

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to military and veterans affairs;
3 creating the Military and Overseas Voting Assistance
4 Task Force within the Department of State; specifying
5 membership of the task force; authorizing
6 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses;
7 prescribing duties of the task force; requiring
8 submission of a report to the Governor and the
9 Legislature by a specified date; providing for
10 expiration of the task force; providing for staffing;
11 providing legislative findings regarding continuing
12 education for veterans of the United States Armed
13 Forces; providing legislative intent for the State
14 Board of Education and the Board of Governors of the
15 State University System to work collaboratively to
16 align existing degree programs at state universities
17 and Florida College System institutions, train
18 faculty, incorporate outreach services into existing
19 disability services, facilitate statewide meetings for
20 personnel, and provide sufficient courses and priority
21 registration to veterans; amending s. 322.08, F.S.;
22 requiring the application form for an original,
23 renewal, or replacement driver license or
24 identification card to include an option for veterans
25 to request written or electronic information on local,
26 state, and federal benefits and services available as

27 a result of military service; requiring the Department
28 of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to report monthly
29 to the Department of Veterans' Affairs the names and
30 mailing or e-mail addresses of veterans who request
31 such information; requiring the Department of
32 Veterans' Affairs to provide veteran contact
33 information to a third-party provider and the
34 appropriate county or city veteran service officer;
35 requiring that requested information be delivered by a
36 third-party provider; requiring that the third-party
37 provider be a nonprofit organization; defining the
38 term "nonprofit organization"; specifying that a
39 third-party provider may use veteran contact
40 information only as authorized; prohibiting a third-
41 party provider from selling veteran contact
42 information; requiring a third-party provider to
43 maintain confidentiality of veteran contact
44 information under specified provisions; providing a
45 penalty; directing the Department of Highway Safety
46 and Motor Vehicles to collaborate with the Department
47 of Veterans' Affairs to administer such provisions;
48 providing an effective date.

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

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52 Section 1. Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task

53 Force.—The Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force, a
54 task force as defined in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes, is created
55 within the Department of State. The task force is created for
56 the express purpose of studying issues involving the development
57 and implementation of an online voting system that allows absent
58 uniformed services voters who are overseas to electronically
59 submit voted ballots.

60 (1) The task force is composed of 20 members, as follows:

61 (a) The Secretary of State or his or her designee, who
62 shall serve as chair of the task force.

63 (b) The Adjutant General or his or her designee.

64 (c) The executive director of the Department of Veterans'
65 Affairs or his or her designee.

66 (d) The executive director of the Agency for State
67 Technology or his or her designee.

68 (e) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of
69 the Senate.

70 (f) One member of the House of Representatives appointed
71 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

72 (g) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority
73 Leader of the Senate.

74 (h) One member of the House of Representatives appointed
75 by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

76 (i) One member appointed by the Governor.

77 (j) Six supervisors of elections appointed by the
78 Secretary of State.

79 (k) Five individuals appointed by the Secretary of State,
 80 with relevant expertise in computers, the Internet, or other
 81 associated technologies.

82 (2) Members of the task force shall serve without
 83 compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and
 84 travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

85 (3) The task force, at a minimum, shall study and report
 86 on the following issues:

87 (a) Any factor that limits the ability of absent uniformed
 88 services voters who are overseas to request, receive, and return
 89 absentee ballots within the current statutory time period for
 90 casting absentee ballots.

91 (b) The costs associated with the development and
 92 implementation of an online voting system.

93 (c) The feasibility of absent uniformed services voters
 94 who are overseas using an online voting system to electronically
 95 submit a voted ballot.

96 (d) The security of electronically submitting a voted
 97 ballot through an online voting system.

98 (e) Procedures adopted by other states to facilitate
 99 greater electoral participation among absent uniformed services
 100 voters who are overseas.

101 (4) The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the
 102 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
 103 House of Representatives by July 1, 2017, containing the task
 104 force's recommendation concerning whether the state should

105 pursue the development and implementation of an online voting
106 system that allows absent uniformed services voters who are
107 overseas to electronically submit voted ballots. If the task
108 force favorably recommends an online voting system, the report
109 must include recommended steps for developing and implementing
110 such a system. Upon submission of the report, the task force
111 shall expire.

112 (5) The Division of Elections of the Department of State
113 shall provide support staff for the task force. The Agency for
114 State Technology shall assist the task force upon request.

115 Section 2. The Legislature finds that many veterans of the
116 United States Armed Forces in this state have completed training
117 and coursework during their military service, including overseas
118 deployments, resulting in tangible and quantifiable strides in
119 their pursuit of a postsecondary degree. The Legislature further
120 finds that the State Board of Education and the Board of
121 Governors of the State University System must work together to
122 ensure that military training and coursework are granted
123 academic credit in order to assist veterans in continuing their
124 education. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that
125 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors work
126 collaboratively to:

127 (1) Align existing degree programs, including, but not
128 limited to, vocational and technical degrees, at each state
129 university and Florida College System institution with
130 applicable military training and experience to maximize academic

131 credit awarded for such training and experience.

132 (2) Appoint and train specific faculty within each degree
133 program at each state university and Florida College System
134 institution as liaisons and contacts for veterans.

135 (3) Incorporate outreach services tailored to disabled
136 veterans into existing disability services on the campus of each
137 state university and Florida College System institution to make
138 available to such veterans information on disability services
139 provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,
140 other federal and state agencies, and private entities.

141 (4) Facilitate statewide meetings for personnel at state
142 universities and Florida College System institutions who provide
143 student services for veterans to discuss and develop best
144 practices, exchange ideas and experiences, and attend
145 presentations by individuals with expertise in the unique needs
146 of veterans.

147 (5) Make every effort to provide veterans with sufficient
148 courses required for graduation, including, but not limited to,
149 giving priority registration to veterans.

150 Section 3. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) and subsections
151 (3) and (4) of section 322.08, Florida Statutes, are amended to
152 read:

153 322.08 Application for license; requirements for license
154 and identification card forms.—

155 (2) Each such application shall include the following
156 information regarding the applicant:

157 ~~(c) Each such application may include fingerprints and~~
158 ~~other unique biometric means of identity.~~

159 (3) (a) Each such application may include fingerprints and
160 other unique biometric means of identity.

161 (b) ~~(3)~~ Each such application shall include:

162 1. A consent to release driving record information,
163 entitling the department to request, receive, and exchange such
164 information with other jurisdictions.

165 2. ~~(4)~~ Each such application shall include The option for
166 the applicant to register emergency contact information.

167 3. ~~and~~ The option for an applicant who is a veteran of the
168 United States Armed Forces to be contacted through the United
169 States Postal Service or by e-mail with information about local,
170 state, and federal benefits available as a result of military
171 service.

172 (4) (a) The department shall report monthly to the
173 Department of Veterans' Affairs the name and mailing address or
174 e-mail address of each veteran who requests information pursuant
175 to subparagraph (3) (b) 3. The Department of Veterans' Affairs
176 shall provide the contact information for each such veteran to a
177 third-party provider acting on its behalf and to the appropriate
178 county or city veteran service officer.

179 (b) The requested information shall be delivered to the
180 veteran by a third-party provider selected by the Department of
181 Veterans' Affairs to act on its behalf. The third-party provider
182 must be a nonprofit organization with sufficient ability to

183 communicate with veterans residing throughout this state. For
184 purposes of this subsection, the term "nonprofit organization"
185 means an organization exempt from the federal income tax under
186 s. 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any federal,
187 state, or local governmental entity.

188 (c) The contact information of a veteran obtained by a
189 third-party provider pursuant to this subsection may be used
190 only as authorized by this subsection. The third-party provider
191 may not sell such contact information and, except as otherwise
192 provided, must maintain the confidentiality of the contact
193 information in accordance with chapter 119 and the federal
194 Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, 18 U.S.C. ss. 2721 et
195 seq. A person who willfully and knowingly violates this
196 paragraph commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable
197 as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

198 (d) The department shall collaborate with the Department
199 of Veterans' Affairs to administer this subsection.

200 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.