

HB 663

2011

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to state forests; amending s. 589.19,
3 F.S.; requiring the designation of "Wounded Warrior
4 Special Hunt Areas" within state forests; limiting guest
5 admittance to such areas for eligible veterans and certain
6 persons; authorizing the Division of Forestry of the
7 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to expend
8 funds received from private sources for specified purposes
9 and adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Subsection (4) is added to section 589.19,
14 Florida Statutes, to read:

15 589.19 Creation of certain state forests; naming of
16 certain state forests.—

17 (4) (a) The Division of Forestry shall designate one or
18 more areas of state forests as a "Wounded Warrior Special Hunt
19 Area" to honor wounded veterans of the United States Armed
20 Forces. The purpose of such designated areas is to provide
21 special outdoor recreational opportunities for eligible
22 veterans.

23 (b) The division shall limit guest admittance to such
24 designated areas to persons who:

25 1. Are veterans who served during a period of wartime
26 service as defined in s. 1.01(14) or peacetime service as
27 defined in s. 296.02; and

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28 2. Have a service-connected disability as determined by
29 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or were
30 discharged or released from military service because of a
31 disability acquired or aggravated while serving on active duty.

32 (c) The division may grant admittance to such designated
33 areas to a person who is not an eligible veteran for purposes of
34 accompanying an eligible veteran who requires the person's
35 assistance to use such designated areas.

36 (d) The division may receive, administer, and expend any
37 gift, grant, or donation to fund specialized accommodations for
38 such designated areas from any private source, including, but
39 not limited to, Friends of Florida State Forests, Inc.

40 (e) The division may adopt rules to administer this
41 subsection.

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