

CS/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; requiring that funding for specialized  
7       accommodations be provided through specified sources;  
8       authorizing the Division of Forestry of the Department of  
9       Agriculture and Consumer Services to adopt rules;  
10      providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37        (d) Funding required for specialized accommodations shall  
38 be provided through the Friends of Florida State Forests Program  
39 created under s. 589.012.

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

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