



Veteran & Military Affairs Subcommittee

Monday, March 24, 2014
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
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
Monday, March 24, 2014
Room 12, House Office Building
01:30 p.m. – 02:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order**

- II. Roll Call**

- III. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- IV. Presentations**
 - a. Florida Defense Support Task Force Staff**

- V. HB 677 – County and Municipal Parks**

- VI. Adjournment**



FLORIDA DEFENSE SUPPORT TF DOD BUDGET/BRAC 2017

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

MARCH 24, 2014



DOD Budget



- Presidential FY 15 Budget - \$495.6 B
- Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative (OGS) - \$26.4 B - Revenue dependent!
- Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) – 79.4 B – Place holder pending Afghanistan residual size
- Sequestration – Partial now, but in law to resume full scope in 2016
- Continuing Resolution – Almost certain this fall

BRAC 2017



- **History**
 - Five previous BRACs – 1988, 1991, 1993, 1995, 2005.
 - Florida significantly impacted negatively in 1993, and positively in 2005.
- **DOD FY 15 budget includes call for BRAC 2017**
 - Congressional reaction very negative
- **Other SecDef Authority – Title 10, Section 2687 – Action with congressional notification.**

Below the radar BRAC

- DoD budget cuts and sequestration driving continued defense force structure, weapons systems programs, and readiness reductions.
- Florida preparedness actions – Protect and Enhance
 - SWOT analysis of all major bases completed in 2012.
 - Advocacy team – The Principi Group
 - Addressing base risks and opportunities
 - Maintaining awareness of Military Service actions due to budget reductions.
 - Continual interaction with Congressional Delegation and Florida DC federal affairs office.

Summary



- Congress unlikely right now to authorize BRAC 2017
- DOD Budget reductions likely to continue
- Florida well ahead in awareness and preparations



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 677 County and Municipal Parks
SPONSOR(S): Rangel
TIED BILLS: IDEN./SIM. **BILLS:** CS/CS/SB 378

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Veteran & Military Affairs Subcommittee		Dugan RD	Kiner KCK
2) Local & Federal Affairs Committee			
3) Economic Affairs Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

House Bill 677 requires county and municipal parks to provide a full or partial discount on park entrance fees to certain active-duty military servicemembers and honorably discharged veterans. Certain family members of servicemembers who have died during combat are included, as are the surviving spouse or parent of a law enforcement officer or firefighter who has died while in the line of duty. Florida residency is not required.

While current state law requires state parks to offer a full or partial discount on annual entrance passes to these same individuals, there is no requirement at the county or municipal level.

Under the bill, a county or municipal park will be required to provide the following discounts to the following individuals:

- **25 percent discount:**
 - an active-duty military servicemember; or
 - an honorably discharged, non-service disabled, veteran of the United States Armed Forces, United States Reserve Forces, or the National Guard.
- **Lifetime family entrance pass (no charge):**
 - an honorably discharged veteran with a service-connected disability;
 - the surviving spouse or parent of a member of the United States Armed Forces, United States Reserve Forces or National Guard who has fallen in combat; or
 - the surviving spouse or parent of a law enforcement officer or firefighter who has died while in the line of duty.

While county and municipal parks may currently provide a full or partial discount on park entrance fees to these individuals, there may be a benefit from the uniformity that a state law would provide.

Article VII, section 18(b) of the Florida Constitution requires any general law that reduces a local government's authority to raise revenues in the aggregate to be passed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature. However, Article VII, section 18(d) of the Florida Constitution provides an exemption from the two-thirds requirement for any general law that has an insignificant fiscal impact.

On Friday, March 14, 2014, the Revenue Estimating Impact Conference estimated that the provisions of this bill would have an indeterminate, but likely insignificant fiscal impact on city and county government.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2014.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation

Military and Veteran Presence in Florida

Florida is home to over 61,000 active-duty military servicemembers, over 35,000 Reservists, and over 1.5 million veterans.¹ Approximately 272,000 of Florida's 1.5 million plus veterans are service-disabled.²

The Florida National Guard (Guard) has nearly 12,000 members, with 9,900 National Guard personnel and 2,000 Air National Guard personnel.³

Florida State Park System

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), through its Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP), oversees Florida's 161 state parks, 10 state trails, nearly 800,000 acres, and 100 miles of beaches.⁴ Florida state parks and trails welcomed more than 25 million visitors during the 2012-2013 fiscal year.⁵ During this same time period, Florida state parks and trails generated over \$55 million in revenue and had a direct economic impact of over \$1 billion on local economies throughout the state.⁶

To administer, improve, and maintain Florida state parks and trails, the DRP charges reasonable fees for the use or operation of park and trail facilities.⁷ Typically, these fees are categorized as entrance fees and activity fees, although other fees may be charged in some cases.⁸ Daily entrance fees are typically charged per vehicle and range from \$4.00-\$6.00 for a single-occupant vehicle (or motorcycle admission) to \$5.00-\$10.00 for vehicles with two to eight occupants.⁹

Annual entrance passes are also available.¹⁰ The regular price for an annual entrance pass is \$60 for an individual and \$120 for a family.¹¹ An active-duty military servicemember or honorably discharged veteran is eligible for a 25-percent discount on an annual entrance pass, and as a result, would only pay \$45 for an individual entrance pass or \$90 for a family entrance pass.

¹ FDVA, Annual Report Fiscal Year 2012-13, Facts and Figures.

² U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, Annual Benefits Report, Fiscal Year 2012, Appendix E11, available at: <http://www.vba.va.gov/REPORTS/abr/> (Last viewed March 20, 2014).

³ Florida National Guard website, available at: http://www.floridaguard.army.mil/?page_id=7 (Last viewed March 20, 2014).

⁴ Florida State Parks website, available at: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/resources/aboutus.cfm> (Last viewed March 20, 2014).

⁵ Id.

⁶ Id. 'Direct economic impact' is defined as "the amount of new dollars spend in the local economy by non-local park visitors and by park operations funds spent in the local economy.

⁷ s. 258.0145, F.S.

⁸ A county surcharge is an example of an "other fee." Florida State Parks website, "Fees," available at: <http://www.floridastateparks.org/thingsstoknow/fees.cfm#activity> (Last viewed March 20, 2014).

⁹ Id. Entrance fees include all state and local taxes.

¹⁰ Id.

¹¹ Id.

State Park Entrance Fee Discounts: FY 2012-2013		
Discount Type	Number Issued	Value
Individual Entrance Pass (25% discount: active-duty servicemembers and veterans)	1,115	\$16,725
Family Annual Entrance Pass (25% discount: active-duty servicemembers and veterans)	3,200	\$96,000
Lifetime Family Annual Entrance Pass (Full discount: disabled veterans; the spouse and parents of a fallen military servicemember, law enforcement officer, or firefighter)	14,381	\$1,725,720
Total for FY 2012-2013	18,696	\$1,838,445

County and Municipal Parks

According to the Florida Recreation & Park Association, there are approximately 250 county and municipal parks and recreation agencies in Florida; most of them do not charge entrance fees.

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill requires county and municipal parks to provide a full or partial discount on park entrance fees to the following individuals:

- **25 percent discount:**
 - an active-duty military servicemember; or
 - an honorably discharged, non-service disabled, veteran of the United States Armed Forces, United States Reserve Forces, or the National Guard.
- **Lifetime family entrance pass (no charge):**
 - an honorably discharged veteran with a service-connected disability¹²;
 - the surviving spouse or parent of a member of the United States Armed Forces, United States Reserve Forces or National Guard who has fallen in combat; or
 - the surviving spouse or parent of a law enforcement officer or firefighter who has died while in the line of duty.

In order to take advantage of the applicable discount, a park visitor must present written documentation which evidences his or her eligibility. Typically, sufficient written documentation for an active-duty servicemember may include a current, valid military identification card; for an honorably discharged veteran, sufficient written documentation may include a copy of the veteran's separation from service documents. Florida residency is not required.

While county and municipal parks may currently provide a full or partial discount on park entrance fees to these individuals, there may be a benefit from the uniformity that a state law would provide.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2014.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Creates s. 125.028, F.S., to require a county department of parks and recreation to provide entrance fee discounts at county parks to military servicemembers, veterans, and certain family members of deceased military servicemembers, law enforcement officers, and firefighters.

¹² A disability is determined to be service-connected if the disability was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military service. See 38 U.S.C. s. 101(16).

Section 2: Creates s. 166.0447, F.S., to require a municipal department of parks and recreation to provide entrance fee discounts at municipal parks to military servicemembers, veterans, and certain family members of deceased military servicemembers, law enforcement officers, and firefighters.

Section 3: Provides an effective date.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

To the extent that county and municipal parks charge park entrance fees at all, county and municipal parks may experience a decrease in revenue generated from park entrance fees.

However, publicity generated from the implementation of the bill's provisions may lead to an increase in revenue.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Park fee discounts at county and municipal parks will be available to certain active-duty military servicemembers and honorably discharged veterans, as well as certain family members of servicemembers who have died during combat are included, as are the surviving spouse or parent of a law enforcement officer or firefighter who has died while in the line of duty.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Article VII, section 18(b) of the Florida Constitution requires any general law that reduces a local government's authority to raise revenues in the aggregate to be passed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature. However, Article VII, section 18(d) of the Florida Constitution provides an exemption from the two-thirds requirement for any general law that has an insignificant fiscal impact.

On Friday, March 14, 2014, the Revenue Estimating Impact Conference estimated that the provisions of this bill would have an indeterminate, but likely insignificant fiscal impact on city and county government.

2. Other:

Not Applicable.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to county and municipal parks;
 3 creating ss. 125.028 and 166.0447, F.S.; requiring
 4 counties and municipalities to provide discounts on
 5 public park entrance fees to military members,
 6 veterans, and the spouses and parents of certain
 7 deceased military members, law enforcement officers,
 8 and firefighters; providing an effective date.

9
 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11
 12 Section 1. Section 125.028, Florida Statutes, is created
 13 to read:

14 125.028 Military, law enforcement, and firefighter county
 15 park fee discounts.—A county department of parks and recreation
 16 shall provide the following discounts on park fees to a person
 17 who presents written documentation satisfactory to the county
 18 department which evidences his or her eligibility for the
 19 following discounts or fee waivers:

20 (1) An active duty member and an honorably discharged
 21 veteran of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard, or
 22 reserve components thereof shall receive a 25 percent discount
 23 on annual entrance passes.

24 (2) An honorably discharged veteran who has service-
 25 connected disabilities shall receive lifetime family annual
 26 entrance passes at no charge.

27 (3) A surviving spouse or parent of a deceased member of
 28 the United States Armed Forces, National Guard, or reserve
 29 components thereof who has fallen in combat shall receive
 30 lifetime family annual entrance passes at no charge.

31 (4) A surviving spouse or parent of a law enforcement
 32 officer, as defined in s. 943.10(1), or a firefighter, as
 33 defined in s. 633.102, who has died in the line of duty shall
 34 receive lifetime family annual entrance passes at no charge.

35 Section 2. Section 166.0447, Florida Statutes, is created
 36 to read:

37 166.0447 Military, law enforcement, and firefighter
 38 municipal park fee discounts.—A municipal department of parks
 39 and recreation shall provide the following discounts on park
 40 fees to a person who presents written documentation satisfactory
 41 to the municipal department which evidences his or her
 42 eligibility for the following discounts or fee waivers:

43 (1) An active duty member and an honorably discharged
 44 veteran of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard, or
 45 reserve components thereof shall receive a 25 percent discount
 46 on annual entrance passes.

47 (2) An honorably discharged veteran who has service-
 48 connected disabilities shall receive lifetime family annual
 49 entrance passes at no charge.

50 (3) A surviving spouse or parent of a deceased member of
 51 the United States Armed Forces, National Guard, or reserve
 52 components thereof who has fallen in combat shall receive

HB 677

2014

53 lifetime family annual entrance passes at no charge.

54 (4) A surviving spouse or parent of a law enforcement
55 officer, as defined in s. 943.10(1), or a firefighter, as
56 defined in s. 633.102, who has died in the line of duty shall
57 receive lifetime family annual entrance passes at no charge.

58 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.



Amendment No.

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	___	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	___	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	___	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	___	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	___	(Y/N)
OTHER	_____	

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Veteran & Military Affairs
2 Subcommittee

3 Representative Rangel offered the following:

4
5 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

6 Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

7 Section 1. Section 125.028, Florida Statutes, is created
8 to read:

9 125.028 Military, law enforcement, and firefighter county
10 park fee discounts.-

11 (1) A county park or recreation department shall provide a
12 partial or a full discount on park entrance fees to the
13 following individuals who present written documentation
14 satisfactory to the county department which evidences
15 eligibility for the discount:

16 (a) A current member of the United States Armed Forces or
17 its reserve components, or the National Guard.



Amendment No.

18 (b) An honorably discharged veteran of the United States
19 Armed Forces or its reserve components, or the National Guard.

20 (c) An honorably discharged veteran of the United States
21 Armed Forces or its reserve components, or the National Guard,
22 who has a service-connected disability as determined by the
23 United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

24 (d) A surviving spouse or parent of a deceased member of
25 the United States Armed Forces or its reserve components, or the
26 National Guard, who died in the line of duty under combat-
27 related conditions.

28 (e) A surviving spouse or parent of a law enforcement
29 officer, as defined in s. 943.10(1), or a firefighter, as
30 defined in s. 633.102, who died in the line of duty.

31 (2) As used in this section, the term "park entrance fee"
32 means a fee charged to access lands managed by a county park or
33 recreation department. The term does not include expanded
34 amenity fees for amenities such as, campgrounds, aquatic
35 facilities, stadiums or arenas, facility rentals, special
36 events, boat launching, golf, zoos, museums, gardens, or
37 programs taking place within public lands.

38 Section 2. Section 166.0447, Florida Statutes, is created
39 to read:

40 166.0447 Military, law enforcement, and firefighter
41 municipal park fee discounts.-

42 (1) A municipal park or recreation department shall
43 provide a partial or a full discount on park entrance fees to



Amendment No.

44 the following individuals who present written documentation
45 satisfactory to the municipal department which evidences
46 eligibility for the discount:

47 (a) A current member of the United States Armed Forces or
48 its reserve components, or the National Guard.

49 (b) An honorably discharged veteran of the United States
50 Armed Forces or its reserve components, or the National Guard.

51 (c) An honorably discharged veteran of the United States
52 Armed Forces or its reserve components, or the National Guard,
53 who has a service-connected disability as determined by the
54 United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

55 (d) A surviving spouse or parent of a deceased member of
56 the United States Armed Forces or its reserve components, or the
57 National Guard, who died in the line of duty under combat-
58 related conditions.

59 (e) A surviving spouse or parent of a law enforcement
60 officer, as defined in s. 943.10(1), or a firefighter, as
61 defined in s. 633.102, who died in the line of duty.

62 (2) As used in this section, the term "park entrance fee"
63 means a fee charged to access lands managed by a municipal park
64 or recreation department. The term does not include expanded
65 amenity fees for amenities such as, campgrounds, aquatic
66 facilities, stadiums or arenas, facility rentals, special
67 events, boat launching, golf, zoos, museums, gardens, or
68 programs taking place within public lands.

69 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.



Amendment No.

70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78

T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

Remove line 8 and insert:
and firefighters; defining the term "park entrance fee" and
providing certain exclusions; providing an effective date.

