



Veteran & Military Affairs Subcommittee

Tuesday, November 5, 2013
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
12 HOB

Meeting Packet

Will Weatherford
Speaker

Ronald Renuart
Chair



The Florida House of Representatives

Veterans & Military Affairs Subcommittee

Will Weatherford
Speaker

Ronald Renuart
Chair

Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, November 5, 2013
Room 12, House Office Building
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

- I. Call to Order**

- II. Roll Call**

- III. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- IV. Presentations**
 - a. Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs 2014 Legislative Proposals**

- V. Adjournment**

**FL. Dept. of Veterans' Affairs
2014 Legislative Proposals**

**Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs
2014 Legislative Proposals**

Issue	Current Situation	Proposed Change	Statute	Fiscal Impact
<p>In-state Tuition for Veterans (FDVA Proposal)</p>	<p>Current Florida law extends automatic in-state residency status for tuition purposes to active duty military service members residing or stationed in Florida, their spouses, and their dependents, as well as to active drilling members of the Florida National Guard.</p> <p>However, veterans are not on the list of those receiving automatic in-state residency status, and as a result, must wait one year to establish residency, or must pay the out-of-state tuition rate.</p>	<p>Amend Florida law to extend automatic in-state residency status for tuition purposes to veterans.</p>	<p>s. 1009.21</p>	<p>A veteran receiving automatic in-state residency status for tuition purposes may save as much as \$15,000 or more, which is typically the difference between the in-state tuition rate and the out-of-state tuition rate at a State University System institution (undergraduate).</p> <p>The proposal will have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the State University System (SUS) and the Florida College System (FCS). Figures provided by both the SUS and the FCS assume that everyone that qualifies for the benefit will take advantage of it. The figures also assume each person will take a full 30 credit hour course load. Based off of these assumptions, and the latest tuition and enrollment data, the fiscal impact has been assumed to be (\$13.6M) to the SUS and (\$8.1M) to the FCS.</p>

**Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs
2014 Legislative Proposals**

Issue	Current Situation	Proposed Change	Statute	Fiscal Impact
Veterans' Preference in Employment (FDVA Proposal)	<p>Currently, veterans' preference in employment only applies to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). A veteran with a service-connected disability; 2). The spouse of a veteran with a permanent and total service-connected disability that prevents the veteran from qualifying for employment; 3). The spouse of a military service member that is missing in action, was captured in the line of duty by a hostile force, or forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power; 4). The unmarried widow or widower of a veteran who died as a result of a service connected disability; 5). A wartime veteran who was honorably discharged. <p>A person must be a Florida resident in order to be eligible for veterans' preference.</p> <p>While the current veterans' preference process has been instrumental in helping veterans find meaningful employment in the state, many veterans are excluded from the process.</p>	<p>Amend the veterans' preference in employment statutes to include all veterans (not just wartime or disabled veterans), Florida National Guard members, Gold Star Mothers, and non-resident veterans who wish to move to Florida.</p> <p>Clarify agency responsibility to ensure that veterans' preference requirements are followed at each step of the employment process.</p>	<p>ss. 295.07, 295.08, 295.085</p>	<p>None.</p>
Veterans' Home Residency Requirement (FDVA Proposal)	<p>Admission into a state veterans' home requires an eligible veteran to have been a Florida resident for at least one year.</p>	<p>Amend the admission criteria to retain the residency requirement, but remove the one year waiting period.</p>	<p>ss. 296.06, 296.36</p>	<p>None.</p>
Veterans' Walk of Honor and Memorial Garden (FDVA Proposal)	<p>The Florida Veterans Foundation is the FDVA's direct support organization. The Foundation relies on public donations to fund programs that benefit veterans and their families. The Foundation is seeking authority to raise additional funds in an effort to further its mission.</p>	<p>Authorize the Foundation to establish a recurring funding stream through the sale of memorial bricks to construct a Veterans' Walk of Honor;</p> <p>Authorize the construction of a Veterans' Memorial Garden.</p>	<p>Create s. 265.004</p>	<p>None.</p>

**Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs
2014 Legislative Proposals**

Issue	Current Situation	Proposed Change	Statute	Fiscal Impact
Educational Dollars for Duty Program (EDD)	The Florida National Guard (FNG) provides up to 100 percent tuition assistance for eligible FNG members as part of the Educational Dollars for Duty (EDD) program.	Allow eligible Florida National Guard members to continue to pursue their educational goals by authorizing online courses offered by a state preeminent research university for the EDD program.	s. 250.10(7)	Indeterminate.
Extracurricular Opportunities for Transitioning Military Children (Interstate Compact)	Florida has adopted the Interstate Compact to address educational transition issues faced by military families. These issues include school placement, enrollment, records transfer, graduation requirements, etc. The Interstate Compact also leaves it up to states to facilitate the opportunity for the inclusion of military children in extracurricular activities to the extent they are otherwise qualified, regardless of application deadlines. This is done at the school district level.	Clarify existing Florida law to allow the children of transitioning military families to participate in extracurricular activities, regardless of application deadlines, to the extent they are otherwise eligible.	s. 1003.05	None.
Non-Resident DL Exemption	Florida law exempts active duty military service members stationed in Florida from the requirement that they obtain a FL DL upon moving to Florida. However, there is no exemption for the servicemember's spouse or dependent child.	Amend Florida law to extend the current law exemption to the service member's spouse and dependent child.	ss. 322.031, 322.121	Indeterminate.