1A and Wonderwood Connector in Duval County is designated as “USS Stark Memorial Drive.”

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers designating USS Stark Memorial Drive as described in subsection (1).

Section 29. Captain Jim Reynolds, Jr., USAF “Malibu” Road designated; Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.—

(1) That portion of State Road 44 between U.S. Highway 441 and State Road 44/East Orange Avenue near the City of Eustis in Lake County is designated as “Captain Jim Reynolds, Jr., USAF ‘Malibu’ Road.”

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers designating Captain Jim Reynolds, Jr., USAF “Malibu” Road as described in subsection (1).

Section 30. Veterans Memorial Highway designated; Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.—

(1) That portion of State Road 19 between U.S. 17/State Road 15 and Carriage Drive in Putnam County is designated as “Veterans Memorial Highway.”

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers designating Veterans Memorial Highway as described in subsection (1).

Section 31. U.S. Army Sergeant Robert Daniel Sanchez Memorial Highway designated; Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.

(1) That portion of State Road 513 between Banana River Drive and Eau Gallie Boulevard in Brevard County is designated as “U.S. Army Sergeant Robert Daniel Sanchez Memorial Highway.”

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers designating U.S. Army Sergeant Robert Daniel Sanchez Memorial Highway as described in subsection (1).

Section 32. U.S. Marine Corps Corporal Dustin Schrage Highway designated; Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.—

(1) That portion of State Road A1A between Pinetree Drive and Eau Gallie Boulevard in Brevard County is designated as “U.S. Marine Corps Corporal Dustin Schrage Highway.”

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers designating U.S. Marine Corps Corporal Dustin Schrage Highway as described in subsection (1).

Section 33. Purple Heart Memorial Highway designated; Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.—

(1) That portion of State Road 20/John Sims Parkway (57-040-000) between State Road 85 and the Walton County Line in Okaloosa County is designated as “Purple Heart Memorial Highway.”

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers designating Purple Heart Memorial Highway as described in subsection (1).

Section 34. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2012.

Approved by the Governor April 27, 2012.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 27, 2012.