

CHAPTER 2018-7

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 29

An act relating to military and veterans affairs; providing a short title; creating s. 250.483, F.S.; providing requirements relating to licensure or qualification of persons ordered into active duty or state active duty; amending s. 295.21, F.S.; providing that a member of the board of directors for Florida is for Veterans, Inc., shall be eligible for reappointment under certain circumstances; amending s. 295.22, F.S.; revising provisions relating to receiving training grants from Florida is for Veterans, Inc.; amending s. 446.041, F.S.; providing duties of the Department of Education; amending s. 446.081, F.S.; providing construction; amending s. 455.02, F.S.; requiring the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to waive certain fees; amending s. 456.024, F.S.; revising licensure eligibility requirements; providing an exemption from certain penalties; amending ss. 472.015, 472.016, 493.6105, 493.6107, and 493.6113, F.S.; requiring the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to waive certain fees; amending ss. 494.00312 and 494.00313, F.S.; requiring the Office of Financial Regulation to waive certain fees; amending s. 497.140, F.S.; providing an exemption from a certain fee; amending s. 497.141, F.S.; providing an exemption from a certain fee; amending ss. 497.281, 497.368, 497.369, 497.370, 497.371, 497.373, 497.374, and 497.375, F.S.; providing exemptions from certain fees; creating s. 497.393, F.S.; authorizing the licensing authority to recognize certain military-issued credentials for purposes of licensure; amending ss. 497.453, 497.466, and 497.554, F.S.; providing exemptions from certain fees; amending s. 497.602, F.S.; providing an exemption from an application fee; authorizing the licensing authority to recognize certain military-issued credentials for purposes of licensure; amending s. 501.015, F.S.; requiring the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to waive a registration fee; amending ss. 501.605, 501.607, 501.609, and 507.03, F.S.; requiring the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to waive certain fees for certain licensees; amending s. 517.12, F.S.; requiring the Office of Financial Regulation to waive certain fees; amending ss. 527.02 and 539.001, F.S.; waiving certain licensing fees; amending ss. 559.904 and 559.928, F.S.; requiring the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to waive certain registration fees; amending s. 626.171, F.S.; revising fee waiver qualification requirements for certain applicants; amending ss. 626.732, 626.7851, 626.8311, 626.8417, and 626.927, F.S.; revising precensure course requirements for certain applicants; amending s. 633.414, F.S.; authorizing an extension for firefighter certification renewal for certain persons; amending s. 633.444, F.S.; requiring the Division of State Fire Marshal to waive certain expenses associated with attending the Florida State Fire College; creating s. 683.147, F.S.; designating March 25 of each year as “Medal of Honor Day”; amending s. 1002.37, F.S.; revising priority of Florida Virtual Schools; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; providing for a character development

program that incorporates the values of the Congressional Medal of Honor; amending s. 1012.55, F.S.; requiring the State Board of Education to issue a temporary certificate in educational leadership to certain persons; revising certain exemptions from requirements for teacher certification for certain individuals; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt certain rules; amending s. 1012.59, F.S.; requiring the State Board of Education to waive certain fees; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. This act may be cited as the “Don Hahnfeldt Veteran and Military Family Opportunity Act.”

Section 2. Section 250.483, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

250.483 Active duty; licensure or qualification.—

(1) If a member of the Florida National Guard or the United States Armed Forces Reserves seeking licensure or qualification for a trade, occupation, or profession is ordered into state active duty or into active duty as defined in this chapter, and his or her period of training, study, apprenticeship, or practical experience is interrupted or the start thereof is delayed, he or she is entitled to licensure or qualification under the laws covering his or her licensure or qualification at the time of entrance into active duty pursuant to subsection (2).

(2) A board of examiners or other qualification board regulated under general law shall accept periods of training and practical experience in the Florida National Guard or the United States Armed Forces Reserves in place of the interrupted or delayed periods of training, study, apprenticeship, or practical experience if the board finds the standard and type of work or training performed in the Florida National Guard or the United States Armed Forces Reserves to be substantially the same as the standard and type required under the laws of this state.

(3) A member of the National Guard or the United States Armed Forces Reserves must request licensure or qualification pursuant to this section by the respective board of examiners or other qualification board within 6 months after release from active duty with the Florida National Guard or the United States Armed Forces Reserves.

Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 295.21, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

295.21 Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.—

(4) GOVERNANCE.—

(c) Each member of the board of directors shall be appointed for a term of 4 years, except that, to achieve staggered terms, the initial appointees of the

Governor shall serve terms of 2 years. A member is ~~eligible~~ ineligible for reappointment to the board ~~except that a member appointed to a term of 2 years or less may be reappointed for one~~ an additional term of 4 years. ~~The initial appointments to the board must be made by July 15, 2014.~~ Vacancies on the board shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. A vacancy that occurs before the scheduled expiration of the term of the member shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 4. Paragraphs (d) and (e) of subsection (3) of section 295.22, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

295.22 Veterans Employment and Training Services Program.—

(3) ADMINISTRATION.—Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., shall administer the Veterans Employment and Training Services Program and perform all of the following functions:

(d) Create a grant program to provide funding to assist veterans in meeting the workforce-skill needs of businesses seeking to hire, ~~promote, or generally improve specialized skills of~~ promote, or generally improve specialized skills of veterans, establish criteria for approval of requests for funding, and maximize the use of funding for this program. Grant funds may be used only in the absence of available veteran-specific federally funded programs. Grants may fund specialized training specific to a particular business.

1. ~~Grant funds may be allocated to any training provider selected by the business, including a career center, a Florida College System institution, a state university, or an in-house training provider of the business. If grant funds are used to provide a technical certificate, a licensure, or a degree, funds may be allocated only upon a review that includes, but is not limited to, documentation of accreditation and licensure. Instruction funded through the program terminates when participants demonstrate competence at the level specified in the request but may not exceed 12 48 months. Preference shall be given to target industry businesses, as defined in s. 288.106, and to businesses in the defense supply, cloud virtualization, or commercial aviation manufacturing industries.~~

2. ~~Costs and expenditures for the grant program must be documented and separated from those incurred by the training provider. Costs and expenditures shall be limited to \$8,000 per veteran trainee. Qualified businesses must cover the entire cost for all of the training provided before receiving reimbursement from the corporation equal to 50 percent of the cost to train a veteran who is a permanent, full-time employee. Eligible costs and expenditures include:~~

- a. Tuition and fees.
- b. ~~Curriculum development.~~
- b.e. Books and classroom materials.

~~c.d.~~ Rental fees for facilities at public colleges and universities, including virtual training labs.

~~e.~~ Overhead or indirect costs not to exceed 5 percent of the grant amount.

3. Before funds are allocated for a request pursuant to this section, the corporation shall prepare a grant agreement between the business requesting funds, ~~the educational institution or training provider receiving funding through the program,~~ and the corporation. Such agreement must include, but need not be limited to:

a. Identification of the personnel necessary to conduct the instructional program, instructional program description, and any vendors used to conduct the instructional program ~~the qualifications of such personnel, and the respective responsibilities of the parties for paying costs associated with the employment of such personnel.~~

~~b.~~ Identification of the match provided by the business, including cash and in-kind contributions, equal to at least 50 percent of the total grant amount.

~~b.e.~~ Identification of the estimated duration of the instructional program.

~~c.d.~~ Identification of all direct, training-related costs.

~~d.e.~~ Identification of special program requirements that are not otherwise addressed in the agreement.

~~e.f.~~ Permission to access aggregate information specific to the wages and performance of participants upon the completion of instruction for evaluation purposes. The agreement must specify that any evaluation published subsequent to the instruction may not identify the employer or any individual participant.

4. A business may receive a grant under the Quick-Response Training Program created under s. 288.047 and a grant under this section for the same veteran trainee. If a business receives funds under both programs, one grant agreement may be entered into with CareerSource Florida, Inc., as the grant administrator.

(e) Contract with one or more entities to administer an entrepreneur initiative program for veterans in this state which connects business leaders in the state with veterans seeking to become entrepreneurs.

1. The corporation shall award each contract in accordance with the competitive bidding requirements in s. 287.057 to one or more public or private entities ~~universities~~ that:

a. Demonstrate the ability to implement the program and the commitment of ~~university~~ resources, including financial resources, to such programs.

b. Have a demonstrated experience working with military and veteran entrepreneurs resource-center.

~~c. Have a regional small business development center in the Florida Small Business Development Center Network.~~

~~c.d. As determined by the corporation, have been nationally recognized for their performance in assisting entrepreneurs to launch successful businesses in the state commitment to the military and veterans.~~

2. Each contract must include performance metrics, including a focus on employment and business creation. ~~Each university must coordinate with any entrepreneurship center located at the university.~~ The entity university may also work with a university or college ~~an entity~~ offering related programs to refer veterans or to provide services. The entrepreneur initiative program may include activities and assistance such as peer-to-peer learning sessions, mentoring, technical assistance, business roundtables, networking opportunities, support of student organizations, speaker series, or other tools within a virtual environment.

Section 5. Subsections (7) through (12) of section 446.041, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (8) through (13), respectively, and a new subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

446.041 Apprenticeship program, duties of the department.—The department shall:

(7) Lead and coordinate outreach efforts to educate veterans about apprenticeship and career opportunities.

Section 6. Subsection (4) is added to section 446.081, Florida Statutes, to read:

446.081 Limitation.—

(4) Nothing in ss. 446.011-446.092 or in any rules adopted or contained in any approved apprentice agreement under such sections invalidates any special provision for veterans, minority persons, or women in the standards, qualifications, or operation of the apprenticeship program which is not otherwise prohibited by any applicable general law, rule, or regulation.

Section 7. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 455.02, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

455.02 Licensure of members of the Armed Forces in good standing and their spouses or surviving spouses with administrative boards or programs.

(1) Any member of the United States Armed Forces of the United States now or hereafter on active duty who, at the time of becoming such a member, was in good standing with any of the boards or programs listed in s. 20.165 and was entitled to practice or engage in his or her profession or occupation vocation in the state shall be kept in good standing by the applicable board or program, without registering, paying dues or fees, or performing any other act on his or her part to be performed, as long as he or she is a member of the United States Armed Forces of the United States on active duty and for a period of 2 years after discharge from active duty ~~as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, if he or she is not engaged in his or her licensed profession or vocation in the private sector for profit.~~ A member, during active duty and for a period of 2 years after discharge from active duty, engaged in his or her licensed profession or occupation in the private sector for profit in this state must complete all license renewal provisions except remitting the license renewal fee, which shall be waived by the department.

(2) A spouse of a member of the ~~Armed Services of the United States~~ Armed Forces who is married to a member during a period of active duty, or a surviving spouse of a member who at the time of death was serving on active duty, who is in good standing with any of the boards or programs listed in s. 20.165 shall be kept in good standing by the applicable board or program as described in subsection (1) and shall be exempt from licensure renewal provisions, but only in cases of his or her absence from the state because of his or her spouse's duties with the United States Armed Forces. The department or the appropriate board or program shall waive any license renewal fee for such spouse when he or she is present in this state because of such member's active duty and for a surviving spouse of a member who at the time of death was serving on active duty and died within the 2 years preceding the date of renewal.

Section 8. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3) and paragraph (j) of subsection (4) of section 456.024, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

456.024 Members of Armed Forces in good standing with administrative boards or the department; spouses; licensure.—

(3)(a) A person is eligible for licensure as a health care practitioner in this state if he or she:

1. Serves or has served as a health care practitioner in the United States Armed Forces, the United States Reserve Forces, or the National Guard;

2. Serves or has served on active duty with the United States Armed Forces as a health care practitioner in the United States Public Health Service; or

3. Is a health care practitioner, ~~other than a dentist,~~ in another state, the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States and is

the spouse of a person serving on active duty with the United States Armed Forces.

The department shall develop an application form, and each board, or the department if there is no board, shall waive the application fee, licensure fee, and unlicensed activity fee for such applicants. For purposes of this subsection, “health care practitioner” means a health care practitioner as defined in s. 456.001 and a person licensed under part III of chapter 401 or part IV of chapter 468.

(b) The board, or the department if there is no board, shall issue a license to practice in this state to a person who:

1. Submits a complete application.

2. If he or she is a member of the United States Armed Forces, the United States Reserve Forces, or the National Guard, submits proof that he or she has received an honorable discharge within 6 months before, or will receive an honorable discharge within 6 months after, the date of submission of the application.

3.a. Holds an active, unencumbered license issued by another state, the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States and who has not had disciplinary action taken against him or her in the 5 years preceding the date of submission of the application;

b. Is a military health care practitioner in a profession for which licensure in a state or jurisdiction is not required to practice in the United States Armed Forces, if he or she submits to the department evidence of military training or experience substantially equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this state in that profession and evidence that he or she has obtained a passing score on the appropriate examination of a national or regional standards organization if required for licensure in this state; or

c. Is the spouse of a person serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces and is a health care practitioner in a profession, ~~excluding dentistry~~, for which licensure in another state or jurisdiction is not required, if he or she submits to the department evidence of training or experience substantially equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this state in that profession and evidence that he or she has obtained a passing score on the appropriate examination of a national or regional standards organization if required for licensure in this state.

4. Attests that he or she is not, at the time of submission of the application, the subject of a disciplinary proceeding in a jurisdiction in which he or she holds a license or by the United States Department of Defense for reasons related to the practice of the profession for which he or she is applying.

5. Actively practiced the profession for which he or she is applying for the 3 years preceding the date of submission of the application.

6. Submits a set of fingerprints for a background screening pursuant to s. 456.0135, if required for the profession for which he or she is applying.

The department shall verify information submitted by the applicant under this subsection using the National Practitioner Data Bank.

(4)

~~(j) An applicant who is issued a temporary professional license to practice as a dentist pursuant to this section must practice under the indirect supervision, as defined in s. 466.003, of a dentist licensed pursuant to chapter 466.~~

(5) The spouse of a person serving on active duty with the United States Armed Forces shall have a defense to any citation and related cause of action brought under s. 456.065 if the following conditions are met:

(a) The spouse holds an active, unencumbered license issued by another state or jurisdiction to provide health care services for which there is no equivalent license in this state.

(b) The spouse is providing health care services within the scope of practice of the out-of-state license.

(c) The training or experience required by the out-of-state license is substantially similar to the license requirements to practice a similar health care profession in this state.

Section 9. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 472.015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

472.015 Licensure.—

(3)

(b) The department shall waive the initial license fee for an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, the spouse or surviving spouse of such a veteran, a current member of the United States Armed Forces who has served on active duty or the spouse of such a member, the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces who died while serving on active duty, or a business entity that has a majority ownership held by such a veteran or spouse or surviving spouse if the department receives an application, in a format prescribed by the department. The application format must include the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation, within 60 months after the date of the veteran's discharge from any branch of the United States Armed Forces. To qualify for the waiver,;

1. A veteran must provide to the department a copy of his or her DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another

acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs;

2. The spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran must provide to the department a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that he or she was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge; or

3. A business entity must provide to the department proof that a veteran or the spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran holds a majority ownership in the business, a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and, if applicable, a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that the spouse or surviving spouse of the veteran was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge.

Section 10. Section 472.016, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

472.016 Members of Armed Forces in good standing with the board.—

(1) Any member of the United States Armed Forces ~~of the United States~~ who is now or in the future on active duty and who, at the time of becoming such a member of the United States Armed Forces, was in good standing with the board and entitled to practice or engage in surveying and mapping in the state shall be kept in good standing by the board, without registering, paying dues or fees, or performing any other act on his or her part to be performed, as long as he or she is a member of the United States Armed Forces ~~of the United States~~ on active duty and for a period of 2 years 6 months after discharge from active duty, ~~provided that he or she is not engaged in the practice of surveying or mapping in the private sector for profit. A member, during active duty and for a period of 2 years after discharge from active duty, engaged in the practice of surveying or mapping in the private sector for profit in this state must complete all licensure renewal provisions except remitting the license renewal fee, which shall be waived by the department.~~

(2) The board shall adopt rules exempting the spouses of members of the United States Armed Forces ~~of the United States~~ from licensure renewal provisions, but only in cases of absence from the state because of their spouses' duties with the United States Armed Forces. The department or the appropriate board or program shall waive any license renewal fee for the spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces when such member is present in this state because of the member's active duty with the United States Armed Forces, and for the surviving spouse of a member who at the time of death was serving on active duty and died within the 2 years preceding the date of renewal.

Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 493.6105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

493.6105 Initial application for license.—

(1) Each individual, partner, or principal officer in a corporation, shall file with the department a complete application accompanied by an application fee not to exceed \$60, except that ~~an~~ the applicant for a Class “D” or Class “G” license is not required to submit an application fee. An application fee is not required for an applicant who qualifies for the fee waiver in s. 493.6107(6). The application fee is not refundable.

(a) The application submitted by any individual, partner, or corporate officer must be approved by the department before the individual, partner, or corporate officer assumes his or her duties.

(b) Individuals who invest in the ownership of a licensed agency but do not participate in, direct, or control the operations of the agency are not required to file an application.

~~(c) The initial application fee for a veteran, as defined in s. 1.01, shall be waived if he or she applies for a Class “C,” Class “CC,” Class “DI,” Class “E,” Class “EE,” Class “K,” Class “M,” Class “MA,” Class “MB,” Class “MR,” or Class “RI” license within 24 months after being discharged from a branch of the United States Armed Forces. An eligible veteran must include a copy of his or her DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs with his or her application in order to obtain a waiver.~~

Section 12. Subsection (6) of section 493.6107, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

493.6107 Fees.—

(6) The initial application license fee for a veteran, as defined in s. 1.01, the spouse or surviving spouse of such veteran, a member of the United States Armed Forces who has served on active duty, or the spouse or surviving spouse of such member who at the time of death was serving on active duty and died within the 2 years preceding the initial application, shall be waived if he or she applies for a Class “C,” Class “CC,” Class “DI,” Class “E,” Class “EE,” Class “K,” Class “M,” Class “MA,” Class “MB,” Class “MR,” or Class “RI” license in a format prescribed by the department. The application format must include the applicant’s signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation Class “M” or Class “K” license within 24 months after being discharged from any branch of the United States Armed Forces. An eligible veteran must include a copy of his or her DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs with his or her application in order to obtain a waiver.

A licensee seeking such waiver must apply in a format prescribed by the department, including the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation.

Section 13. Subsection (7) is added to section 493.6113, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

493.6113 Renewal application for licensure.—

(7) The department shall waive the respective fees for a licensee who:

(a) Is an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such member;

(b) Is or was a member of the United States Armed Forces and served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the expiration date of the license. A licensee who is a former member of the United States Armed Forces who served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the application must have received an honorable discharge upon separation or discharge from the United States Armed Forces; or

(c) Is the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces who was serving on active duty at the time of death and died within the 2 years preceding the expiration date of the license.

A licensee seeking such waiver must apply in a format prescribed by the department, including the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation.

Section 14. Subsection (8) is added to section 494.00312, Florida Statutes, to read:

494.00312 Loan originator license.—

(8) The office shall waive the fees required by paragraph (2)(e) for an applicant who:

(a) Is or was an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces. To qualify for the fee waiver, an applicant who is a former member of the United States Armed Forces must have received an honorable discharge upon separation or discharge from the United States Armed Forces;

(b) Is married to a current or former member of the United States Armed Forces and is or was married to the member during any period of active duty; or

(c) Is the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member was serving on active duty at the time of death.

An applicant seeking such fee waiver must submit proof, in a form prescribed by commission rule, that the applicant meets one of the qualifications in this subsection.

Section 15. Subsection (4) is added to section 494.00313, Florida Statutes, to read:

494.00313 Loan originator license renewal.—

(4) The office shall waive the fees required by paragraph (1)(b) for a loan originator who:

(a) Is an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such member;

(b) Is or was a member of the United States Armed Forces and served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the expiration date of the license pursuant to s. 494.00312(7). To qualify for the fee waiver, a loan originator who is a former member of the United States Armed Forces who served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the expiration date of the license must have received an honorable discharge upon separation or discharge from the United States Armed Forces; or

(c) Is the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member was serving on active duty at the time of death and died within the 2 years preceding the surviving spouse's license expiration date pursuant to s. 494.00312(7).

A loan originator seeking such fee waiver must submit proof, in a form prescribed by commission rule, that the loan originator meets one of the qualifications in this subsection.

Section 16. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 497.140, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

497.140 Fees.—

(6)(a)1. The department shall impose, upon initial licensure and each renewal thereof, a special unlicensed activity fee of \$5 per licensee, in addition to all other fees provided for in this chapter. Such fee shall be used by the department to fund efforts to identify and combat unlicensed activity which violates this chapter. Such fee shall be in addition to all other fees collected from each licensee and shall be deposited in a separate account of the Regulatory Trust Fund; however, the department is not limited to the funds in such an account for combating improper unlicensed activity in violation of this chapter.

2. A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within 2 years preceding the application for licensure are exempt from the special unlicensed activity fee associated with initial licensure. To qualify for the fee exemption under this subparagraph, a licensee must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge

paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

Section 17. Subsection (4) of section 497.141, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

497.141 Licensing; general application procedures.—

(4) Before the issuance of any license, the department shall collect such initial fee as specified by this chapter or, where authorized, by rule of the board, unless an applicant is exempted as specified by this chapter. Upon receipt of a completed application and the appropriate fee, and certification by the board that the applicant meets the applicable requirements of law and rules, the department shall issue the license applied for. However, an applicant who is not otherwise qualified for licensure is not entitled to licensure solely based on a passing score on a required examination.

Section 18. Subsection (1) of section 497.281, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

497.281 Licensure of brokers of burial rights.—

(1)(a) No person shall receive compensation to act as a third party to the sale or transfer of three or more burial rights in a 12-month period unless the person pays a license fee as determined by licensing authority rule but not to exceed \$250 and is licensed with the department as a burial rights broker in accordance with this section.

(b) A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within the 2 years preceding application for licensure are exempt from the initial license fee. To qualify for the initial license fee exemption, an applicant must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

Section 19. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsection (3) of section 497.368, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

497.368 Embalmers; licensure as an embalmer by examination; provisional license.—

(1) Any person desiring to be licensed as an embalmer shall apply to the licensing authority to take the licensure examination. The licensing authority shall examine each applicant who has remitted an examination fee set by rule of the licensing authority not to exceed \$200 plus the actual per applicant cost to the licensing authority for portions of the examination and who has:

(a) Completed the application form and remitted a nonrefundable application fee set by the licensing authority not to exceed \$200. A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within the 2 years preceding application for licensure, are exempt from the application fee. To qualify for the application fee exemption, an applicant must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

(3) Any applicant who has completed the required 1-year internship and has been approved for examination as an embalmer may qualify for a provisional license to work in a licensed funeral establishment, under the direct supervision of a licensed embalmer for a limited period of 6 months as provided by rule of the licensing authority. The fee for provisional licensure shall be set by rule of the licensing authority, but may not exceed \$200, and shall be nonrefundable and in addition to the fee required in subsection (1). This provisional license may be renewed no more than one time. A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within the 2 years preceding application for licensure are exempt from the initial provisional licensure fee. To qualify for the initial provisional licensure fee exemption, an applicant must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

Section 20. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsection (5) of section 497.369, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

497.369 Embalmers; licensure as an embalmer by endorsement; licensure of a temporary embalmer.—

(1) The licensing authority shall issue a license by endorsement to practice embalming to an applicant who has remitted an examination fee set by rule of the licensing authority not to exceed \$200 and who the licensing authority certifies:

(a) Has completed the application form and remitted a nonrefundable application fee set by rule of the licensing authority not to exceed \$200. A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within the 2 years preceding application for licensure are exempt from the application fee. To qualify for the application fee exemption, an applicant must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

(5)(a) There may be adopted by the licensing authority rules authorizing an applicant who has met the requirements of paragraphs (1)(b) and (c) and who is awaiting an opportunity to take the examination required by subsection (4) to be licensed as a temporary licensed embalmer. A temporary licensed embalmer may work as an embalmer in a licensed funeral establishment under the general supervision of a licensed embalmer. Such temporary license shall expire 60 days after the date of the next available examination required under subsection (4); however, the temporary license may be renewed one time under the same conditions as initial issuance. The fee for issuance or renewal of an embalmer temporary license shall be set by rule of the licensing authority but may not exceed \$200. The fee required in this subsection shall be nonrefundable and in addition to the fee required in subsection (1).

(b) A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within the 2 years preceding application for licensure are exempt from the initial issuance fee. To qualify for the initial issuance fee exemption, an applicant must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

Section 21. Subsection (1) of section 497.370, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

497.370 Embalmers; licensure of an embalmer intern.—

(1)(a) Any person desiring to become an embalmer intern shall make application to the licensing authority on forms specified by rule, together with a nonrefundable fee determined by rule of the licensing authority but not to exceed \$200.

(b) A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within the 2 years preceding application for licensure are exempt from the application fee. To qualify for the application fee exemption under this paragraph, an applicant must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

The application shall indicate the name and address of the licensed embalmer under whose supervision the intern will receive training and the name of the licensed funeral establishment or centralized embalming facility where such training is to be conducted. The embalmer intern shall intern under the direct supervision of a licensed embalmer who has an active, valid license under s. 497.368 or s. 497.369.

Section 22. Section 497.371, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

497.371 Embalmers; establishment of embalmer apprentice program.

(1) The licensing authority adopts rules establishing an embalmer apprentice program. An embalmer apprentice may perform only those tasks, functions, and duties relating to embalming which are performed under the direct supervision of an embalmer who has an active, valid license under s. 497.368 or s. 497.369. An embalmer apprentice is eligible to serve in an apprentice capacity for a period not to exceed 3 years as may be determined by licensing authority rule or for a period not to exceed 5 years if the apprentice is enrolled in and attending a course in mortuary science or funeral service education at any mortuary college or funeral service education college or school. An embalmer apprentice shall be issued a license upon payment of a licensure fee as determined by licensing authority rule but not to exceed \$200.

(2) A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within the 2 years preceding application for licensure are exempt from the licensure fee. To qualify for the licensure fee exemption under this subsection, an applicant must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

An applicant for the embalmer apprentice program may not be issued a license unless the licensing authority determines that the applicant is of good character and has not demonstrated a history of lack of trustworthiness or integrity in business or professional matters.

Section 23. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsection (3) of section 497.373, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

497.373 Funeral directing; licensure as a funeral director by examination; provisional license.—

(1) Any person desiring to be licensed as a funeral director shall apply to the licensing authority to take the licensure examination. The licensing authority shall examine each applicant who has remitted an examination fee set by rule of the licensing authority not to exceed \$200 plus the actual per applicant cost to the licensing authority for portions of the examination and who the licensing authority certifies has:

(a) Completed the application form and remitted a nonrefundable application fee set by rule of the licensing authority not to exceed \$200. A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within the 2 years preceding application for licensure are exempt from the

application fee. To qualify for the application fee exemption, an applicant must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

(3) Any applicant who has completed the required 1-year internship and has been approved for examination as a funeral director may qualify for a provisional license to work in a licensed funeral establishment, under the direct supervision of a licensed funeral director for 6 months as provided by rule of the licensing authority. However, a provisional licensee may work under the general supervision of a licensed funeral director upon passage of the laws and rules examination required under paragraph (2)(b). The fee for provisional licensure shall be set by rule of the licensing authority but may not exceed \$200. The fee required in this subsection shall be nonrefundable and in addition to the fee required by subsection (1). This provisional license may be renewed no more than one time. A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within the 2 years preceding application for licensure are exempt from the initial provisional licensure fee. To qualify for the initial provisional licensure fee exemption, a licensee must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

Section 24. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsection (5) of section 497.374, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

497.374 Funeral directing; licensure as a funeral director by endorsement; licensure of a temporary funeral director.—

(1) The licensing authority shall issue a license by endorsement to practice funeral directing to an applicant who has remitted a fee set by rule of the licensing authority not to exceed \$200 and who:

(a) Has completed the application form and remitted a nonrefundable application fee set by rule of the licensing authority not to exceed \$200. A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within the 2 years preceding application for licensure are exempt from the nonrefundable application fee. To qualify for the exemption, an applicant must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

(5) There may be adopted rules authorizing an applicant who has met the requirements of paragraphs (1)(b) and (c) and who is awaiting an opportunity to take the examination required by subsection (4) to obtain a

license as a temporary funeral director. A licensed temporary funeral director may work as a funeral director in a licensed funeral establishment under the general supervision of a funeral director licensed under subsection (1) or s. 497.373. Such license shall expire 60 days after the date of the next available examination required under subsection (4); however, the temporary license may be renewed one time under the same conditions as initial issuance. The fee for initial issuance or renewal of a temporary license under this subsection shall be set by rule of the licensing authority but may not exceed \$200. The fee required in this subsection shall be nonrefundable and in addition to the fee required in subsection (1). A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within the 2 years preceding application for licensure are exempt from the initial issuance fee. To qualify for the initial issuance fee exemption, an applicant must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

Section 25. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 497.375, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

497.375 Funeral directing; licensure of a funeral director intern.—

(1)(a) Any person desiring to become a funeral director intern must apply to the licensing authority on forms prescribed by rule of the licensing authority, together with a nonrefundable fee set by rule of the licensing authority not to exceed \$200. A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within the 2 years preceding application for licensure are exempt from the application fee. To qualify for the application fee exemption, an applicant must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

Section 26. Section 497.393, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

497.393 Licensure; military-issued credentials for licensure.—The licensing authority shall recognize military-issued credentials relating to funeral and cemetery services for purposes of licensure as a funeral director or embalmer. A member of the United States Armed Forces and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces seeking licensure as a funeral director or embalmer under this section shall submit to the licensing authority a certification that the military-issued credential reflects knowledge, training, and experience substantially similar to the requirements of this chapter for licensure as a funeral director or embalmer. The licensing authority shall adopt rules specifying forms and procedures to be used by persons seeking licensure under this section. The licensing authority may conduct an

investigation and further inquiry of any person regarding any military-issued credential sought to be recognized.

Section 27. Paragraph (n) of subsection (1) of section 497.453, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

497.453 Application for preneed license, procedures and criteria; renewal; reports.—

(1) PRENEED LICENSE APPLICATION PROCEDURES.—

(n) The application shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee as determined by licensing authority rule but not to exceed \$500. A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within the 2 years preceding application for licensure are exempt from the application fee when applying as an individual. To qualify for the application fee exemption, an applicant must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

Section 28. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section 497.466, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

497.466 Preneed sales agents, license required; application procedures and criteria; appointment of agents; responsibility of preneed licensee.—

(2) PRENEED SALES AGENT LICENSE; APPLICATION PROCEDURES.—

(h) The application shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of \$150 if made through the department's online licensing system or \$175 if made using paper forms. Payment of either fee shall entitle the applicant to one initial appointment without payment of further fees by the preneed sales agent or the appointing preneed licensee if a preneed sales agent license is issued. The licensing authority may from time to time increase such fees but not to exceed \$300. A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within the 2 years preceding application for licensure are exempt from the application fee. To qualify for the application fee exemption, an applicant must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

Section 29. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section 497.554, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

497.554 Monument establishment sales representatives.—

(2) APPLICATION PROCEDURES.—Licensure as a monument establishment sales agent shall be by submission of an application for licensure to the department on a form prescribed by rule.

(e) The monument establishment sales agent application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50. The licensing authority may from time to time increase the application fee by rule but not to exceed \$200. A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within the 2 years preceding application for licensure are exempt from the application fee. To qualify for the application fee exemption, an applicant must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

Section 30. Paragraph (i) of subsection (2) and subsection (4) of section 497.602, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

497.602 Direct disposers, license required; licensing procedures and criteria; regulation.—

(2) APPLICATION PROCEDURES.—

(i) The application shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of \$300. The licensing authority may from time to time increase the fee by rule but not to exceed more than \$500. A member of the United States Armed Forces, such member's spouse, and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who separated from service within the 2 years preceding application for licensure are exempt from the application fee. To qualify for the application fee exemption, an applicant must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran was honorably discharged.

(4) ISSUANCE OF LICENSE.—Upon approval of the application by the licensing authority, the license shall be issued. The licensing authority shall recognize military-issued credentials relating to funeral and cemetery services for purposes of licensure as a direct disposer. A member of the United States Armed Forces and a veteran of the United States Armed Forces seeking licensure as a direct disposer under this section shall submit to the licensing authority a certification that the military-issued credential reflects knowledge, training, and experience substantially similar to the requirements of this chapter for licensure as a direct disposer. The licensing authority shall adopt rules specifying forms and procedures to be used by members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces seeking licensure under this section. The licensing authority may conduct investigation and

further inquiry of any person regarding any military-issued credential sought to be recognized.

Section 31. Subsection (2) of section 501.015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

501.015 Health studios; registration requirements and fees.—Each health studio shall:

(2) Remit an annual registration fee of \$300 to the department at the time of registration for each of the health studio's business locations.

(a) The department shall waive the initial registration fee for an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, the spouse or surviving spouse of such a veteran, a current member of the United States Armed Forces who has served on active duty, the spouse of such a member, the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member died while serving on active duty, or a business entity that has a majority ownership held by such a veteran or spouse or surviving spouse if the department receives an application, in a format prescribed by the department. The application format must include the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation, within 60 months after the date of the veteran's discharge from any branch of the United States Armed Forces. To qualify for the waiver;

1. A veteran must provide to the department a copy of his or her DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs;

2. The spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran must provide to the department a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that he or she was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge; or

3. A business entity must provide to the department proof that a veteran or the spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran holds a majority ownership in the business, a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and, if applicable, a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that the spouse or surviving spouse of the veteran was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge.

(b) The department shall waive the registration renewal fee for a registrant who:

1. Is an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such member;

2. Is or was a member of the United States Armed Forces and served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the renewal date. To qualify for the fee waiver, a registrant who is a former member of the United States Armed Forces who served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the expiration date of the registration must have received an honorable discharge upon separation or discharge from the United States Armed Forces; or

3. Is the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member was serving on active duty at the time of death and died within the 2 years preceding the date of renewal.

A registrant seeking such waiver must apply in a format prescribed by the department, including the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation.

Section 32. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 501.605, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

501.605 Licensure of commercial telephone sellers and entities providing substance abuse marketing services.—

(5) An application filed pursuant to this part must be verified and accompanied by:

(b) A fee for licensing in the amount of \$1,500. The fee shall be deposited into the General Inspection Trust Fund. The department shall waive the initial license fee for an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, the spouse or surviving spouse of such a veteran, a current member of the United States Armed Forces who has served on active duty, the spouse of such a member, the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if such member died while serving on active duty, or a business entity that has a majority ownership held by such a veteran or spouse or surviving spouse if the department receives an application, in a format prescribed by the department. The application format must include the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation, within 60 months after the date of the veteran's discharge from any branch of the United States Armed Forces. To qualify for the waiver;

1. A veteran must provide to the department a copy of his or her DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs;

2. The spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran must provide to the department a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that he or she was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge; or

3. A business entity must provide to the department proof that a veteran or the spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran holds a majority ownership in the business, a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and, if applicable, a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that the spouse or surviving spouse of the veteran was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge.

Section 33. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 501.607, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

501.607 Licensure of salespersons.—

(2) An application filed pursuant to this section must be verified and be accompanied by:

(b) A fee for licensing in the amount of \$50 per salesperson. The fee shall be deposited into the General Inspection Trust Fund. The fee for licensing may be paid after the application is filed, but must be paid within 14 days after the applicant begins work as a salesperson. The department shall waive the initial license fee for an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, the spouse or surviving spouse of such a veteran, a current member of the United States Armed Forces who has served on active duty, the spouse of such a member, the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member died while serving on active duty, or a business entity that has a majority ownership held by such a veteran or spouse or surviving spouse if the department receives an application, in a format prescribed by the department. The application format must include the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation, within 60 months after the date of the veteran's discharge from any branch of the United States Armed Forces. To qualify for the waiver;

1. A veteran must provide to the department a copy of his or her DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs;

2. The spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran must provide to the department a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that he or she was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge; or

3. A business entity must provide to the department proof that a veteran or the spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran holds a majority ownership in the business, a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification

as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and, if applicable, a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that the spouse or surviving spouse of the veteran was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge.

Section 34. Subsection (5) is added to section 501.609, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

501.609 License renewal.—

(5) The department shall waive the annual fee to renew for a licensee who:

(a) Is an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such member;

(b) Is or was a member of the United States Armed Forces, and served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the renewal date. To qualify for the fee waiver, a licensee who is a former member of the United States Armed Forces who served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the expiration date of the registration must have received an honorable discharge upon separation or discharge from the United States Armed Forces; or

(c) Is the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member was serving on active duty at the time of death and died within the 2 years preceding the renewal.

A licensee seeking such waiver must apply in a format prescribed by the department, including the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation.

Section 35. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 507.03, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (c) is added to that subsection, to read:

507.03 Registration.—

(3)

(b) The department shall waive the initial registration fee for an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, the spouse or surviving spouse of such a veteran, a current member of the United States Armed Forces who has served on active duty, the spouse of such a member, the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member died while serving on active duty, or a business entity that has a majority ownership held by such a veteran or spouse or surviving spouse if the department receives an application, in a format prescribed by the department. The application format must include the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation, within 60 months after the date of the veteran's discharge from any branch of the United States Armed Forces. To qualify for the waiver;

1. A veteran must provide to the department a copy of his or her DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs;

2. The spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran must provide to the department a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that he or she was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge; or

3. A business entity must provide to the department proof that a veteran or the spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran holds a majority ownership in the business, a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and, if applicable, a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that the spouse or surviving spouse of the veteran was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge.

(c) The department shall waive the biennial fee to renew for a registrant who:

1. Is an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such member;

2. Is or was a member of the United States Armed Forces and served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the expiration date. To qualify for the fee waiver, a registrant who is a former member of the United States Armed Forces who served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the expiration date of the registration must have received an honorable discharge upon separation or discharge from the United States Armed Forces; or

3. Is the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member was serving on active duty at the time of death and died within the 2 years preceding the renewal.

A registrant seeking such waiver must apply in a format prescribed by the department, including the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation.

Section 36. Subsections (10) and (11) of section 517.12, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

517.12 Registration of dealers, associated persons, intermediaries, and investment advisers.—

(10)(a) An applicant for registration shall pay an assessment fee of \$200, in the case of a dealer or investment adviser, or \$50, in the case of an

associated person. An associated person may be assessed an additional fee to cover the cost for the fingerprints to be processed by the office. Such fee shall be determined by rule of the commission. Such fees become the revenue of the state, except for those assessments provided for under s. 517.131(1) until such time as the Securities Guaranty Fund satisfies the statutory limits, and are not returnable in the event that registration is withdrawn or not granted.

(b) The office shall waive the \$50 assessment fee for an associated person required by paragraph (a) for an applicant who:

1. Is or was an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces. To qualify for the fee waiver, an applicant who is a former member of the United States Armed Forces must have received an honorable discharge upon separation or discharge from the United States Armed Forces;

2. Is married to a current or former member of the United States Armed Forces and is or was married to the member during any period of active duty;
or

3. Is the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member was serving on active duty at the time of death.

An applicant seeking such fee waiver must submit proof, in a form prescribed by commission rule, that the applicant meets one of the qualifications in this paragraph.

(11)(a) If the office finds that the applicant is of good repute and character and has complied with the provisions of this chapter and the rules made pursuant hereto, it shall register the applicant. The registration of each dealer, investment adviser, and associated person expires on December 31 of the year the registration became effective unless the registrant has renewed his or her registration on or before that date. Registration may be renewed by furnishing such information as the commission may require, together with payment of the fee required in paragraph (10)(a) subsection (10) for dealers, investment advisers, or associated persons and the payment of any amount lawfully due and owing to the office pursuant to any order of the office or pursuant to any agreement with the office. Any dealer, investment adviser, or associated person who has not renewed a registration by the time the current registration expires may request reinstatement of such registration by filing with the office, on or before January 31 of the year following the year of expiration, such information as may be required by the commission, together with payment of the fee required in paragraph (10)(a) subsection (10) for dealers, investment advisers, or associated persons and a late fee equal to the amount of such fee. Any reinstatement of registration granted by the office during the month of January shall be deemed effective retroactive to January 1 of that year.

(b) The office shall waive the \$50 assessment fee for an associated person required by paragraph (10)(a) for a registrant renewing his or her registration who:

1. Is an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such member;

2. Is or was a member of the United States Armed Forces and served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the expiration date of the registration pursuant to paragraph (a). To qualify for the fee waiver, a registrant who is a former member of the United States Armed Forces who served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the expiration date of the registration must have received an honorable discharge upon separation or discharge from the United States Armed Forces; or

3. Is the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member was serving on active duty at the time of death and died within the 2 years preceding the surviving spouse's registration expiration date pursuant to paragraph (a).

A registrant seeking such fee waiver must submit proof, in a form prescribed by commission rule, that the registrant meets one of the qualifications in this paragraph.

Section 37. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 527.02, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (c) is added to that subsection, to read:

527.02 License; penalty; fees.—

(3)

(b) The department shall waive the initial license fee for an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, the spouse or surviving spouse of such a veteran, a current member of the United States Armed Forces who has served on active duty, the spouse of such a member, the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member died while serving on active duty, or a business entity that has a majority ownership held by such a veteran or spouse or surviving spouse if the department receives an application, in a format prescribed by the department. The application format must include the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation, within 60 months after the date of the veteran's discharge from any branch of the United States Armed Forces. To qualify for the waiver;

1. A veteran must provide to the department a copy of his or her DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs;

2. The spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran must provide to the department a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United

States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that he or she was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge; or

3. A business entity must provide to the department proof that a veteran or the spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran holds a majority ownership in the business, a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and, if applicable, a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that the spouse or surviving spouse of the veteran was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge.

(c) The department shall waive license renewal fees for a licensee who:

1. Is an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such member;

2. Is or was a member of the United States Armed Forces and served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the renewal date. To qualify for the fee waiver under this subparagraph, a licensee who is a former member of the United States Armed Forces who served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the annual renewal date must have received an honorable discharge upon separation or discharge from the United States Armed Forces; or

3. Is the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if such member was serving on active duty at the time of death and died within the 2 years preceding the surviving spouse's renewal.

A licensee seeking such waiver must apply in a format prescribed by the department, including the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation.

Section 38. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 539.001, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (g) is added to that subsection, to read:

539.001 The Florida Pawnbroking Act.—

(3) LICENSE REQUIRED.—

(c) Each license is valid for a period of 1 year unless it is earlier relinquished, suspended, or revoked. Each license shall be renewed annually, and each licensee shall, initially and annually thereafter, pay to the agency a license fee of \$300 for each license held. The agency shall waive the initial license fee for an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, the spouse or surviving spouse of such a veteran, a current member of the United States Armed Forces who has served on active duty, the spouse of such a member, the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member died while serving on active duty,

or a business entity that has a majority ownership held by such a veteran or spouse or surviving spouse if the agency receives an application, in a format prescribed by the agency. The application format must include the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation, within 60 months after the date of the veteran's discharge from any branch of the United States Armed Forces. To qualify for the waiver⁵;

1. A veteran must provide to the agency a copy of his or her DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs;

2. The spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran must provide to the agency a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that he or she was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge; or

3. A business entity must provide to the agency proof that a veteran or the spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran holds a majority ownership in the business, a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and, if applicable, a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that the spouse or surviving spouse of the veteran was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge.

(g) The agency shall waive license renewal fee for a licensee who:

1. Is an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such member;

2. Is or was a member of the United States Armed Forces, and served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the renewal date. To qualify for the fee waiver under this subparagraph, a licensee who is a former member of the United States Armed Forces who served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the annual renewal date must have received an honorable discharge upon separation or discharge from the United States Armed Forces; or

3. Is the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member was serving on active duty at the time of death and died within the 2 years preceding the renewal.

A licensee seeking such waiver must apply in a format prescribed by the agency, including the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation.

Section 39. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 559.904, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (c) is added to that subsection, to read:

559.904 Motor vehicle repair shop registration; application; exemption.

(3)

(b) The department shall waive the initial registration fee for an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, the spouse or surviving spouse of such a veteran, a current member of the United States Armed Forces who has served on active duty, the spouse of such a member, the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member died while serving on active duty, or a business entity that has a majority ownership held by such a veteran or spouse or surviving spouse if the department receives an application, in a format prescribed by the department. The application format must include the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation, within 60 months after the date of the veteran's discharge from any branch of the United States Armed Forces. To qualify for the waiver:;

1. A veteran must provide to the department a copy of his or her DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs;

2. The spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran must provide to the department a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that he or she was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge; or

3. A business entity must provide to the department proof that a veteran or the spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran holds a majority ownership in the business, a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and, if applicable, a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that the spouse or surviving spouse of the veteran was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge.

(c) The department shall waive registration renewal fees for a registrant who:

1. Is an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such member;

2. Is or was a member of the United States Armed Forces and served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the renewal date. To qualify for the fee waiver under this subparagraph, a registrant who is a former member of the United States Armed Forces who served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the biennial renewal date must have received an honorable

discharge upon separation or discharge from the United States Armed Forces; or

3. Is the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member was serving on active duty at the time of death and died within the 2 years preceding the renewal.

A registrant seeking such waiver must apply in a format prescribed by the department, including the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation.

Section 40. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 559.928, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, to read:

559.928 Registration.—

(2)

(c) The department shall waive the initial registration fee for an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, the spouse or surviving spouse of such a veteran, a current member of the United States Armed Forces who has served on active duty, the spouse of such a member, the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member died while serving on active duty, or a business entity that has a majority ownership held by such a veteran or spouse or surviving spouse if the department receives an application, in a format prescribed by the department. The application format must include the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation, within 60 months after the date of the veteran's discharge from any branch of the United States Armed Forces. To qualify for the waiver;

1. A veteran must provide to the department a copy of his or her DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs;

2. The spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran must provide to the department a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that he or she was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge; or

3. A business entity must provide to the department proof that a veteran or the spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran holds a majority ownership in the business, a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214, as issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and, if applicable, a copy of a valid marriage license or certificate verifying that the spouse or surviving spouse of the veteran was lawfully married to the veteran at the time of discharge.

(d) The department shall waive the registration renewal fee for a registrant who:

1. Is an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such member;

2. Is or was a member of the United States Armed Forces and served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the renewal date. To qualify for the fee waiver under this subparagraph, a registrant who is a former member of the United States Armed Forces who served on active duty within the 2 years preceding the annual registration renewal date must have received an honorable discharge upon separation or discharge from the United States Armed Forces; or

3. Is the surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces if the member was serving on active duty at the time of death and died within the 2 years preceding the renewal.

A registrant seeking such waiver must apply in a format prescribed by the department, including the applicant's signature, under penalty of perjury, and supporting documentation.

Section 41. Subsection (6) of section 626.171, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.171 Application for license as an agent, customer representative, adjuster, service representative, managing general agent, or reinsurance intermediary.—

(6) Members of the United States Armed Forces and their spouses, and veterans of the United States Armed Forces who have separated from service retired within 24 months before application for licensure, are exempt from the application filing fee prescribed in s. 624.501. Qualified individuals must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document, or a separation document that indicates such members of the United States Armed Forces are currently in good standing or such veterans were honorably discharged.

Section 42. Subsection (6) of section 626.732, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (7), and a new subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

626.732 Requirement as to knowledge, experience, or instruction.—

(6) Prelicensure coursework is not required for an applicant who is a member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such a member or veteran. A qualified individual must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or

separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran is honorably discharged.

Section 43. Section 626.7851, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.7851 Requirement as to knowledge, experience, or instruction.—An applicant for a license as a life agent, except for a chartered life underwriter (CLU), shall not be qualified or licensed unless within the 4 years immediately preceding the date the application for a license is filed with the department he or she has:

(1) Successfully completed 40 hours of coursework in life insurance, annuities, and variable contracts approved by the department, 3 hours of which shall be on the subject matter of ethics. Courses must include instruction on the subject matter of unauthorized entities engaging in the business of insurance;

(2) Successfully completed a minimum of 60 hours of coursework in multiple areas of insurance, which included life insurance, annuities, and variable contracts, approved by the department, 3 hours of which shall be on the subject matter of ethics. Courses must include instruction on the subject matter of unauthorized entities engaging in the business of insurance;

(3) Earned or maintained an active designation as Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC) from the American College of Financial Services; or Fellow, Life Management Institute (FLMI) from the Life Management Institute;

(4) Held an active license in life insurance in another state. This provision may not be used unless the other state grants reciprocal treatment to licensees formerly licensed in the state; or

(5) Been employed by the department or office for at least 1 year, full time in life insurance regulatory matters and who was not terminated for cause, and application for examination is made within 4 years after the date of termination of his or her employment with the department or office.

Prelicensure coursework is not required for an applicant who is a member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such a member or veteran. A qualified individual must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran is honorably discharged.

Section 44. Section 626.8311, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

626.8311 Requirement as to knowledge, experience, or instruction.—An applicant for a license as a health agent, except for a chartered life underwriter (CLU), shall not be qualified or licensed unless within the 4

years immediately preceding the date the application for license is filed with the department he or she has:

(1) Successfully completed 40 hours of coursework in health insurance, approved by the department, 3 hours of which shall be on the subject matter of ethics. Courses must include instruction on the subject matter of unauthorized entities engaging in the business of insurance, to include the Florida Nonprofit Multiple-Employer Welfare Arrangement Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, 29 U.S.C. ss. 1001 et seq., as it relates to the provision of health insurance by employers to their employees and the regulation thereof;

(2) Successfully completed a minimum of 60 hours of coursework in multiple areas of insurance, which included health insurance, approved by the department, 3 hours of which shall be on the subject matter of ethics. Courses must include instruction on the subject matter of unauthorized entities engaging in the business of insurance;

(3) Earned or maintained an active designation as a Registered Health Underwriter (RHU), Chartered Healthcare Consultant (ChHC), or Registered Employee Benefits Consultant (REBC) from the American College of Financial Services; Certified Employee Benefit Specialist (CEBS) from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania; or Health Insurance Associate (HIA) from America's Health Insurance Plans;

(4) Held an active license in health insurance in another state. This provision may not be utilized unless the other state grants reciprocal treatment to licensees formerly licensed in Florida; or

(5) Been employed by the department or office for at least 1 year, full time in health insurance regulatory matters and who was not terminated for cause, and application for examination is made within 4 years after the date of termination of his or her employment with the department or office.

Prelicensure coursework is not required for an applicant who is a member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such a member or veteran. A qualified individual must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran is honorably discharged.

Section 45. Subsection (7) is added to section 626.8417, Florida Statutes, to read:

626.8417 Title insurance agent licensure; exemptions.—

(7) Prelicensure coursework is not required for an applicant who is a member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such a member or veteran. A qualified individual must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service

record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran is honorably discharged.

Section 46. Subsection (7) is added to section 626.927, Florida Statutes, to read:

626.927 Licensing of surplus lines agent.—

(7) Prelicensure coursework is not required for an applicant who is a member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such a member or veteran. A qualified individual must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran is honorably discharged.

Section 47. Section 633.414, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

633.414 Retention of firefighter and volunteer firefighter certifications.

(1) In order for a firefighter to retain her or his Firefighter Certificate of Compliance, every 4 years he or she must meet the requirements for renewal provided in this chapter and by rule, which must include at least one of the following:

(a) Be active as a firefighter.

(b) Maintain a current and valid fire service instructor certificate, instruct at least 40 hours during the 4-year period, and provide proof of such instruction to the division, which proof must be registered in an electronic database designated by the division.

(c) Within 6 months before the 4-year period expires, successfully complete a Firefighter Retention Refresher Course consisting of a minimum of 40 hours of training to be prescribed by rule.

(d) Within 6 months before the 4-year period expires, successfully retake and pass the Minimum Standards Course examination pursuant to s. 633.408.

(2) In order for a volunteer firefighter to retain her or his Volunteer Firefighter Certificate of Completion, every 4 years he or she must:

(a) Be active as a volunteer firefighter; or

(b) Successfully complete a refresher course consisting of a minimum of 40 hours of training to be prescribed by rule.

(3) Subsection (1) does not apply to state-certified firefighters who are certified and employed full-time, as determined by the fire service provider,

as firesafety inspectors or fire investigators, regardless of their employment status as firefighters or volunteer firefighters.

(4) For the purposes of this section, the term “active” means being employed as a firefighter or providing service as a volunteer firefighter for a cumulative period of 6 months within a 4-year period.

(5) The 4-year period begins upon issuance of the certificate or separation from employment.

(6) A certificate for a firefighter or volunteer firefighter expires if he or she fails to meet the requirements of this section.

(7) The State Fire Marshal may deny, refuse to renew, suspend, or revoke the certificate of a firefighter or volunteer firefighter if the State Fire Marshal finds that any of the following grounds exists:

(a) Any cause for which issuance of a certificate could have been denied if it had then existed and had been known to the division.

(b) A violation of any provision of this chapter or any rule or order of the State Fire Marshal.

(c) Falsification of a record relating to any certificate issued by the division.

The 4-year period may, in the discretion of the department, be extended to 12 months after discharge from military service if the military service does not exceed 3 years, but in no event more than 6 years from the date of issue or renewal, if applicable, for an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces or the spouse of such a veteran. A qualified individual must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran is honorably discharged.

Section 48. Subsection (3) is added to section 633.444, Florida Statutes, to read:

633.444 Division powers and duties; Florida State Fire College.—

(3) The division shall waive all living and incidental expenses associated with attending the Florida State Fire College for an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces, the spouse of such a member who was serving on active duty at the time of death and died within the 2 years preceding the spouse attending the college, an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, or the spouse or surviving spouse of such a veteran. A qualified individuals must provide a copy of a military identification card, military dependent identification card, military service record, military personnel file, veteran record, discharge paper, or

separation document that indicates such member is currently in good standing or such veteran is honorably discharged.

Section 49. Section 683.147, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

683.147 Medal of Honor Day.—

(1) March 25 of each year is designated as “Medal of Honor Day.”

(2) The Governor may annually issue a proclamation designating March 25 as Medal of Honor Day and calling upon public officials, schools, private organizations, and all residents of the state to commemorate Medal of Honor Day and honor recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor who distinguished themselves through their conspicuous bravery and gallantry during wartime, and at considerable risk to their own lives, while serving as members of the United States Armed Forces.

Section 50. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 1002.37, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.37 The Florida Virtual School.—

(1)

(b) The mission of the Florida Virtual School is to provide students with technology-based educational opportunities to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed. The school shall serve any student in the state who meets the profile for success in this educational delivery context and shall give priority to:

1. Students who need expanded access to courses in order to meet their educational goals, such as home education students and students in inner-city and rural high schools who do not have access to higher-level courses.

2. Students seeking accelerated access in order to obtain a high school diploma at least one semester early.

3. Students who are children of an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who is not stationed in this state whose home of record or state of legal residence is Florida.

The board of trustees of the Florida Virtual School shall identify appropriate performance measures and standards based on student achievement that reflect the school's statutory mission and priorities, and shall implement an accountability system for the school that includes assessment of its effectiveness and efficiency in providing quality services that encourage high student achievement, seamless articulation, and maximum access.

Section 51. Subsection (2) of section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.42 Required instruction.—

(2) Members of the instructional staff of the public schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy, following the prescribed courses of study, and employing approved methods of instruction, the following:

(a) The history and content of the Declaration of Independence, including national sovereignty, natural law, self-evident truth, equality of all persons, limited government, popular sovereignty, and inalienable rights of life, liberty, and property, and how they form the philosophical foundation of our government.

(b) The history, meaning, significance, and effect of the provisions of the Constitution of the United States and amendments thereto, with emphasis on each of the 10 amendments that make up the Bill of Rights and how the constitution provides the structure of our government.

(c) The arguments in support of adopting our republican form of government, as they are embodied in the most important of the Federalist Papers.

(d) Flag education, including proper flag display and flag salute.

(e) The elements of civil government, including the primary functions of and interrelationships between the Federal Government, the state, and its counties, municipalities, school districts, and special districts.

(f) The history of the United States, including the period of discovery, early colonies, the War for Independence, the Civil War, the expansion of the United States to its present boundaries, the world wars, and the civil rights movement to the present. American history shall be viewed as factual, not as constructed, shall be viewed as knowable, teachable, and testable, and shall be defined as the creation of a new nation based largely on the universal principles stated in the Declaration of Independence.

(g) The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting democratic values and institutions.

(h) The history of African Americans, including the history of African peoples before the political conflicts that led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of African Americans to society. Instructional materials shall include the contributions of African Americans to American society.

- (i) The elementary principles of agriculture.
- (j) The true effects of all alcoholic and intoxicating liquors and beverages and narcotics upon the human body and mind.
- (k) Kindness to animals.
- (l) The history of the state.
- (m) The conservation of natural resources.
- (n) Comprehensive health education that addresses concepts of community health; consumer health; environmental health; family life, including an awareness of the benefits of sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences of teenage pregnancy; mental and emotional health; injury prevention and safety; Internet safety; nutrition; personal health; prevention and control of disease; and substance use and abuse. The health education curriculum for students in grades 7 through 12 shall include a teen dating violence and abuse component that includes, but is not limited to, the definition of dating violence and abuse, the warning signs of dating violence and abusive behavior, the characteristics of healthy relationships, measures to prevent and stop dating violence and abuse, and community resources available to victims of dating violence and abuse.
- (o) Such additional materials, subjects, courses, or fields in such grades as are prescribed by law or by rules of the State Board of Education and the district school board in fulfilling the requirements of law.
- (p) The study of Hispanic contributions to the United States.
- (q) The study of women's contributions to the United States.
- (r) The nature and importance of free enterprise to the United States economy.
- (s) A character-development program in the elementary schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which is secular in nature. Beginning in school year 2004-2005, the character-development program shall be required in kindergarten through grade 12. Each district school board shall develop or adopt a curriculum for the character-development program that shall be submitted to the department for approval. The character-development curriculum shall stress the qualities of patriotism; responsibility; citizenship; kindness; respect for authority, life, liberty, and personal property; honesty; charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance; and cooperation. The character-development curriculum for grades 9 through 12 shall, at a minimum, include instruction on developing leadership skills, interpersonal skills, organization skills, and research skills; creating a resume; developing and practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews; conflict resolution, workplace ethics, and workplace law; managing stress and expectations; and developing skills that enable students to become more resilient and self-motivated.

(t) In order to encourage patriotism, the sacrifices that veterans and Medal of Honor recipients have made in serving our country and protecting democratic values worldwide. Such instruction must occur on or before Medal of Honor Day, Veterans' Day, and Memorial Day. Members of the instructional staff are encouraged to use the assistance of local veterans and Medal of Honor recipients when practicable.

The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection. A character development program that incorporates the values of the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness initiative meets the requirements of paragraphs (s) and (t).

Section 52. Subsection (4) of section 1012.55, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (e) is added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:

1012.55 Positions for which certificates required.—

(1)

(e)1. The department shall issue a 3-year temporary certificate in educational leadership under s. 1012.56(7) to an individual who:

a. Earned a passing score on the Florida Educational Leadership Examination.

b. Served as a commissioned or noncommissioned military officer in the United States Armed Forces for at least 3 years.

c. Was honorably discharged or has retired from the United States Armed Forces.

d. Is employed full time in a position for which an educator certificate is required in a Florida public school, state-supported school, or nonpublic school that has a Level II program under s. 1012.562.

2. A Level II program under s. 1012.562 must accept an applicant who holds a temporary certificate under subparagraph 1. The department shall issue a permanent certification as a school principal to an individual who holds a temporary certificate under subparagraph 1. and successfully completes the Level II program.

(4) A commissioned or noncommissioned military officer who is an instructor of junior reserve officer training shall be exempt from requirements for teacher certification, except for the background screening pursuant to s. 1012.32, if he or she meets the following qualifications:

(a) Is retired from active military duty, pursuant to chapter 102 of Title 10 U.S.C.

- (b) Satisfies criteria established by the appropriate military service for certification by the service as a junior reserve officer training instructor.
- (c) Has an exemplary military record.

If such instructor is assigned instructional duties other than junior reserve officer training, he or she shall hold the certificate required by law and rules of the state board for the type of service rendered. An instructor of junior reserve officer training under this subsection may receive funding through the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program under s. 1012.71.

Section 53. Subsection (7) of section 1012.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

(7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

(a) The Department of Education shall issue a professional certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to any applicant who fulfills one of the following:

1. Meets all the requirements outlined in subsection (2).
2. For a professional certificate covering grades 6 through 12:
 - a. Meets the requirements of paragraphs (2)(a)-(h).
 - b. Holds a master's or higher degree in the area of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.
 - c. Teaches a high school course in the subject of the advanced degree.
 - d. Is rated highly effective as determined by the teacher's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part on student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate examination.
 - e. Achieves a passing score on the Florida professional education competency examination required by state board rule.
3. Meets the requirements of paragraphs (2)(a)-(h) and completes a professional preparation and education competence program approved by the department pursuant to paragraph (8)(c). An applicant who completes the program and is rated highly effective as determined by his or her performance evaluation under s. 1012.34 is not required to take or achieve a passing score on the professional education competency examination in order to be awarded a professional certificate.

(b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to any applicant who completes the requirements outlined in paragraphs (2)(a)-(f) and completes the subject area content requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5) and holds an accredited degree or a degree approved by the Department of Education at the level required for the subject area specialization in state board rule.

(c) The department shall issue one nonrenewable 2-year temporary certificate and one nonrenewable 5-year professional certificate to a qualified applicant who holds a bachelor's degree in the area of speech-language impairment to allow for completion of a master's degree program in speech-language impairment.

Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years and is nonrenewable. However, the requirement in paragraph (2)(g) must be met within 1 calendar year of the date of employment under the temporary certificate. Individuals who are employed under contract at the end of the 1 calendar year time period may continue to be employed through the end of the school year in which they have been contracted. A school district shall not employ, or continue the employment of, an individual in a position for which a temporary certificate is required beyond this time period if the individual has not met the requirement of paragraph (2)(g). At least 1 year before an individual's temporary certificate is set to expire, the department shall electronically notify the individual of the date on which his or her certificate will expire and provide a list of each method by which the qualifications for a professional certificate can be completed. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to allow the department to extend the validity period of a temporary certificate for 2 years when the requirements for the professional certificate, not including the requirement in paragraph (2)(g), were not completed due to the serious illness or injury of the applicant, the military service of an applicant's spouse, or other extraordinary extenuating circumstances. The rules must authorize the department to extend the validity period of a temporary certificate ~~or~~ for 1 year if the ~~temporary~~ certificateholder is rated effective or highly effective based solely on a student learning growth formula approved by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to s. 1012.34(8). The department shall reissue the temporary certificate for 2 additional years upon approval by the Commissioner of Education. A written request for reissuance of the certificate shall be submitted by the district school superintendent, the governing authority of a university lab school, the governing authority of a state-supported school, or the governing authority of a private school.

Section 54. Subsection (3) is added to section 1012.59, Florida Statutes, to read:

1012.59 Certification fees.—

(3) The State Board of Education shall waive initial general knowledge, professional education, and subject area examination fees and certification fees for:

(a) A member of the United States Armed Forces or a reserve component thereof who is serving or has served on active duty or the spouse of such a member.

(b) The surviving spouse of a member of the United States Armed Forces or a reserve component thereof who was serving on active duty at the time of death.

(c) An honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces or a veteran of a reserve component thereof who served on active duty and the spouse or surviving spouse of such a veteran.

Section 55. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor March 13, 2018.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 13, 2018.