

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

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, March 5, 2014
TIME: 1:30 —3:30 p.m.
PLACE: *Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Office Building*

MEMBERS: Senator Altman, Chair; Senator Gibson, Vice Chair; Senators Abruzzo, Bullard, Dean, Evers, Gardiner, Legg, and Sachs

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	SB 608 Hukill (Identical H 731)	POW-MIA Chair of Honor Memorial; Establishing the POW-MIA Chair of Honor Memorial; authorizing the Florida chapters of Rolling Thunder, Inc., to administer the memorial; requiring the Department of Management Services to designate an area of the Capitol Complex for the memorial; requiring the department to consult with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Florida chapters of Rolling Thunder, Inc., regarding specific aspects of the memorial, etc. MS 03/05/2014 Fav/CS GO RC	Fav/CS Yeas 8 Nays 0
2	SB 958 Simpson (Similar H 763)	Fee and Toll Waivers for Purple Heart Recipients; Providing that a Purple Heart recipient is eligible to receive a lifetime family annual entrance pass to state parks at no charge; requiring the Department of Transportation to establish a prepaid toll account for eligible Purple Heart recipients; authorizing a Purple Heart recipient to apply for an account; requiring an applicant to provide specified documentation to the department, etc. MS 03/05/2014 Favorable TR AP	Favorable Yeas 8 Nays 0
3	SB 970 Hays (Similar H 873, Compare CS/CS/H 7015, S 860)	Employment of Veterans; Authorizing a private employer to give priority in its hiring practices to certain wartime veterans and spouses of service-disabled veterans, etc. MS 03/05/2014 Favorable CM	Favorable Yeas 6 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: CS/SB 608

INTRODUCER: Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee and Senator Hukill

SUBJECT: Monuments on the Capitol Complex

DATE: March 7, 2014

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Ryon	Ryon	MS	Fav/CS
2.			GO	
3.			RC	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 608 establishes a framework for the placement of monuments on the Capitol Complex that requires the Florida Historical Commission (Commission) to approve the design and placement of Capitol Complex monuments authorized by the Legislature. The bill requires the Department of Management Services (DMS) to submit recommendations to the Commission on the design and placement of authorized monuments, which the Commission must consider.

The bill also requires the DMS in consultation with the Commission to set aside an area of the Capitol Complex to be dedicated as a memorial garden for authorized monuments to be placed. The Commission is authorized to direct existing monuments situated on the Capitol Complex to be moved to the memorial garden.

Finally, the bill establishes the POW-MIA Chair of Honor Memorial in the Capitol Complex to honor the sacrifices endured by members of the U.S. Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war or remain missing in action. The new framework provided in the bill will be applied to determine the appropriate design and placement of the Chair of Honor. The Commission, in carrying out its new duty, is required to consult with the DMS, the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Florida chapters of the Rolling Thunder, Inc., when approving the design and placement of the Chair of Honor. The Chair of Honor will be funded by the Florida chapters of the Rolling Thunder, Inc., without appropriation of state funds.

II. Present Situation:

Veterans in Florida

Florida has the third largest population of veterans in the nation with over 1.5 million, behind only California and Texas.¹ Florida has more than 113,000 veterans from World War II, the largest number in the nation.² In addition, approximately 75 percent of Florida's veteran population is wartime veterans, including more than 231,000 veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars and 498,000 Vietnam-era veterans. There are approximately 187,000 military retirees who call Florida home.³

Military Recognition by Florida Legislature

The Legislature recognizes the military service of Florida residents through the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame and the Florida Medal of Honor Wall. The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those military veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, made a significant contribution to the State of Florida.⁴ The Florida Medal of Honor Wall recognizes and honors those who are accredited, or associated by birth, to the State of Florida, who through their conspicuous bravery and gallantry during wartime, and at considerable risk to their own lives, earned the Medal of Honor.⁵

POW-MIA

More than 83,000 Americans are missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War and the 1991 Gulf War.⁶ As of October, 2013, there are a total of 1,643 unaccounted for military servicemembers in Southeast Asia since the end of the Vietnam War, with 57 indicating Florida as their home of record.⁷ In addition, 32 military servicemembers from Florida have either been accounted for (including POW returnees and POW escapees) or their remains have been recovered and identified since the end of the war.⁸

In accordance with the Missing Service Personnel Act,⁹ the current number of personnel missing from operations in Iraq and other current conflicts is seven: two service members from Operation Desert Storm; and one service member and three Department of Defense contractors from Operation Iraqi Freedom; and one service member from Operation Enduring Freedom.¹⁰

¹ FDVA, Annual Report Fiscal Year 2012-13, Facts and Figures. p. 4. Available at: <http://floridavets.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Annual-Report-2012-13-Final.pdf>

² *Id.*

³ FDVA, Fast Facts, available at: http://floridavets.org/?page_id=50.

⁴ s. 265.003, F.S.

⁵ s. 265.002, F.S.

⁶ Department of Defense Prisoner of War, Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), available at: <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/>.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ 10 U.S.C. sections 1501-1513, Missing Service Personnel Act (MSPA). The MSPA tasks the DPMO with responsibility for policy, control and oversight of the entire process of investigation and recovery of missing persons (including matters related to search, rescue, escape and evasion) and for coordination between the Department of Defense and other U.S. agencies on all matters concerning missing persons.

¹⁰ DPMO website, available at: <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/>

Rolling Thunder, Inc.

Incorporated in 1995, Rolling Thunder, Inc. is a class 501(c) (4) non-profit organization with over 94 chartered chapters throughout the United States and members abroad, including eight chapters in Florida.¹¹

The major function of Rolling Thunder, Inc. is to publicize the POW-MIA issue, educate the public that many American Prisoners of War were left behind after all previous wars, and help correct the past and to protect future veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners Of War-Missing In Action.¹²

Managing Agency for the Capitol Complex

Section 272.03(1), F.S., provides that the Capitol Center is under the general control of the DMS, which includes the operation and maintenance of both the grounds and buildings. This responsibility has historically included assistance in establishing and maintaining public memorials throughout the Capitol Complex, including project management oversight of the design and construction of memorials.¹³ After an entity is assigned a designated space within the Capitol complex for an exhibit, the entity is the manager of the exhibit's content and display, in consultation with the DMS.¹⁴

Florida Historical Commission

The Florida Historical Commission (Commission) was established by the Legislature in 2001 to enhance public participation and involvement in the preservation and protection of the state's historic and archaeological sites and properties.¹⁵ The Commission is created within the Department of State and is tasked with advising and assisting the Division of Historical Resources in carrying out its programs, duties and responsibilities.¹⁶

Seven members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor in consultation with the Secretary of State, two by the President of the Senate and two by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.¹⁷ Florida Statutes requires the make-up of the Commission to include:

- A licensed architect with expertise in historic preservation and architectural history;
- A professional historian in the field of American history;
- A professional architectural historian;
- An archaeologist specializing in the field of prehistory;
- An archaeologist specializing in the historic period; and

¹¹ Rolling Thunder, Inc. website, available at: <http://www.rollingthunder1.com/index.html>.

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Department of Management Services, House Bill 731 Agency Analysis (October 25, 2013) (on file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security).

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Ch. 2001-199, L.O.F.

¹⁶ s. 267.0612, F.S.

¹⁷ s. 267.0612(1)(a)1., F.S.

- Representatives of the general public with demonstrated interest in the preservation of Florida's historical and archaeological heritage.¹⁸

The Commission is statutorily required provide assistance, advice, and recommendations to the Division of Historical Resources in:

- Establishing priorities for the identification, acquisition, protection, and preservation of historic and archaeological sites and properties;
- Establishing criteria for use in assessing the significance of historic and archaeological sites and properties;
- Evaluating proposals for awards of special category historic preservation grants-in-aid administered by the Division of Historical Resources;
- Providing an active outreach program to encourage public understanding of and involvement in the preservation of the state's historic and archaeological sites and properties;
- Identifying and expressing public goals for historic preservation and gathering public ideas necessary for the formulation of alternative policies; and
- Recommending rules relating to the historic preservation programs administered by the Division of Historical Resources pursuant to ch. 267, F.S.¹⁹

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 creates s. 265.0031, F.S., to establish the POW-MIA Chair of Honor Memorial in the Capitol Complex to honor the sacrifices endured by members of the U.S. Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war or remain missing in action. The bill directs the Florida Historical Commission to approve the design and placement of the Chair of Honor, taking into consideration recommendations from the DMS, the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Florida chapters of the Rolling Thunder, Inc. The Chair of Honor will be funded by the Florida chapters of the Rolling Thunder, Inc., without appropriation of state funds.

Section 2 creates s. 265.111, F.S., to establish a framework for the placement of monuments on the Capitol Complex. The bill defines the term "monument" to mean a permanent structure such as a marker, statue, sculpture, plaque, or other artifice, including living plant material, placed in remembrance or recognition of a significant person or event in Florida history.

The bill prohibits the placement of a monument on the premises of the Capitol Complex unless authorized by general law and unless the design and placement of the monument is approved by the Florida Historical Commission (Commission). The DMS must submit recommendations to the Commission regarding the design and placement of an authorized monument.

The bill also requires the DMS in consultation with the Commission to set aside an area of the Capitol Complex to be dedicated as a memorial garden for authorized monuments to be placed. The Commission is authorized to direct existing monuments situated on the Capitol Complex to be moved to the memorial garden.

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ s. 267.0612(6)(a)-(f), F.S.

Section 3 amends s. 267.0612, F.S., to add oversight of the design and placement of authorized monuments to the duties and responsibilities of the Commission. In this new role, the Commission must consider recommendations submitted by the DMS regarding the design and placement of monuments.

Section 4 provides an effective date of July 1, 2015.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

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:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

DMS will incur minimal costs associated with the maintenance of the POW-MIA Chair of Honor monument area.²⁰

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 265.0031 and 265.111.
This bill amends section 267.0612 of the Florida Statutes.

²⁰ See *supra* note 13.

IX. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security on March 5, 2014:

The committee substitute makes the following changes:

- Prohibits monuments from being placed on the premises of the Capitol Complex unless authorized by general law.
- Requires the Commission to approve the design and placement of monuments authorized by the Legislature, taking into consideration recommendations from the DMS.
- Requires the DMS in consultation with the Commission to set aside an area of the Capitol Complex to be dedicated as a memorial garden for authorized monuments to be placed or for existing monuments to be resituated.
- Requires the Commission to approve the design and placement of the POW-MIA Chair of Honor, taking into consideration recommendations of the DMS, the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Florida chapters of the Rolling Thunder, Inc.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.



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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/06/2014	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security (Altman) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause
and insert:

Section 1. Section 265.0031, Florida Statutes, is created



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8 to read:

9 265.0031 POW-MIA Chair of Honor Memorial.—

10 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to recognize and
11 honor the sacrifices endured by members of the Armed Forces of
12 the United States who were held as prisoners of war or remain
13 missing in action.

14 (2) For purposes of this section, the term "Capitol
15 Complex" has the same meaning as in s. 281.01.

16 (3) There is established the POW-MIA Chair of Honor
17 Memorial.

18 (a) The POW-MIA Chair of Honor Memorial shall be funded by
19 the Florida chapters of Rolling Thunder, Inc., without
20 appropriation of state funds.

21 (b) Pursuant to s. 267.0612(9), the Florida Historical
22 Commission shall approve the design and placement of the POW-MIA
23 Chair of Honor Memorial in the Capitol Complex. In addition to
24 recommendations from the Department of Management Services, the
25 commission shall consider recommendations from the Department of
26 Veterans' Affairs and the Florida chapters of Rolling Thunder,
27 Inc., in determining the appropriate design and placement of the
28 memorial.

29 Section 2. Section 265.111, Florida Statutes, is created to
30 read:

31 265.111 Capitol Complex; monuments.—

32 (1) For purposes of this section, the term "monument" means
33 a permanent structure such as a marker, statue, sculpture,
34 plaque, or other artifice, including living plant material,
35 placed in remembrance or recognition of a significant person or
36 event in Florida history.



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37 (2) The construction and placement of a monument on the
38 premises of the Capitol Complex, as defined in s. 281.01, is
39 prohibited unless authorized by general law and unless the
40 design and placement of the monument is approved by the Florida
41 Historical Commission, pursuant to s. 267.0612(9). The
42 Department of Management Services shall submit recommendations
43 to the Florida Historical Commission regarding the design and
44 placement of an authorized monument.

45 (3) The Department of Management Services, in consultation
46 with the Florida Historical Commission, shall set aside an area
47 of the Capitol Complex and dedicate a memorial garden on which
48 authorized monuments shall be placed. Except for historically
49 authenticated monuments from the restoration of the Historic
50 Capitol, monuments situated on the Capitol Complex, as of July
51 1, 2014, may be moved to the memorial garden as directed by the
52 Florida Historical Commission. The memorial garden may not be
53 placed in an area within 50 feet of the outer perimeter of the
54 grounds surrounding the Historic Capitol.

55 Section 3. Subsection (9) is added to section 267.0612,
56 Florida Statutes, to read:

57 267.0612 Florida Historical Commission; creation;
58 membership; powers and duties.—In order to enhance public
59 participation and involvement in the preservation and protection
60 of the state's historic and archaeological sites and properties,
61 there is created within the Department of State the "Florida
62 Historical Commission." The commission shall serve in an
63 advisory capacity to the director of the Division of Historical
64 Resources to assist the director in carrying out the purposes,
65 duties, and responsibilities of the division, as specified in



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66 this chapter.

67 (9) The commission shall approve the design and placement
68 of a monument authorized by general law to be placed on the
69 premises of the Capitol Complex pursuant to s. 265.111. Prior to
70 approval, the commission shall consider the recommendations of
71 the Department of Management Services regarding the design and
72 placement of such a monument.

73 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

74
75 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

76 And the title is amended as follows:

77 Delete everything before the enacting clause
78 and insert:

79 A bill to be entitled
80 An act relating to monuments on the Capitol Complex;
81 creating s. 265.0031, F.S.; providing legislative
82 intent; defining the term "Capitol Complex";
83 establishing the POW-MIA Chair of Honor Memorial;
84 requiring the Florida chapters of Rolling Thunder,
85 Inc., to fund the memorial; subjecting the memorial to
86 approval by the Florida Historical Commission;
87 requiring the commission to consider recommendations
88 of the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Florida
89 chapters of Rolling Thunder, Inc., regarding specific
90 aspects of the memorial; creating s. 265.111, F.S.;
91 defining the term "monument"; prohibiting the
92 construction and placement of a monument on the
93 premises of the Capitol Complex unless authorized by
94 general law; subjecting the design and placement of a



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95 monument to the approval of the Florida Historical
96 Commission; requiring the Department of Management
97 Services to submit recommendations to the Florida
98 Historical Commission; requiring the Department of
99 Management Services to set aside an area of the
100 Capitol Complex for a memorial garden; establishing
101 requirements for the memorial garden; amending s.
102 267.0612, F.S.; revising the powers and duties of the
103 Florida Historical Commission to conform to changes
104 made by the act; providing an effective date.



858372

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: WD	.	
03/06/2014	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security (Legg) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete line 28

and insert:

(a) The POW-MIA Chair of Honor Memorial shall be funded by the

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

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 7

and insert:



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11

Thunder, Inc., to fund the memorial; requiring

By Senator Hukill

8-00691A-14

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the POW-MIA Chair of Honor
 3 Memorial; creating s. 265.0031, F.S.; providing
 4 legislative intent; defining the term "Capitol
 5 Complex"; establishing the POW-MIA Chair of Honor
 6 Memorial; authorizing the Florida chapters of Rolling
 7 Thunder, Inc., to administer the memorial; requiring
 8 the Department of Management Services to designate an
 9 area of the Capitol Complex for the memorial;
 10 requiring the department to consult with the
 11 Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Florida
 12 chapters of Rolling Thunder, Inc., regarding specific
 13 aspects of the memorial; providing an effective date.
 14
 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 16
 17 Section 1. Section 265.0031, Florida Statutes, is created
 18 to read:
 19 265.0031 POW-MIA Chair of Honor Memorial.-
 20 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to recognize and
 21 honor the sacrifices endured by members of the Armed Forces of
 22 the United States who were held as prisoners of war or remain
 23 missing in action.
 24 (2) For purposes of this section, the term "Capitol
 25 Complex" has the same meaning as in s. 281.01.
 26 (3) There is established the POW-MIA Chair of Honor
 27 Memorial.
 28 (a) The POW-MIA Chair of Honor is administered by the
 29 Florida chapters of Rolling Thunder, Inc., without appropriation

Page 1 of 2

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

8-00691A-14

2014608__

30 of state funds.
 31 (b) The Department of Management Services shall designate
 32 an area for the memorial in the Capitol Complex and shall
 33 consult with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Florida
 34 chapters of Rolling Thunder, Inc., regarding the design,
 35 construction, installation, and continuous management of the
 36 memorial.
 37 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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)

3/5/14

Meeting Date

Topic Veterans

Bill Number 608
(if applicable)

Name Bill Helwick

Amendment Barcode _____
(if applicable)

Job Title _____

Address 303 Johns Dr

Phone 850 251 3126

Street
Tallahassee FL 32301
City State Zip

E-mail _____

Speaking: For Against Information

Representing VFW / American Legion

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:
Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and
Tax, *Chair*
Appropriations
Appropriations Subcommittee on Education
Commerce and Tourism
Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities
Community Affairs
Governmental Oversight and Accountability

JOINT COMMITTEE:
Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight

SENATOR DOROTHY L. HUKILL
8th District

January 23, 2014

The Honorable Thad Altman
111 Senate Office Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

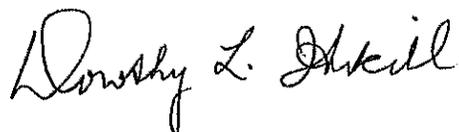
Re: Senate Bill 608 – POW-MIA Chair of Honor Memorial

Dear Chairman Altman:

Senate Bill 608, relating to the POW-MIA Chair of Honor Memorial, has been referred to the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee. I am requesting your consideration to include SB 608 on your next agenda. Should you need any additional information please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dorothy L. Hukill, District 8

cc: Elizabeth Ryon, Staff Director of the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee
Lois Graham, Administrative Assistant of the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee

REPLY TO:

209 Dunlawton Avenue, Unit 17, Port Orange, Florida 32127 (386) 304-7630 FAX: (888) 263-3818
 Ocala City Hall, 110 SE Watula Avenue, 3rd Floor, Ocala, Florida 34471 (352) 694-0160

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

DON GAETZ
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 958

INTRODUCER: Senator Simpson

SUBJECT: Fee and Toll Waivers for Purple Heart Recipients

DATE: March 4, 2014

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Ryon	Ryon	MS	Favorable
2.	_____	_____	TR	_____
3.	_____	_____	AP	_____

I. Summary:

SB 958 entitles Purple Heart recipients to a free lifetime family annual pass for entrance into Florida state parks. The bill also allows Purple Heart recipients to use state-owned toll facilities free of charge, in which the Department of Transportation must establish a prepaid toll account for this purpose and issue a window sticker transponder to Purple Heart recipients who provide documentation verifying eligibility.

II. Present Situation:

The Purple Heart

The Purple Heart is one of the oldest and most recognized American military medals, awarded to servicemembers who were killed or wounded by enemy action. The Purple Heart was established by General George Washington on August 7, 1782, during the Revolutionary War, and reestablished by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932.¹ The Purple Heart differs from all other decorations in that an individual is not “recommended” for the decoration; rather he or she is entitled to it upon meeting specific criteria.² The Purple Heart is ranked immediately behind the Bronze Star Medal³ and ahead of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal⁴ in order of precedence.

¹ Paragraph 2-8(a), Army Regulation 600-8-22.

² Paragraph 1-14(c), Army Regulation 600-8-22.

³ The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to a person in any branch of the military service who, while serving in any capacity with the Armed Forces of the United States on or after December 7, 1941, has distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.

⁴ The Defense Meritorious Service Medal is awarded to in the name of the Secretary of Defense to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after 3 November 1977, distinguished themselves by noncombat meritorious achievement or service.

The Purple Heart currently is awarded pursuant to executive order and federal law.⁵ The award is given in the name of the President of the United States to a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who, while serving under component authority in any capacity after April 5, 1917, was wounded or killed:

- In any action against an enemy of the U.S.
- In any action with an opposing armed force of a foreign country in which the Armed Forces of the U.S. are or have been engaged.
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the U.S. is not a belligerent party.
- As a result of an act of any such enemy of opposing armed forces.
- As the result of an act of any hostile foreign force.
- As a result of an international terrorist attack against the U.S. or a foreign nation friendly to the U.S.
- As a result of military operations while serving outside the territory of the U.S. as part of the peacekeeping force.⁶

A wound qualifying for a Purple Heart must have required treatment, not just examination, by a military medical officer or other medical professional. That treatment must be noted in the servicemember's medical record. Additionally, while possession of a Purple Heart definitively infers that a servicemember was wounded in combat, the award itself is not an indicator that the servicemember has established the existence of a service-connected disability.

Purple Heart Recipients in Florida

Florida has the third largest population of veterans in the county, with over 1.5 million veterans residing in the state.⁷ While there are numerous statistics available on the demographics of Florida's veterans and military servicemembers, the number of Purple Heart recipients in Florida is unknown. The lack of data on the number of Purple Heart recipients is due to inconsistent record keeping during the early years in which the medal was awarded and also the infamous fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri in 1973 that destroyed approximately 16-18 million veteran's records.⁸ The only reliable indicator of the number of Purple Heart recipients in Florida, which is not fully indicative of the total Purple Heart population, is the number of special use license plates issued to Purple Heart recipients.⁹ There are currently 12,276 Florida-issued Purple Heart special use license plates in circulation.¹⁰

Recipients of the Purple Heart are entitled to certain state benefits in Florida due to their classification as a Purple Heart recipient. Purple Heart recipients are currently entitled to free

⁵ Executive Order 11016, April 25, 1962; Executive Order 12464, February 23, 1984; and Public Law 98-525, October 19, 1984.

⁶ Paragraph 2-8(a), Army Regulation 600-8-22.

⁷ Florida Department of Veterans Affairs. *Fast Facts*. Available at: http://floridavets.org/?page_id=50.

⁸ National Archives: The 1973 Fire, National Personnel Records Center. Available at: <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/fire-1973.html>

⁹ Section 320.089(1), F.S., authorizes the Purple Heart special use license plate to be issued to qualifying individuals upon proof of being a Purple Heart recipient.

¹⁰ E-mail correspondence with Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles staff. Feb. 28, 2014. (On file with the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee.)

tuition at state colleges and universities¹¹ and are able to purchase a Purple Heart special use license plate.¹² Additionally, the Purple Heart special use license plate is issued free of charge if the recipient is also a service-disabled veteran.¹³

Recipients of the Purple Heart are able to document receipt of the award by presenting the Department of Defense Form 214 (DD Form 214). The DD Form 214 is the official report of separation from the U.S. military issued to a servicemember that has served on active duty for at least 90 consecutive days. The DD Form 214 contains information normally needed to verify military service for benefits, retirement, employment and membership in veterans' organizations. Included on the DD Form 214 is the complete listing of military awards received during a servicemember's tenure in the military.

State Park Entrance Fee Discounts and Waivers

The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) within the Department of Environmental Protection oversees Florida's 160 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 and waivers pursuant to the following:¹⁴

- 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 free-for-life family annual entrance pass;
- 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 free-for-life family annual entrance pass; and
- Surviving spouses and parents of a law enforcement officers or firefighters who have died in the line of duty receive a free-for-life family annual entrance pass.

¹¹ Section 1009.26(8), F.S.

¹² Section 320.089(1)(a), F.S.

¹³ Section 320.089(1)(c), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 258.0145, F.S.

The table below reflects the application of the Florida state park entrance fee discounts provided in s. 258.0145, F.S., from fiscal year 2010 to fiscal year 2013.¹⁵

State Park Entrance Fee Discounts and Waivers (pursuant to s. 258.0145, F.S.)						
PassType/ Discount	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	Total Passes	Total Discount Value
Individual Annual Pass (25% Discount)	14	771	984	1,115	2,884	\$43,260
Family Annual Pass (25% Discount)	24	2,125	2,819	3,200	8,168	\$245,040
Lifetime Family Annual Pass (No charge)	n/a	11,500	11,600	14,381	37,481	\$4,497,720
Totals	38	14,396	15,403	18,696	<u>48,533</u>	<u>\$4,786,020</u>

Payment of Tolls on Tolled Highways or Bridges

Any motorist operating a vehicle on a tolled highway is required by law to pay all applicable tolls. Florida Statutes currently list several categories of persons and circumstances when a motorist driving on a tolled highway or bridge is exempt from paying the toll. Among the current exemptions are: law enforcement officers and firefighters in their official vehicles and on official business; persons driving vehicles owned by the Florida Department of Military Affairs transporting personnel and property; handicapped persons who meet certain criteria and who have special window stickers on their vehicles issued by Florida Department of Transportation (DOT); employees of the toll facility while on official business; and any driver who is using the toll facility as a required detour temporarily, such as during hurricane evacuations.¹⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 258.0145, F.S., to add Purple Heart recipients to the list of individuals who are entitled to receive a lifetime family annual entrance pass for Florida state parks at no charge.

Section 2 creates s. 338.156, F.S., to require the DOT to establish a prepaid toll account to allow a Purple Heart recipient who is a Florida resident and has a valid Florida driver license to use state-owned toll facilities at no cost to the recipient. To accommodate free toll access, the DOT must issue a window sticker to applicants who provide verification of eligibility. A Purple Heart recipient applying for the toll waiver must submit a DD Form 214 to the DOT to demonstrate the applicant is a Purple Heart recipient. If the applicant is unable to furnish a DD Form 214 the

¹⁵ Data provided by Department of Environmental Protection staff on Feb. 12, 2014. On file with the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee.

¹⁶ Section 338.155, F.S.

DOT may accept other documentation recognized by the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs which documents receipt of the award.

Section 3 provides an effective date of July 1, 2014.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

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:

A Purple Heart recipient will benefit from waived state park entrance fees and also the fee waiver to drive on state-owned toll facilities.

C. Government Sector Impact:

A recurring appropriation will be required to fund the prepaid toll accounts for Purple Heart recipients and will have an indeterminate recurring negative fiscal impact to the fund from which the appropriation is made.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 258.0145 of the Florida Statutes.
This bill creates section 338.156 of the Florida Statutes.

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.

By Senator Simpson

18-00110B-14

2014958__

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to fee and toll waivers for Purple
 3 Heart recipients; amending s. 258.0145, F.S.;
 4 providing that a Purple Heart recipient is eligible to
 5 receive a lifetime family annual entrance pass to
 6 state parks at no charge; creating s. 338.156, F.S.;
 7 requiring the Department of Transportation to
 8 establish a prepaid toll account for eligible Purple
 9 Heart recipients; authorizing a Purple Heart recipient
 10 to apply for an account; requiring an applicant to
 11 provide specified documentation to the department;
 12 providing an effective date.

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

16 Section 1. Subsection (5) is added to section 258.0145,
 17 Florida Statutes, to read:

18 258.0145 Military, law enforcement, and firefighter state
 19 park fee discounts.—The Division of Recreation and Parks shall
 20 provide the following discounts on park fees to persons who
 21 present written documentation satisfactory to the division which
 22 evidences their eligibility for the discounts:

23 (5) Recipients of a Purple Heart shall receive lifetime
 24 family annual entrance passes at no charge.

25 Section 2. Section 338.156, Florida Statutes, is created to
 26 read:

27 338.156 Prepaid toll account for Purple Heart recipients.—
 28 The Department of Transportation shall establish a prepaid toll
 29 account to provide for the use of state-owned toll facilities by

Page 1 of 2

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

18-00110B-14

2014958__

30 eligible Purple Heart recipients at no cost to the recipients.
 31 Any resident of this state who has a valid Florida driver
 32 license and who is a Purple Heart recipient may apply for a
 33 prepaid toll account administered by the department. Upon
 34 verification of eligibility, the department shall issue to the
 35 applicant a window sticker transponder that allows the
 36 recipient's vehicle to travel through any toll facility owned by
 37 the state without cost to the recipient. An applicant under this
 38 section must submit to the department the DD-214 form issued at
 39 the time of separation from service as documentation that the
 40 applicant has received a Purple Heart. If the DD-214 form is not
 41 available, other documentation may be acceptable if recognized
 42 by the United States Department of Defense or the United States
 43 Department of Veterans Affairs as documenting the award.

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

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)

3/5/14

Meeting Date

Topic Veterans

Bill Number 958

Name Bill Helmick

(if applicable)

Amendment Barcode _____
(if applicable)

Job Title _____

Address 303 Johns Dr

Phone 850 251 3121

Street

Tallahassee FL 32301

City

State

Zip

E-mail _____

Speaking: For Against Information

Representing VFW / American Legion

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

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

3/5/14

Meeting Date

Topic _____

Bill Number 958
(if applicable)

Name Pierce Schwesler

Amendment Barcode _____
(if applicable)

Job Title Legislative Affairs Director

Address 3900 Commonwealth Dr

Phone 245-2140

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32399

City

State

Zip

E-mail _____

Speaking: For Against Information

Representing DEP

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:

Community Affairs, *Chair*
Appropriations Subcommittee on General
Government
Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,
Tourism, and Economic Development
Commerce and Tourism
Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities
Environmental Preservation and Conservation

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

SENATOR WILTON SIMPSON

18th District

February 13, 2014

Senator Thad Altman, Chairman
Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security
111 Senate Office Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Senator Altman,

Please place Senate Bill 958 relating to fee and toll Waivers for Purple Heart recipients, on the next Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security agenda.

Please contact my office with any questions.

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

Wilton Simpson
Senator, 18th District

REPLY TO:

- 322 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5018
- Post Office Box 938, Brooksville, Florida 34605
- Post Office Box 787, New Port Richey, Florida 34656-0787 (727) 816-1120 FAX: (888) 263-4821

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

DON GAETZ
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 970

INTRODUCER: Senator Hays

SUBJECT: Employment of Veterans

DATE: March 4, 2014

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Ryon	Ryon	MS	Favorable
2.			CM	

I. Summary:

SB 970 authorizes, but does not require, a private sector employer to establish a voluntary veterans' preference in employment process for an honorably discharged veteran or the spouse of a service-disabled veteran.

II. Present Situation:

In the United States there are over 21 million living veterans, of which, over 1.5 million reside in Florida.¹ Included in this number are nearly 160,000 women veterans in Florida.² For the purpose of obtaining state benefits, Florida Statutes defines the term "veteran" to mean a person who has served in the active military and who has been honorably discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions.³

Additionally, Florida Statutes defines "service-disabled veteran" to mean a permanent Florida resident with a service-connected disability as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) or who has been terminated from military service by reason of disability by the U.S. Department of Defense.⁴ Veterans who have been determined by the USDVA to have a service-connected disability are eligible for monthly disability compensation by the USDVA, which varies with the degree of disability and the number of dependents. 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.⁵ There are approximately 249,000 service-disabled veterans living in Florida.⁶

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Florida Quick Facts. Available at: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/12000.html>.

² Florida Department of Veterans Affairs. *Fast Facts*. Available at: http://floridavets.org/?page_id=50

³ Section 1.01(14), F.S.

⁴ Section 295.187(3)(b), F.S.

⁵ 38 U.S.C. § 101

⁶ See *supra* note 2.

Veterans' Preference in Public Employment

The general unemployment rate in the United States in 2013 was 7.2-percent. The unemployment rate among veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces since September 2001 was 9.0-percent during the same period.⁷ The federal government and nearly all of the states provide preference to veterans to address employment needs of veterans. The forms of veterans' preference vary, but generally pertain to preference in appointment, preference in promotion, preference in retention, and additional employment protections not accorded to nonveterans.

The federal government provides preference over non-veterans in hiring and retention to an honorably discharged veteran who served on active duty during specified periods, served in a military campaign, has a service-connected disability, or is a Purple Heart recipient.⁸

Florida Statutes requires all state government entities, counties, cities, towns, villages, special tax school districts, and special districts (government employers) to grant employment preference in hiring and retention⁹ to the following persons:¹⁰

- A veteran with a service-connected disability;
- The spouse of a veteran who has a permanent and total service-connected disability that prevents the veteran from qualifying for employment;
- The spouse of a military servicemember who 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;
- A wartime veteran¹¹ who was honorably discharged; and
- The unmarried widow or widower of a veteran who died as a result of a service-connected disability.

Florida's veterans' preference provisions define a tiered point system in which points (5 points or 10 points) are added to the final score of the examination used to determine qualification for employment.¹² For positions in which an examination is not used to determine eligibility, first or second preference in appointment is provided to applicants depending on their status that qualifies them for veterans' preference.¹³

Unlike government employers, private employers in Florida are not required to comply with veterans' preference requirements.

⁷ U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Databases, Tables & Calculators by Subject. Available at: <http://www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cpsatab5.htm>.

⁸ 5 U.S.C. § 2108

⁹ Section 295.08, F.S., exempts certain positions from veterans' preference requirement such as persons employed on a temporary basis without benefits, heads of departments, and positions which require membership in the Florida Bar.

¹⁰ Section. 295.07(1)(a)-(d), F.S.

¹¹ Section 1.01(14), F.S. To receive benefits as a wartime veteran, a veteran must have served in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized or a veteran must have served during one of the following periods of wartime service: (a) Spanish-American War, including the Philippine Insurrection and the Boxer Rebellion; (b) Mexican Border Period; (c) World War I; (d) World War II; (e) Korean Conflict; (f) Vietnam Era; (g) Persian Gulf War; (h) Operation Enduring Freedom; and (i) Operation Iraqi Freedom.

¹² Section 295.08, F.S.

¹³ Section 295.085, F.S.

Veterans' Preference in Private Employment

While the majority of states grant some form of employment preference to veterans in the public sector, private employers have been hesitant to favor veterans due to long-standing federal laws that prohibit discrimination in hiring.¹⁴ Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Act) prohibits veterans' preference in employment as unlawfully discriminatory due to the potential disparate impact on women. However, Section 712 of the Act contains an exception which provides that veterans' preferences permitted pursuant to federal, state, or local law are not subject to challenge under Title VII.¹⁵

Since 2011, four states have enacted statutes that allow private employers to create voluntary veterans' preference policies. These include the states of Washington, Minnesota, Arkansas, and North Dakota.¹⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates s. 295.188, F.S., to authorize, but not require, a private sector employer to establish a voluntary veterans' preference in employment process for an honorably discharged veteran or the spouse of a service-disabled veteran. The bill also clarifies that the provisions in the bill do not violate any state or local equal employment opportunity law.

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

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. Other Constitutional Issues:

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits veterans' preferences in employment as unlawfully discriminatory due to the potential disparate impact on women. However, Section 712 of the Act provides an exception for veterans' preference processes that are authorized by federal, state, or local law.

¹⁴ NCSL, Giving Veterans Hiring Preference, by Jennifer Schultz, Vol. 21, No. 46, December 2013, available at: <http://www.ncsl.org/research/military-and-veterans-affairs/giving-veterans-hiring-preference.aspx?TabId=27550>.

¹⁵ EEOC, Policy Guidance on Veterans' Preference Under Title VII, August 10, 1990. Available at: http://www.eeoc.gov/policy/docs/veterans_preference.html

¹⁶ See *supra* Note 14.

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:

This bill creates section 295.188 of the Florida Statutes.

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 Hays

11-01022-14

2014970__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to employment of veterans; creating s.
3 295.188, F.S.; authorizing a private employer to give
4 priority in its hiring practices to certain wartime
5 veterans and spouses of service-disabled veterans;
6 providing for applicability; providing an effective
7 date.
8
9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
10
11 Section 1. Section 295.188, Florida Statutes, is created to
12 read:
13 295.188 Employment of veterans.-
14 (1) A private employer may give priority in its hiring
15 practices to an eligible person who is:
16 (a) An honorably discharged veteran, as defined in s.
17 1.01(14); or
18 (b) The spouse of a service-disabled veteran, as defined in
19 s. 295.187(3) (b).
20 (2) This section does not violate any state or local equal
21 employment opportunity law.
22 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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

3/5/14
Meeting Date

Topic Veterans Employment

Bill Number 970
(if applicable)

Name Adam Giery (Gear-e')

Amendment Barcode _____
(if applicable)

Job Title Dir of Policy

Address 136 South Bronough
Street

Phone _____

Tallahassee FL 32311
City State Zip

E-mail _____

Speaking: For Against Information

Representing FL Chamber of Commerce

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.

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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

3/5/2014

Meeting Date

Topic Employment of Veterans

Bill Number SB 970
(if applicable)

Name Col. Mike Prendergast

Amendment Barcode _____
(if applicable)

Job Title Executive Director

Address The Capitol, Suite 2105, 400 South

Phone (850) 487-1533

Street

Tallahassee FL 32399

City

State

Zip

E-mail PRENDERGASTM@FDVA.State.FL.US

Speaking: For Against Information

Representing The Florida Department 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 (10/20/11)

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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

3/5/14
Meeting Date

Topic Veterans

Bill Number 970
(if applicable)

Name Bill Helmich

Amendment Barcode _____
(if applicable)

Job Title _____

Address 303 Johns Dr

Phone 850 251 3126

Tallahassee FL 32301
Street City State Zip

E-mail _____

Speaking: For Against Information

Representing VFW / American Legion

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.

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: LL 37

Case:

Type:

Caption: Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, And Domestic Security

Judge:

Started: 3/5/2014 1:35:30 PM

Ends: 3/5/2014 1:59:43 PM Length: 00:24:14

1:35:32 PM Meeting called to order by Chairman Altman
1:35:44 PM Roll call by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham
1:35:59 PM Chairman speaking regarding electrics and to fill out appearance cards
1:36:21 PM Comments by Senator Sachs and introduction of Mr. Jeremiah Samuel
1:37:04 PM Introduction of Ms. Sarah Huckabee by Chairman Altman
1:37:29 PM Introduction of Ms. Elizabeth Fetterhoff by Chairman Altman to present SB 608
1:38:28 PM Chairman Altman passes chair to Vice Chair Gibson
1:38:43 PM Tab 1 - SB 608 presented by Senator Hukill's Legislative Assistant, Ms. Elizabeth Fetterhoff
1:40:00 PM Vice Chair Gibson ask Senator Altman to explain Amendment #132914
1:40:54 PM Chairman Altman explains Amendment #132914
1:41:50 PM Vice Chair Gibson ask if there were questions from any member
1:42:06 PM Question by Senator Abruzzo
1:42:24 PM Response by Chairman Altman
1:43:25 PM Vice Chair Gibson ask if there were any questions on the amendment
1:43:53 PM The amendment was adopted. Vice Chair Gibson turned the chair back over to the Chairman
1:44:01 PM Chairman Altman stated that Senator Legg's Amendment #858372 was withdrawn
1:44:26 PM Chairman Altman states that we are now back on the bill as amended
1:44:35 PM Chairman Altman asked was there any questions or discussion on bill as amended by the members
1:44:35 PM Mr. Bill Helmich, VFW/American Legion waives in support
1:44:53 PM Ms. Fetterhoff waives closing and ask for a Committee Substitute
1:45:25 PM Senator Evers moves that SB 608 be reported for a Committee Substitute
1:46:05 PM Roll call by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham on CS/SB 608 - and bill passes
1:46:38 PM Tab 2 - SB 958 by Senator Simpson presented by Ms. Rachel Rogers, Legislative Assistant
1:47:27 PM Chairman Altman ask if there were questions on the bill
1:47:36 PM Question from Senator Sachs
1:48:03 PM Response from Ms. Rogers
1:49:14 PM Question from Senator Evers
1:49:28 PM Response from Ms. Rogers
1:50:10 PM Response from Chairman Altman
1:50:17 PM Comments from Senator Abruzzo
1:50:41 PM Comments from Senator Sachs
1:51:07 PM Response from Mrs. Elizabeth Ryon, Staff Director
1:51:29 PM Response from Senator Gibson
1:52:18 PM Response from Chairman Altman
1:53:14 PM Question from Senator Evers
1:53:26 PM Comments from Ms. Rogers
1:53:48 PM Comments from Chairman Altman
1:53:59 PM Response from Mr. Pierce Schuesser, Legislative Affairs Director, DEP

1:54:05 PM Comments from Senator Evers
1:54:18 PM Response from Ms. Rogers
1:54:25 PM Comments from Senator Abruzzo
1:54:34 PM Question from Chairman Altman
1:54:51 PM Bill Helmich waives in support
1:55:08 PM Comments from Chairman Altman
1:55:13 PM Comments from Senator Abruzzo
1:55:52 PM Comments from Chairman Altman
1:56:00 PM Ms. Rogers waives closing
1:56:10 PM Chairman Altman ask CAA to call roll SB 958
1:56:29 PM Roll call by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham on SB 958
1:56:42 PM SB 958 passes favorably
1:56:51 PM Tab 3 - SB 970 by Senator Hays presented by Ms. Jessica Crawford, Legislative Assistant
1:57:27 PM Comments from Chairman Altman
1:57:35 PM Question from Chairman Altman
1:57:44 PM Mr. Bill Helmich waives in support
1:57:56 PM Colonel Mike Prendergast, Executive Director, Dept of Veterans' Affairs waives in support
1:58:17 PM Mr. Adam Greig waives in support
1:58:30 PM Ms. Crawford waives closing
1:58:46 PM Chairman Altman ask for roll call on SB 970
1:58:58 PM Roll call by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham on SB 970
1:59:08 PM SB 970 passes favorably
1:59:15 PM Comments from Chairman Altman
1:59:26 PM Senator Gibson moves to rise



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

SENATOR JOHN LEGG

17th District

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

March 5, 2014

Chair Altman,

Please excuse my absence for the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee meeting scheduled for March 5, 2014. There was an educational policy issue that delayed me from attending the meeting. If there is an issue you need to speak with me directly about, please contact me on my personal cell phone. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Legg", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Legg
State Senate, District 17

cc: Elizabeth Ryon
Staff Director

REPLY TO:

- 214 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5017
- 262 Crystal Grove Boulevard, Lutz, Florida 33548

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

DON GAETZ
President of the Senate

GARRETT RICHTER
President Pro Tempore