

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to military affairs; amending s.
3 322.08, F.S.; requiring the application form for an
4 original, renewal, or replacement driver license or
5 identification card to include a voluntary checkoff
6 authorizing veterans to request written or electronic
7 information on federal, state, and local benefits and
8 services for veterans; requiring that the requested
9 information be delivered by a third-party provider;
10 directing the Department of Highway Safety and Motor
11 Vehicles to report veteran contact information to the
12 Department of Veterans' Affairs; directing the
13 Department of Veteran' Affairs to disseminate veteran
14 contact information to county or city veteran service
15 officers and the third-party provider; requiring that
16 the third-party provider be a nonprofit organization;
17 prohibiting a third-party provider from selling
18 veteran contact information; requiring a third-party
19 provider to maintain confidentiality of veteran
20 contact information under specified provisions;
21 providing a penalty; creating the Military and
22 Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force within the
23 Department of State; specifying membership of the task
24 force; authorizing reimbursement for per diem and
25 travel expenses; prescribing duties of the task force;
26 requiring submission of a report to the Governor and

27 the Legislature by a specified date; providing for
28 expiration of the task force; providing for staffing;
29 providing legislative findings regarding continuing
30 education for veterans; providing legislative intent
31 for the State Board of Education and the Board of
32 Governors of the State University System to work
33 collaboratively to align existing degree programs at
34 state universities and Florida College System
35 institutions, train faculty, incorporate outreach
36 services into existing disability services, facilitate
37 statewide meetings for personnel, and provide
38 sufficient courses and priority registration to
39 veterans; providing an effective date.

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

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43 Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 322.08, Florida
44 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (9), and a new subsection
45 (8) is added to that section to read:

46 322.08 Application for license; requirements for license
47 and identification card forms.—

48 (8) (a) To support the carrying out of the duties of the
49 Department of Veterans' Affairs prescribed in s. 292.05 and to
50 facilitate outreach to veterans residing in this state, the
51 application form for an original, renewal, or replacement driver
52 license or identification card must include a voluntary checkoff

53 authorizing a veteran of the United States Armed Forces to
54 request written or electronic information on federal, state, and
55 local benefits and services available to veterans. The veteran
56 may elect to receive requested information through United States
57 mail or by e-mail. The requested information shall be delivered
58 to the veteran by any third-party provider selected by the
59 Department of Veterans' Affairs to act on its behalf.

60 (b) The department shall collaborate with the Department
61 of Veterans' Affairs to administer this subsection. The
62 department shall report monthly to the Department of Veterans'
63 Affairs the name and mailing address or e-mail address of each
64 veteran who requests information as provided in paragraph (a).
65 Following receipt of the monthly report, the Department of
66 Veterans' Affairs shall disseminate the contact information for
67 each such veteran to the third-party provider acting on its
68 behalf. The third-party provider must be a nonprofit
69 organization with sufficient ability to communicate with
70 veterans residing throughout this state. For purposes of this
71 paragraph, the term "nonprofit organization" means an
72 organization exempt from the federal income tax under s. 501 of
73 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any federal, state, or
74 local governmental entity.

75 (c) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (b), the
76 Department of Veterans' Affairs shall disseminate the contact
77 information for a veteran who selects the voluntary checkoff to
78 the appropriate county or city veteran service officer in order

79 to facilitate further outreach to veterans.

80 (d)1. The contact information of a veteran which is
81 obtained by a third-party provider pursuant to this subsection
82 may be used only as authorized by this subsection. The third-
83 party provider may not sell such contact information. Except as
84 otherwise provided, the third-party provider must maintain the
85 confidentiality of the contact information in accordance with
86 chapter 119 and the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of
87 1994, 18 U.S.C. ss. 2721 et seq.

88 2. A person who willfully and knowingly violates this
89 paragraph commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable
90 as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

91 Section 2. Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task
92 Force.—The Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force, a
93 task force as defined in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes, is created
94 within the Department of State. The task force is created for
95 the express purpose of studying issues involving the development
96 and implementation of an online voting system that allows absent
97 uniformed services voters to electronically submit voted
98 ballots.

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

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

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

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

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

107 (e) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of
108 the Senate.

109 (f) One member of the House of Representatives appointed
110 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

111 (g) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority
112 Leader of the Senate.

113 (h) One member of the House of Representatives appointed
114 by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

115 (i) One member appointed by the Governor.

116 (j) Six supervisors of elections appointed by the
117 Secretary of State.

118 (k) Five individuals appointed by the Secretary of State,
119 with relevant expertise in computers, the Internet, or other
120 associated technologies.

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

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

126 (a) Any factor that limits the ability of absent uniformed
127 services voters to request, receive, and return absentee ballots
128 within the current statutory time period for casting absentee
129 ballots.

130 (b) The costs associated with the development and

131 implementation of an online voting system.

132 (c) The feasibility of absent uniformed services voters
133 using an online voting system to electronically submit a voted
134 ballot.

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

137 (e) Procedures adopted by other states to facilitate
138 greater electoral participation among absent uniformed services
139 voters.

140 (4) The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the
141 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
142 House of Representatives by July 1, 2016, containing the task
143 force's recommendation concerning whether the state should
144 pursue the development and implementation of an online voting
145 system that allows absent uniformed services voters to
146 electronically submit voted ballots. If the task force favorably
147 recommends an online voting system, the report must include
148 recommended steps for developing and implementing such a system.
149 Upon submission of the report, the task force shall expire.

150 (5) The Division of Elections of the Department of State
151 shall provide support staff for the task force. The Agency for
152 State Technology shall assist the task force upon request.

153 Section 3. The Legislature finds that many veterans of the
154 United States Armed Forces in this state have completed training
155 and coursework during their military service, including overseas
156 deployments, resulting in tangible and quantifiable strides in

157 | their pursuit of a postsecondary degree. The Legislature further
158 | finds that the State Board of Education and the Board of
159 | Governors of the State University System must work together to
160 | ensure that military training and coursework are granted
161 | academic credit in order to assist veterans in continuing their
162 | education. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that
163 | the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors work
164 | collaboratively to:

165 | (1) Align existing degree programs, including, but not
166 | limited to, vocational and technical degrees, at each state
167 | university and Florida College System institution with
168 | applicable military training and experience to maximize academic
169 | credit award for such training and experience.

170 | (2) Appoint and train specific faculty within each degree
171 | program at each state university and Florida College System
172 | institution as liaisons and contacts for veterans.

173 | (3) Incorporate outreach services tailored to disabled
174 | veterans into existing disability services on the campus of each
175 | state university and Florida College System institution to make
176 | available to such veterans information on disability services
177 | provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,
178 | other federal and state agencies, and private entities.

179 | (4) Facilitate statewide meetings for personnel at state
180 | universities and Florida College System institutions who provide
181 | student services for veterans to discuss and develop best
182 | practices, exchange ideas and experiences, and attend

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183 presentations by individuals with expertise in the unique needs
184 of veterans.

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

188 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.