

**The Florida Senate**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**  
**MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, SPACE, AND**  
**DOMESTIC SECURITY**  
**Senator Altman, Chair**  
**Senator Gibson, Vice Chair**

**MEETING DATE:** Monday, March 23, 2015  
**TIME:** 3:00 —3:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** *Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Office Building*

**MEMBERS:** Senator Altman, Chair; Senator Gibson, Vice Chair; Senators Evers, Sachs, and Stargel

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	<b>SM 1422</b> Abruzzo (Similar HM 1285)	Iran/Economic Sanctions; Urging Congress and the President of the United States to pass and enact new economic sanctions against Iran should that nation be found to be in violation of the Joint Plan of Action or fail to reach an acceptable agreement by the dates set forth in the November 2014 extension of the Joint Plan of Action, etc.  MS     03/23/2015 Favorable GO RC	Favorable Yeas 5 Nays 0
2	<b>SB 1430</b> Abruzzo (Similar CS/H 721, H 1095)	Discounts on Public Park Entrance Fees and Transportation Fares; Requiring counties to provide a partial or a full discount on park entrance fees to military members, veterans, and the spouse and parents of certain deceased military members, law enforcement officers, and firefighters; requiring regional transportation authorities to provide a partial or a full discount on fares and on other charges for certain disabled veterans; requiring municipalities to provide a partial or a full discount on park entrance fees to military members, veterans, and the spouse and parents of certain deceased military members, law enforcement officers, and firefighters, etc.  MS     03/23/2015 Favorable CA FP	Favorable Yeas 5 Nays 0

Other Related Meeting Documents

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

---

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

---

BILL: SM 1422

INTRODUCER: Senator Abruzzo

SUBJECT: Iran/Economic Sanctions

DATE: March 20, 2015

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Sanders</u>	<u>Ryon</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>GO</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	<u>RC</u>	_____

---

**I. Summary:**

SM 1422 urges the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States to pass and enact new economic sanctions against Iran should that nation be found to be in violation of the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA) or fail to reach an acceptable agreement by the dates set forth in the November 2014 extension of the JPOA.

**II. Present Situation:**

In a 2006 resolution, the United Nations Security Council<sup>1</sup> (Security Council) noted with serious concern that Iran's nuclear program could have a military nuclear dimension.<sup>2</sup> The Security Council also noted that the International Atomic Energy Association<sup>3</sup> (IAEA) has been unable to conclude that there are no undeclared nuclear materials or activities in Iran.<sup>4</sup> Since then the Security Council has published eight additional resolutions determining that Iran's proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as their means of delivery, continued to constitute a threat to international peace and security.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> The United Nations Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The council also takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. The Security Council is composed of 5 permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Security Council, *Resolution 1696*, 1 (2006), [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1696\(2006\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1696(2006)) (last visited March 19, 2015).

<sup>3</sup> The International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) was established in 1957 as the world's center for cooperation in the nuclear field, the IAEA works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Security Council, *Resolution 1696*, 1 (2006), [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1696\(2006\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1696(2006)) (last visited March 19, 2015).

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Security Council, *Resolution 2159*, 1 (2014), [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2159%20\(2014\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2159%20(2014)) (last visited March 19, 2015).

In an effort to perpetuate diplomatic negotiations, the five permanent members<sup>6</sup> of the Security Council (known as the P5) in partnership with Germany convened to negotiate an agreement with Iran to prevent the development of nuclear weapons in Iran. An initial agreement was reached in November 2013 that outlined measures to be taken by all parties within a six month time frame. This initial agreement called for the P5+1<sup>7</sup> and Iran to also finalize within six months a mutually-agreed upon long-term comprehensive solution that would ensure Iran's nuclear program will be exclusively peaceful.<sup>8</sup>

### **Joint Plan of Action**

On November 24, 2013, the P5+1 and Iran formalized their agreement by signing the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA). The JPOA is an interim agreement and is the first step towards a long-term solution to stop the advance of Iran's nuclear program. Both the P5+1 and Iran are held to a series of voluntary measures for a duration of six months with the option to extend the JPOA, if necessary.<sup>9</sup> The JPOA has since been renewed and extended twice, first on July 19, 2014 and again on November 24, 2014.<sup>10</sup>

### ***Voluntary Measures Committed to by Iran***

As part of the JPOA, Iran agreed to implement the following measures beginning January 20, 2014:<sup>11</sup>

- Halt production of enriched uranium<sup>12</sup> and disable the centrifuges<sup>13</sup> used to produce the material;
- Dilute and reduce the enriched uranium stockpile;
- Limit safeguarded research and development;
- Provide access for the IAEA to verify compliance on the technical understandings of the JPOA;
- Be transparent about its nuclear program by allowing access to its facilities, equipment, surveillance information, and other infrastructure; and
- Permit IAEA inspectors to conduct scheduled and unannounced inspections.<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> United States, United Kingdom, Russia, China, and France

<sup>7</sup> Germany is recognized as an additional partner (“+1”) for the P5 in diplomatic negotiations with Iran.

<sup>8</sup> European Union, European External Action Service, *Joint Plan of Action* (2013).

[http://eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2013/131124\\_03\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2013/131124_03_en.pdf) (last visited March 19, 2015).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> United States Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control, *Frequently Asked Questions Relating to the Extension of Temporary Sanctions Relief through June 30, 2015, to Implement the Joint Plan of Action between the P5 + 1 and the Islamic Republic of Iran*, [http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/jpoa\\_ext\\_faq\\_11252014.pdf](http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/jpoa_ext_faq_11252014.pdf) (last visited March 19, 2015).

<sup>11</sup> The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, *Summary of Technical Understandings Related to the Implementation of the Joint Plan of Action on the Islamic Republic of Iran's Nuclear Program*, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/01/16/summary-technical-understandings-related-implementation-joint-plan-actio> (last visited March 19, 2015).

<sup>12</sup> Uranium enrichment is one of the key steps in building nuclear weapons.

<sup>13</sup> A centrifuge is a device that applies rotational force to a material in order to separate particles by density. The widest use of centrifuges is for the concentration and purification of materials. See Centrifuge. In *Encyclopedia Britannica*. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/102850/centrifuge> (last visited March 19, 2015).

<sup>14</sup> The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, *Summary of Technical Understandings Related to the Implementation of the Joint Plan of Action on the Islamic Republic of Iran's Nuclear Program*, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/01/16/summary-technical-understandings-related-implementation-joint-plan-actio> (last visited March 19, 2015).

### ***Voluntary Measures Committed to by the P5+1***

In order to continue negotiations, the P5+1 agreed to temporarily suspend the following sanctions involving Iran's:

- Purchase and sale of gold and other precious metals;
- Export of petrochemical products;
- Automotive industry; and
- Certain associated services regarding each of the foregoing.<sup>15</sup>

Additionally, the P5+1 committed to:

- Establish financial channels to facilitate Iran's import of certain humanitarian goods to Iran;
- Payment of medical expenses incurred by Iranians abroad;
- Payment of Iran's UN obligations;
- Payment of \$400 million in governmental tuition assistance for Iranian students studying abroad;
- License certain transactions related to the safety of Iran's civil aviation industry;
- Pause efforts to further reduce Iran's crude oil exports; and
- Enable Iran to access \$4.2 billion in Restricted Funds<sup>16, 17</sup>.

These voluntary measures may be revoked at any time should Iran fail to comply with the JPOA.<sup>18</sup>

### **International Atomic Energy Association**

The International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) is designated by the United Nations' Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)<sup>19</sup> as the authority responsible for the implementation of a safeguards system intended to prevent the diversion of nuclear material for weapons use.<sup>20</sup> The IAEA has been the authority on nuclear inspections since the inception of the NPT in 1968.

---

<sup>15</sup> United States Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control, *Frequently Asked Questions Relating to the Extension of Temporary Sanctions Relief through June 30, 2015, to Implement the Joint Plan of Action between the P5 + 1 and the Islamic Republic of Iran*, [http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/jpoa\\_ext\\_faq\\_11252014.pdf](http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/jpoa_ext_faq_11252014.pdf) (last visited March 19, 2015).

<sup>16</sup> The term "Restricted Funds" refers to: any existing and future revenues from the sale of Iranian petroleum or petroleum products, wherever they may be held, and any Central Bank of Iran (CBI) funds, with certain exceptions for non-petroleum CBI funds held at a foreign country's central bank.

<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

<sup>18</sup> European Union, European External Action Service, *Joint Plan of Action* (2013).

[http://eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2013/131124\\_03\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/statements/docs/2013/131124_03_en.pdf) (last visited March 19, 2015).

<sup>19</sup> The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is a binding, multilateral treaty to the goal of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to achieve nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement.

<sup>20</sup> United National Office for Disarmament Affairs, *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)*, UN.org, <http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/NPT.shtml> (last visited March 19, 2015).

As member states of the United Nations, the P5+1 and Iran delegated the IAEA as the investigative authority for determining Iran's compliance with the provisions of the JPOA. The IAEA is tasked to verify that Iran:

- Is not enriching uranium in centrifuges at its major nuclear facilities;
- Limits its centrifuge production to those needed to replace damaged machines, so Iran cannot stockpile centrifuges;
- Does not construct additional enrichment facilities;
- Does not go beyond its current enrichment research and development practices;
- Does not operate, produce or test fuel, install additional components, or transfer material to the Arak<sup>21</sup> reactor; and
- Does not construct a facility capable of reprocessing<sup>22, 23</sup>.

The IAEA remains concerned about the possible existence in Iran of undisclosed nuclear-related activities involving military-related organizations, including activities related to the development of a nuclear payload for a missile.<sup>24</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The memorial urges the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States to pass and enact new economic sanctions against Iran should that nation be found to be in violation of the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA) or fail to reach an acceptable agreement by the dates set forth in the November 2014 extension of the JPOA.

Copies of this memorial will be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

### IV. Constitutional Issues:

#### A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

#### B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

---

<sup>21</sup> The Arak complex is host to a water production plant and the IR-40 heavy water reactor, which remains under construction.

<sup>22</sup> Reprocessing is a series of chemical operations that separates plutonium and uranium from other nuclear waste contained in the used (or "spent") fuel from nuclear power reactors. The separated plutonium can be used to fuel reactors, but also to make nuclear weapons.

<sup>23</sup> The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, *Summary of Technical Understandings Related to the Implementation of the Joint Plan of Action on the Islamic Republic of Iran's Nuclear Program*, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/01/16/summary-technical-understandings-related-implementation-joint-plan-actio> (last visited March 19, 2015).

<sup>24</sup> Iran is required to cooperate fully with the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) on all outstanding issues, particularly those which give rise to concerns about the possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear program, including by providing access without delay to all sites, equipment, persons and documents requested by the IAEA. See United Nations Security Council resolution 1929, [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1929\(2010\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1929(2010)) (last visited March 19, 2015).

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

None.

**IX. Additional Information:**

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

By Senator Abruzzo

25-00335A-15

20151422\_\_

## Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States, urging them to pass and enact new economic sanctions against Iran should that nation be found to be in violation of the Joint Plan of Action or fail to reach an acceptable agreement by the dates set forth in the November 2014 extension of the Joint Plan of Action.

WHEREAS, Iran has installed 19,000 centrifuges, and

WHEREAS, Iran continues to research and develop advanced centrifuges and has not cooperated with the International Atomic Energy Agency's investigation into the possible military dimensions of its nuclear program, and

WHEREAS, a nuclear-armed Iran poses a significant threat to the United States and international security, and

WHEREAS, the P5+1 has agreed to two extensions of the Joint Plan of Action and Iran has not publicly agreed to any significant concessions, and

WHEREAS, the United States must make clear that new economic sanctions will be enacted if Iran does not timely enter into a nuclear agreement, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States are urged to pass and enact new economic sanctions against Iran should that nation be found to be in violation of the Joint Plan of Action or fail to reach an

Page 1 of 2

**CODING:** Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

25-00335A-15

20151422\_\_

acceptable agreement by the dates set forth in the November 2014 extension of the Joint Plan of Action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

Page 2 of 2

**CODING:** Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

3/12/2015

Meeting Date

Topic \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Number 1722  
*(if applicable)*

Name BRIAN PITTS

Amendment Barcode \_\_\_\_\_  
*(if applicable)*

Job Title TRUSTEE

Address 1119 NEWTON AVNUE SOUTH

Phone 727-897-9291

*Street*

SAINT PETERSBURG      FLORIDA      33705

E-mail JUSTICE2JESUS@YAHOO.COM

*City*

*State*

*Zip*

Speaking:     For     Against     Information

Representing JUSTICE-2-JESUS

Appearing at request of Chair:     Yes     No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature:     Yes     No

*While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.*

***This form is part of the public record for this meeting.***

S-001 (10/20/11)



THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

3/23/15

Meeting Date

SM1422

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic IRAN SANCTIONS

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name LAUREEN GALEOTO

Job Title Attorney

Address 6212 Bayshore Blvd. # F

Phone 850.508.6441

Street

Tampa

FL

33611

City

State

Zip

Email laureen@laureenlaw.com

Speaking:  For  Against  Information

Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against

(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Jewish Federations of Tampa, Orlando's Pinellas.

Appearing at request of Chair:  Yes  No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature:  Yes  No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

3-23-2015

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

1422

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Iran Sanctions

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Deepk Silver

Job Title Student at FSU

Address 750 A west St. Augustine Street

Phone 407-666-1627

Street Tallahassee State FL Zip 32304

Email ds12@my.fsu.edu

Speaking:  For  Against  Information

Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Chabad at FSU

Appearing at request of Chair:  Yes  No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature:  Yes  No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.



## THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

### COMMITTEES:

Finance and Tax, *Vice Chair*  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services  
Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities  
Community Affairs  
Fiscal Policy  
Regulated Industries

### JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee, *Chair*

### SENATOR JOSEPH ABRUZZO

Minority Whip  
25th District

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The Honorable Thad Altman  
The Florida Senate  
314 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chairman Altman:

I respectfully request that Senate Memorial 1422, related to Iran/Economic Sanctions, be considered for placement on the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security committee agenda. This memorial urges the President of the United States and Congress to reach an acceptable agreement concerning Iran as set forth by the Joint Plan of Action.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please let me know if I can provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JA".

Joseph Abruzzo

Cc: Elizabeth Ryon, Staff Director

#### REPLY TO:

- 12300 Forest Hill Boulevard, Suite 200, Wellington, Florida 33414-5785 (561) 791-4774 FAX: (888) 284-6495
- 110 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Belle Glade, Florida 33430-3900 (561) 829-1410
- 222 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5025

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**ANDY GARDINER**  
President of the Senate

**GARRETT RICHTER**  
President Pro Tempore

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

---

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

---

BILL: SB 1430

INTRODUCER: Senator Abruzzo

SUBJECT: Discounts on Public Park Entrance Fees and Transportation Fares

DATE: March 20, 2015

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Sanders	Ryon	MS	<b>Favorable</b>
2.	_____	_____	CA	_____
3.	_____	_____	FP	_____

**I. Summary:**

SB 1430 requires county and municipal departments of parks and recreation to provide a full or partial discount on park entrance fees to the following individuals:

- Currently serving military servicemembers;
- Honorably discharged veterans;
- Honorably discharged veterans with a service-connected disability;
- The surviving spouse or parents of a military servicemember who died in combat; and
- The surviving spouse or parent of a law enforcement officer or a firefighter who died in the line of duty.

The bill also requires regional transportation authorities to provide disabled veterans with discounts on fares or charges.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Veteran and Military Presence in Florida**

The composition of military personnel who reside in Florida consists of the following:

- 1.6 million veterans;<sup>1</sup>
- 249,000 veterans with a service-connected disability;<sup>2</sup>
- 58,590 active duty personnel;<sup>3</sup>
- 35,714 reservists;<sup>4</sup> and
- 12,000 Florida National Guard members.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, *Fast Facts*, [http://floridavets.org/?page\\_id=50](http://floridavets.org/?page_id=50) (last visited March 19, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Data provided by Haas Center for Business Research and Economic Development at the University of West Florida.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> Florida Department of Military Affairs, *About Us*, <http://www.floridaguard.army.mil/about-us> (last visited March 19, 2015).

After their military service, veterans may qualify for a variety of benefits administered by the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs (USDVA), and by the State of Florida. The USDVA assigns disability ratings to veterans who suffer from service-related injuries and seek USDVA benefits. Family members of veterans also may qualify for benefits, and for monthly VA payments as survivors of disabled or pensioned veterans.<sup>6</sup>

**State Park Entrance Fee Discounts**

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) within the Department of Environmental Protection oversees Florida’s 161 state parks. The DRP offers two types of annual entrance passes: the individual annual entrance pass for \$60 and the family annual entrance pass for \$120. The DRP currently provides park entrance fee discounts pursuant to the following:<sup>7</sup>

- Active duty members and honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard, or reserve components receive a 25 percent discount on an annual entrance pass;
- Veterans with service-connected disabilities receive a lifetime family annual entrance passes at no charge;
- Surviving spouses and parents of deceased members of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard, or reserve components who have fallen in combat receive a lifetime family annual entrance passes at no charge; and
- Surviving spouses and parents of a law enforcement officer or firefighter who died in the line of duty receive lifetime family annual entrance passes at no charge.

The table below reflects the application of the Florida state park entrance fee discounts provided in s. 258.0145, F.S., for fiscal year 2013-14.<sup>8</sup>

<b>State Park Entrance Fee Discounts: FY 2013-14</b> (Pursuant to s. 258.0145, F.S.)	
<b>Individual Entrance Pass</b> (25% discount: active duty servicemembers and veterans)	1,295
<u>Value of Discount</u>	\$19,425
<b>Family Annual Entrance Pass</b> (25% discount: active duty servicemembers and veterans)	4,103
<u>Value of Discount</u>	\$123,090
<b>Lifetime Family Annual Entrance Pass</b> (Full discount: disabled veterans; the spouse and parents of a fallen military servicemember, law enforcement officer, or firefighter)	9,804
<u>Value of Discount</u>	\$1,176,480
<b>Total Passes FY 13-14</b>	<b>15,202</b>
<u>Total Value of Discount</u>	<u>\$1,318,995</u>

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Public Affairs, *State Summary: Florida* (2014); Florida Department of Veteran’s Affairs, *Florida Veteran’s Benefits Guide* (2014), [http://floridavets.org/?page\\_id=110](http://floridavets.org/?page_id=110) (last visited March 19, 2015).

<sup>7</sup> Section 258.0145, F.S.

<sup>8</sup> E-mail correspondence with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on March 20, 2015. (On file with the Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee.)

Current law does not address entrance fee discounts for county and municipal parks for current and former military personnel and their families or the families of deceased first responders. There are approximately 267 county and municipal parks and recreation agencies in Florida, each managing a number of park areas, which offer a variety of amenities.<sup>9</sup>

### **Regional Transportation Authorities**

Section 163.567, F.S., states that any two or more contiguous counties, municipalities, other political subdivisions, or combinations thereof in this state are authorized and empowered to convene a charter committee for the purpose of developing a regional transportation authority.<sup>10</sup> However, no county, municipality, or other political subdivision may be a member in more than one authority created under this part.<sup>11</sup>

A regional transportation authority has the authority to:

- Purchase, own, or operate, or provide for the operation of, transportation facilities;
- Contract for transit services;
- Exercise power of eminent domain limited to right-of-way and contiguous transportation facility acquisition and subject to any further limitations set forth in the authority charter;
- Conduct studies; and
- Contract with other governmental agencies, private companies and individuals.<sup>12</sup>

Chapters 163, 343, 348, and 349, F.S., govern the regional transportation authorities. Chapter 343, F.S., provides for the creation of:

- Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Commission
- South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
- Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority
- Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority
- Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority

Chapter 348, F.S., provides for the creation of:

- Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority
- Central Florida Expressway Authority
- Santa Rosa Bay Bridge Authority
- Osceola County Expressway Authority

Chapter 349, F.S., establishes the Jacksonville Transportation Authority.

---

<sup>9</sup> Telephone conversation between Florida Recreation and Parks Association, Inc., staff and Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee staff (March 20, 2015).

<sup>10</sup> Section 163.597, F.S.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> Section 163.568, F.S.

Other authorities created either in the above statutes or in special law include:

- Miami-Dade Expressway Authority
- Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
- Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority

Of these regional transportation authorities, two provide commuter services. Tri-Rail, operated by the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, is the only publicly funded passenger rail system in the state.<sup>13</sup> Tri-Rail currently offers a 50 percent discount on Fare EASY Cards to persons with disabilities.<sup>14</sup> The second commuter service is Lynx, which is operated by the Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority.

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates sections 125.029, 163.58, and 166.0447, F.S., to require counties and municipalities to provide a partial or a full discount on park entrance fees to the following persons:

- A current member of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, or their reserve components;
- An honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, or their reserve components;
- An honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, or their reserve components who has a service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;
- A surviving spouse and parents of a deceased member of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, or their reserve components, who died in the line of duty under combat-related conditions; and
- A surviving spouse and parents of a law enforcement officer or firefighter who died in the line of duty.

The bill defines the term “park entrance fee” to mean a fee charged to access lands managed by a county or city park or recreation department. The term does not include expanded amenity fees for amenities such as, campgrounds, aquatic facilities, stadiums or arenas, facility rentals, special events, boat launching, golf, zoos, museums, gardens, or programs taking place within public lands.

The bill also provides disabled veterans, as described in section 295.07(1)(a), with discounts when using a transportation system or facility owned or operated by a regional transportation authority. The regional transportation authority may offer either a full or partial discount to a disabled veteran, upon a showing of written documentation evidencing eligibility.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2015.

---

<sup>13</sup> South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, Overview, <http://www.sfrta.fl.gov/overview.aspx> (last visited March 20, 2015).

<sup>14</sup> A few of the acceptable forms of documentation to present at the ticket kiosk include a Disabled Veterans ID, a letter from a physician, a Driver’s License indicating disability, a Medicare Card, or Social Security documentation for Disability Benefits. See Tri-Rail, *Discount Policy*, <http://www.tri-rail.com/fares/discount-policy/> (last visited March 20, 2015).

**IV. Constitutional Issues:****A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

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.<sup>15</sup> This bill has the effect of reducing municipal and county revenues generated from park entrance fees by adding discounts for the military, their families, and the families of deceased first responders. The bill may be exempt from needing a two-thirds vote due to insignificant fiscal impact,<sup>16</sup> but no fiscal impact estimate is available at this time.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

Current and former military personnel, spouses and parents of deceased military servicemembers who have fallen in combat and also the spouses and parents of law enforcement officers or firefighters who have fallen in the line of duty will be eligible for a full or partial discount on entrance fees at county and municipal parks. Disabled military veterans will be eligible for a full or partial discount when using a transportation system or facility owned or operated by a regional transportation authority.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

County and municipal departments of parks and recreation will experience a decrease in revenue generated from park entrance fees as a result of this bill. To the extent disabled veterans use the discount provided at transportation systems, regional transportation authorities will experience a decrease in revenue from tickets and fees.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

---

<sup>15</sup> FLA. CONST. art. VII, s. 18(b).

<sup>16</sup> FLA. CONST. art. VII, s. 18(d). An insignificant fiscal impact means an amount not greater than ten cents times the average statewide population for the applicable fiscal year.



**VII. Related Issues:**

To the extent that a regional transportation authority has issued revenue bonds for any of their systems or facilities, the authority and the state would be limited by the bond covenants prescribed by the bond holders. Expanding the group of non-revenue users may be in violation of the bond covenants. The state is specifically limited by a statutory pledge to bondholders to not restrict a regional transportation authority's power to establish and collect fees or other charges as may be convenient or necessary to produce sufficient revenues to meet the expenses of maintenance and operation of the authority's system.<sup>17</sup>

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 125.029, 163.58, 166.0447.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

---

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

---

---

<sup>17</sup> See ss 343.67 and 343.57, F.S.

By Senator Abruzzo

25-00321B-15

20151430\_\_

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to discounts on public park entrance fees and transportation fares; creating s. 125.029, F.S.; requiring counties to provide a partial or a full discount on park entrance fees to military members, veterans, and the spouse and parents of certain deceased military members, law enforcement officers, and firefighters; requiring that individuals seeking the discount present written documentation satisfactory to the county department which evidences eligibility; defining the term "park entrance fee"; providing certain exclusions; creating s. 163.58, F.S.; requiring regional transportation authorities to provide a partial or a full discount on fares and on other charges for certain disabled veterans; creating s. 166.0447, F.S.; requiring municipalities to provide a partial or a full discount on park entrance fees to military members, veterans, and the spouse and parents of certain deceased military members, law enforcement officers, and firefighters; requiring that individuals seeking the discount present written documentation satisfactory to the municipal department which evidences eligibility; defining the term "park entrance fee"; providing certain exclusions; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 125.029, Florida Statutes, is created to

Page 1 of 4

**CODING:** Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

25-00321B-15

20151430\_\_

read:

125.029 Military, law enforcement, and firefighter county park entrance fee discounts.-

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

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

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

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

(d) A surviving spouse and parents of a deceased member of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, or their reserve components, who died in the line of duty under combat-related conditions.

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

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

Page 2 of 4

**CODING:** Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

25-00321B-15

20151430\_\_

59 programs taking place within public lands.

60 Section 2. Section 163.58, Florida Statutes, is created to  
61 read:

62 163.58 Transportation fare discounts.—An authority shall  
63 provide a partial or a full discount on fares and on other  
64 charges for the use of a transportation system or a  
65 transportation facility owned or operated by the authority to a  
66 disabled veteran as described in s. 295.07(1)(a) who presents  
67 written documentation satisfactory to the authority which  
68 evidences eligibility for the discount.

69 Section 3. Section 166.0447, Florida Statutes, is created  
70 to read:

71 166.0447 Military, law enforcement, and firefighter  
72 municipal park entrance fee discounts.—

73 (1) A municipal park or recreation department shall provide  
74 a partial or a full discount on park entrance fees to the  
75 following individuals who present written documentation  
76 satisfactory to the municipal department which evidences  
77 eligibility for the discount:

78 (a) A current member of the United States Armed Forces, the  
79 National Guard, or their reserve components.

80 (b) An honorably discharged veteran of the United States  
81 Armed Forces, the National Guard, or their reserve components.

82 (c) An honorably discharged veteran of the United States  
83 Armed Forces, the National Guard, or their reserve components,  
84 who has a service-connected disability as determined by the  
85 United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

86 (d) A surviving spouse and parents of a deceased member of  
87 the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, or their

25-00321B-15

20151430\_\_

88 reserve components, who died in the line of duty under combat-  
89 related conditions.

90 (e) A surviving spouse and parents of a law enforcement  
91 officer, as defined in s. 943.10(1), or a firefighter, as  
92 defined in s. 633.102, who died in the line of duty.

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

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

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

03.23.15

Meeting Date

1430  
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic FEES

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name VICKI WOOLDRIDGE

Job Title GOV. AFFAIRS MGR.

Address 800 NW 33<sup>rd</sup> ST.

Phone 954-213-8690

Street

POMPANO BCH FL 33064

City

State

Zip

Email wooldndgvr@sfra.fl.gov

Speaking:  For  Against  Information

Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Appearing at request of Chair:  Yes  No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature:  Yes  No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)



THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

3/23/15

Meeting Date

1430

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Discounts on Public Park Entrance Fees ?  
Transportation Fees

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Justin Day

Job Title Director

Address 701 S. Howard Ave Suite 106-32c  
Street

Phone 850 222 8900

Tampa FL 33606  
City State Zip

Email jd@cordenspartners.com

Speaking:  For  Against  Information

Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority

Appearing at request of Chair:  Yes  No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature:  Yes  No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

3/23/2015

Meeting Date

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

SB 1430

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic DISCOUNTS ON PUBLIC PARK ENTRANCE FEES

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Col. Mike Prendergast

Job Title Executive Director

Address Suite 2105, the Capitol

Phone (850) 487-1533

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32399

Email exdir@fdva.state.fl.us

City

State

Zip

Speaking:  For  Against  Information

Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing The Florida Dept. of Veterans' Affairs

Appearing at request of Chair:  Yes  No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature:  Yes  No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

**This form is part of the public record for this meeting.**

S-001 (10/14/14)



## THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

### COMMITTEES:

Finance and Tax, *Vice Chair*  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human  
Services  
Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities  
Community Affairs  
Fiscal Policy  
Regulated Industries

### JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee, *Chair*

### SENATOR JOSEPH ABRUZZO

Minority Whip  
25th District

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The Honorable Thad Altman  
The Florida Senate  
314 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Chairman Altman:

I respectfully request that Senate Bill 1430, related to Discounts on Public Park Entrance Fees and Transportation Fares, be considered for placement on the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security committee agenda. This piece of legislation will require counties to provide military members, veterans, and the spouse and parents of certain deceased military members, law enforcement officers, and firefighters with discounted public park entrance fees.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please let me know if I can provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JA", written over a white background.

Joseph Abruzzo

Cc: Elizabeth Ryon, Staff Director

#### REPLY TO:

- 12300 Forest Hill Boulevard, Suite 200, Wellington, Florida 33414-5785 (561) 791-4774 FAX: (888) 284-6495
- 110 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Belle Glade, Florida 33430-3900 (561) 829-1410
- 222 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5025

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**ANDY GARDINER**  
President of the Senate

**GARRETT RICHTER**  
President Pro Tempore



# CourtSmart Tag Report

**Room:** LL 37

**Case:**

**Type:**

**Caption:** Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

**Judge:**

**Started:** 3/23/2015 3:03:38 PM

**Ends:** 3/23/2015 3:17:29 PM **Length:** 00:13:52

- 3:03:40 PM** Meeting called to order by Chair Altman
- 3:03:50 PM** Roll call by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham
- 3:03:57 PM** Quorum is present
- 3:04:01 PM** Chair Altman ask that all electronic devices be silenced and if you want to speak to fill out a speaker card
- 3:04:19 PM** Introduction of Tab 1 SM 1422 - Iran/Economic Sanctions by Senator Abruzzo
- 3:04:58 PM** Explanation of SB1422 by Senator Abruzzo
- 3:05:07 PM** Chair Altman ask for speaker cards
- 3:05:11 PM** Speaker Brian Pitts, Justice-2-Jesus
- 3:06:58 PM** Introduction of Ms. Laureen Galeoto by Chair Altman
- 3:08:02 PM** Speaker Laureen Galeoto, Attorney, Jewish Federations of Tampa, Orlando, Pinellas in support of the bill
- 3:08:57 PM** Introduction of Mr. Derek Silver by Chair Altman
- 3:09:58 PM** Speaker Derek Silver, Chabad at FSU in support of the bill
- 3:10:54 PM** Question from Chair Altman
- 3:11:55 PM** Chair Altman ask for debate on the bill
- 3:12:03 PM** Chair Altman ask Senator Abruzzo to close on the bill
- 3:12:14 PM** Senator Abruzzo closes on the bill
- 3:12:35 PM** Chair Altman ask Lois to call the roll on SM 1422
- 3:12:53 PM** Roll call on SM 1422 by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham
- 3:13:00 PM** SM 1422 is reported favorably
- 3:13:09 PM** Introduction of Tab 2 SB 1430, Discounts on Public Park Entrance Fees and Transportation Fares by Chair Altman
- 3:13:29 PM** Chairman ask Senator Abruzzo to explain the bill
- 3:13:39 PM** Explanation of SB 1430 by Senator Abruzzo
- 3:13:50 PM** Chair Altman ask for questions on the bill
- 3:13:57 PM** Speaker Vicki Wooldridge, Government Affairs Manager, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority speaking in support of the bill
- 3:14:16 PM** Brian Pitts, Justice-2-Jesus waives in support
- 3:14:23 PM** Justin Day, Director, Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority waives in support
- 3:14:35 PM** Colonel Mike Prendergast, Executive Director, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs waives in support
- 3:14:53 PM** Chair Altman ask for debate on the bill
- 3:14:59 PM** Chair Altman ask Senator Abruzzo to close on the bill. Senator Abruzzo closes on the bill
- 3:15:10 PM** Chair Altman ask Lois to call roll on SB 1430
- 3:15:16 PM** Roll call on SB 1430 by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham
- 3:15:19 PM** SB 1430 reported favorably
- 3:15:30 PM** Comments from Senator Gibson
- 3:16:27 PM** Comments from Chair Altman
- 3:16:48 PM** Chair Altman states seeing no other business before the committee, without objection
- 3:17:12 PM** Senator Stargel moves to rise