

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

**MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, SPACE, AND
DOMESTIC SECURITY**

Senator Altman, Chair
Senator Gibson, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, March 31, 2015
TIME: 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon
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	SB 1144 Simpson (Similar CS/H 1193)	Services for Veterans and Their Families; Requiring the Department of Children and Families to establish the Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program; providing goals of the program; requiring the designation of implementation teams; providing a list of required services, etc. CF 03/19/2015 Favorable MS 03/31/2015 Favorable AP	Favorable Yeas 5 Nays 0

Consideration of proposed bill:

2	SPB 7076	Military and Veteran Support; Removing the requirement that an applicant to the Defense Infrastructure Grant Program provide matching funds of a certain amount; requiring the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to waive initial professional licensing fees for a veteran who has received a general discharge under honorable conditions; requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the Department of Military Affairs to create a pilot program for commercial driver license testing for qualified members of the Florida National Guard by a specified date, etc.	Submitted as Committee Bill Yeas 5 Nays 0
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TAB	OFFICE and APPOINTMENT (HOME CITY)	FOR TERM ENDING	COMMITTEE ACTION
Senate Confirmation Hearing: A public hearing will be held for consideration of the below-named executive appointment to the office indicated.			
Adjutant General of Florida National Guard			
3	Calhoun, Michael A. (St. Augustine)	Pleasure of Governor	Recommend Confirm Yeas 5 Nays 0

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
4	Joint Presentation by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Division of Emergency Management on Domestic Security Funding		Presented

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security
Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
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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: SB 1144

INTRODUCER: Senator Simpson

SUBJECT: Services for Veterans and Their Families

DATE: March 30, 2015

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Hendon</u>	<u>Hendon</u>	<u>CF</u>	Favorable
2.	<u>Sanders</u>	<u>Ryon</u>	<u>MS</u>	Favorable
3.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____

I. Summary:

SB 1144 establishes the Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program within the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to provide veterans and their families with behavioral health information and referral services. The new program will model the proof-of-concept pilot program conducted in 2014 by the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay and the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs and will be delivered through the Florida 211 Network. The bill appropriates \$2 million of recurring funds from general revenue for the program and has an effective date of July 1, 2015.

II. Present Situation:

Florida 211

Section 408.918, F.S., establishes the Florida 211 Network, authorizing the planning, development, and implementation of a statewide network to serve as the single point of coordination for information and referral for health and human services.

A 211 network is a telephone-based service offered by nonprofit and public agencies throughout Florida and the United States that provide free, confidential information and referral services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The network helps callers identify and connect with health and human service programs that can meet a variety of needs, including food, housing, employment, health care, crisis counseling and more.¹ In Florida, services are available statewide through any cell phone provider as well as through landlines in all 67 counties by dialing 2-1-1.² In order to participate in the Florida 211 Network, a 211 provider must be fully accredited by the National

¹ Florida 2-1-1- Association, <http://www.211florida.org/> (last visited March 26, 2015).

² *Id.*

Alliance of Information and Referral Services or have received approval to operate, pending accreditation, from its affiliate, the Florida Alliance of Information and Referral Services.³

Veterans and Mental Health

Depression and Suicide Among Veterans

According to a 2008 study, between 5 and 15 percent of veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan returned with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and an additional 2 to 14 percent returned with major depression.⁴ PTSD attributed to combat has affected between 2 and 17 percent of all U.S. military veterans since the Vietnam War.⁵ In 2012, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) released a report detailing veteran deaths from suicide from 1999 to 2009.⁶ Over that ten-year span, veterans comprised approximately 22.2% of all suicides. In 2010, on average, 22 veterans committed suicide per day.⁷ In response to these trends, the federal government, through the USDVA, established programs to connect veterans to mental health services.

Mental Health Services for Veterans

For the purposes of USDVA health benefits and services, a person who served in the active military service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable is a veteran and may qualify for USDVA health care benefits.⁸ Current and former reservists and National Guard members may also qualify for USDVA health care benefits if they were called to active duty by a federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty.⁹

The USDVA provides specialty inpatient and outpatient mental health services at its medical centers and community-based outpatient clinics, in addition, readjustment counseling services may be available at veteran centers across the nation.¹⁰ The goal is to support recovery and enable veterans who experience mental health problems to live meaningful lives in their communities and to achieve their full potential.

The Veterans Crisis Line (VCL) is a resource for veterans developed by the USDVA to connect veterans and current service members in crisis and their families and friends with information

³ Section 408.918(2), F.S.

⁴ Invisible Wounds of War: Psychological and Cognitive Injuries, Their Consequences, and Services to Assist Recovery, at 433 (Terri Tanielian and Lisa H. Jaycox, Eds.) (2008), http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG720.pdf, (last visited March 27, 2015).

⁵ Lisa K. Richardson, B. Christopher Frueh, and Ronald Acierno, *Prevalence Estimate of Combat-Related PTSD: A Critical Review*, 44 Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry, at 4-19 (January 2010), <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2891773/>, (last visited March 27, 2015).

⁶ Janet Kemp and Robert Bossarte, *Suicide Data Report, 2012*, Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health Services Suicide Prevention Program, at 15, <http://www.va.gov/opa/docs/Suicide-Data-Report-2012-final.pdf>, (last visited March 20, 2015).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Health Benefits, Veterans Eligibility, <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/veterans.asp>, (last visited March 27, 2015).

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, *Health Benefits* (2014), http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/access/medical_benefits_package.asp, (last visited March 27, 2015).

from qualified responders through a confidential, toll-free hotline, online chat, and text messaging service.¹¹ The VCL was launched in 2007 and over the course of the program has answered more than 1.6 million calls, engaged in more than 207,700 online chats, responded to more than 32,300 texts, and made more than 45,000 lifesaving rescues.¹² Over the span of the program the number of repeat callers has steadily increased, either reflecting a change in the type of help individuals are seeking or the expanding role the VCL is playing in the provision of mental health care for veterans.¹³

The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay Pilot Project

In 2014, the Legislature appropriated \$150,000 to the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) to create a pilot project expanding existing Florida 211 services to veterans in Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Manatee counties.¹⁴ In August 2014, the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay (CCTB) expanded services to veterans and to date has served 98 veterans through care coordination.¹⁵ Veterans in care coordination receive ongoing suicide assessment, continuous safety planning, and support for an extended period of time. The program aims to ensure veterans are not only receiving information on available services, but are also enrolled, accepted, and attending USDVA funded and other community based services. From the inception of the program in November 2014 through March 2015, the CCTB pilot project has handled 477 total calls; of those, 217 calls were referred to care coordination services.¹⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates s. 394.9087, F.S. to establish the Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program (program) within the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The program must provide to veterans and their families behavioral healthcare referral services and model the proof-of-concept pilot program conducted in 2014 by the CCTB and the FDVA. Behavioral health includes services for both mental health and substance abuse. The bill sets out the goals for the program to include:

- Prevent suicides among veterans;
- Increase the use of services; and
- Increase the level of USDVA funding.

The bill requires the DCF to establish care coordination teams to implement the program and provide information and referral services by expanding the services provided by the Florida 211 Network. The program must also meet the requirements specified in s. 408.913, F.S. The services must include:

- Peer support, crisis intervention and information and referral;
- Treatment coordination, including follow up care;

¹¹ Veterans Crisis Line, FAQs, <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/About/FAQs.aspx>, (last visited March 27, 2015).

¹² Veterans Crisis Line, About the Veterans Crisis Line, <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/About/AboutVeteransCrisisLine.aspx>, (last visited March 27, 2015).

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Specific appropriation 595 of HB 5001, 2014-2015 General Appropriations Act

¹⁵ E-mail correspondence with Bruce Grant, Chairman, Statewide Veterans Advisory Council on March 9, 2015. (On file with Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee)

¹⁶ *Id.*

- Suicide assessment;
- Promotion of safety and wellness;
- Coordination of resources available to veterans; and
- Needs assessments, including safety planning.

The program must maintain records on the number of requests for services. The bill requires the program to follow up with veterans to see if they have acted on referrals for service and if they have received assistance. The program is required to develop communication strategies to inform veterans and their families of available services.

The bill appropriates \$2 million in recurring general revenue funds to the DCF to implement the Veterans' Care Coordination Program.

The bill 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:

The bill appropriates \$2 million in recurring general revenue funds to the Department of Children and Families.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates the following section 394.9087 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

18-01074-15

20151144__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to services for veterans and their families; creating s. 394.9087, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and Families to establish the Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program; providing goals of the program; requiring the designation of implementation teams; providing a list of required services; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 394.9087, Florida Statutes is created to read:

394.9087 Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program.—

(1) The Department of Children and Families, in cooperation with the Agency for Health Care Administration and pursuant to the requirements of s. 408.913, shall establish the Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program in all department service districts to provide veterans and their families in this state with dedicated behavioral healthcare referral services, especially mental health and substance abuse services. The department shall model the program after the proof-of-concept pilot program conducted in 2014 by the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay and the Department of Veterans' Affairs in Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Manatee Counties.

(2) The goals of the program are to:

(a) Prevent suicides by veterans in this state.

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(b) Increase the number of veterans who make use of agency services.

(c) Increase the level of Veterans Administration funding for needed services to veterans in this state, thereby saving money for the state.

(3) The department shall designate care coordination teams to implement the program statewide. The teams shall provide referral services to veterans and their families and expand the existing Florida 211 Network, authorized by s. 408.918, to include the optimal range of veterans' service organizations and programs.

(4) Services provided by the program must include:

(a) Telephonic peer support, crisis intervention, and the communication of information and referral resources.

(b) Treatment coordination, including followup care.

(c) Suicide assessment.

(d) Promotion of the safety and wellness of veterans and their families, including continuous safety planning and support.

(e) Resource coordination, including data analysis, to ensure acceptance, enrollment, and attendance by veterans and their families in Veterans Administration programs and services and community-based programs and services.

(f) Immediate needs assessments, including safety planning.

(5) To enhance program services, program teams shall:

(a) Track the number of requests from callers who are veterans or their family members.

(b) Follow up with callers to determine whether they have acted on the referrals or received the assistance needed, or if

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59 additional referrals or advocacies are needed.

60 (c) Develop communication strategies, such as media
61 promotions, public service announcements, print and Internet
62 stories, or community presentations, to inform veterans and
63 their families about available services.

64 (d) Document all calls and capture all data to improve
65 outreach to veterans and their families.

66 Section 2. For the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the sum of \$2
67 million in recurring funds is appropriated from the General
68 Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and Families for the
69 purpose of implementing this act.

70 Section 3. 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)

3/3/11

Meeting Date

1144

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Vet 211

Name Travis Mitchell

Job Title Lobbyist

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Address Po Box 274108

Street

Phone 386 299 7298

Tampa

FL

33658

City

State

Zip

Email travis.mitchell@crisiscenter.org

Speaking: For Against Information

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

Representing Crisis Center of Tampa Bay

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)

31 March 2015
Meeting Date

1144
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Veteran's Care Coordination

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Jill Gran

Job Title Legislative Affairs Director

Address 28108 Mahan Dr

Phone 878-2196

Tallahassee FL 32308
City State Zip

Email jill@tadca.org

Speaking: For Against Information

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

Representing Florida Alcohol & Drug Abuse Association

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)

3/31/15

Meeting Date

SB 1144

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name COL. MIKE PRENDERGAST

Job Title EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Address THE CAPITOL, SUITE 2105

Phone (850) 487-1333

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32399

City

State

Zip

Email exdir@fdva.state.fl.us

Speaking: [X] For [] Against [] Information

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

Representing

Appearing at request of Chair: [] Yes [X] No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: [X] 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*
Environmental Preservation and Conservation,
Vice Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government
Finance and Tax
Judiciary
Transportation

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

SENATOR WILTON SIMPSON

18th District

March 30, 2015

Honorable Thad Altman
Committee on Military on Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security
215 Knott Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chairman Altman,

I appreciate you including my legislation, SB 1144, relating to services for veterans and their families, on the March 31st Committee on Military on Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security agenda. As you are aware, I will be chairing the Committee on Community Affairs at that time. I respectfully request that you allow my Legislative Assistant, Keaton Alexander, to present the bill on my behalf, if necessary.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you or your staff have any questions.

Regards,

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

Wilton Simpson
State Senator, 18th District

cc: Elizabeth Ryon, Staff Director
Lois Graham, Committee Administrative Assistant

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

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: SPB 7076

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

SUBJECT: Military and Veteran Support

DATE: March 30, 2015

REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Ryon	Ryon		Submitted as Committee Bill

I. Summary:

SPB 7076 makes various changes to current law related to military and veteran support. In part, the bill:

- Amends Florida’s grant programs for defense-dependent communities to clarify that an existing 30 percent match requirement applies only to the Defense Reinvestment Grant Program;
- Requires the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs to include a section on agricultural farming opportunities for veterans in the Florida Veterans’ Benefits Guide and to make the guide available to military installations in Florida;
- Expands the authorization of local governing bodies to assist honorably discharged veterans who have wartime service, to also include any veteran who has wartime service, regardless of discharge, any veteran who has an honorable discharge, and any veteran who has received a general discharge under honorable conditions;
- Revises the Department of Business and Professional Regulation’s general licensure fee waiver program to allow the waiver to apply to a veteran with a general discharge under honorable conditions; and
- Requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and Department of Military Affairs to create a pilot program to provide on-site commercial driver license testing opportunities available to qualified members of the Florida National Guard.

II. Present Situation:

Defense Grant Programs

Section 288.980, F.S., establishes grant programs designed to aid defense-dependent communities throughout the state that are administered by Enterprise Florida, Inc., through the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). Among these programs are the Florida Defense Reinvestment Grant Program (DRG) and the Defense Infrastructure Grant Program (DIG).

The DRG program competitively funds projects proposed by defense-dependent communities to develop and implement strategies to help support the missions of a community's military installation or diversity the defense-dependent community's economy. DRG-funded activities can include studies, presentations, analyses, plans, marketing, modeling, and reasonable travel costs. For fiscal year 2014-2015, the Legislature appropriated \$850,000 to DEO to fund the DRG program. Twelve DRG projects were approved for fiscal year 2014-2015, totaling \$850,000.

The DIG program competitively funds local infrastructure projects deemed to have a positive impact on the military value of installations within the state. Authorized DIG projects include, but are not limited to, those relating to encroachment, transportation and access, utilities, communications, housing, environment, and security. For fiscal year 2014-2015, the Legislature appropriated \$1.6 million to DEO to fund the DIG program. Ten DIG projects were approved for fiscal year 2014-2015, totaling \$1.6 million.

Section 288.980, F.S., was significantly amended in 2012 to consolidate the seven defense grant programs that existed at that time into three comprehensive programs: the DIG, the DRG, and the Military Base Protection programs.¹ The 2012 revision expressly requires both DRG and DIG applicants to agree to match at least 30 percent of any grant awarded. However, this requirement conflicts with the current and historical DIG provision that *allows* the DEO to require a match for certain projects. This permissive match provision for the DIG program was present in the statute prior to the 2012 revision and matches have not been a requirement for past DIG projects. In administering the two programs, DEO and Enterprise Florida, Inc., require the 30 percent match for DRG projects only. According to Enterprise Florida, Inc., the 30 percent match requirement is appropriate for the DRG program, not the DIG program. It appears that the imposition of the mandatory match requirement for *both* programs may have been an oversight during the 2012 revision of s. 288.980, F.S.

Military Discharges

Florida law defines a "veteran" as a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under honorable conditions only or who later received an upgraded discharge under honorable conditions, notwithstanding any action by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on individuals discharged or released with other than honorable discharges. 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 during certain periods of wartime service.²

Federal law defines a "veteran" as a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable."³

¹ Ch. 2012-98, Laws of Fla.

² s. 1.01(14), F.S.

³ 38 U.S.C. § 101(2); 38 C.F.R. § 3.1(d).

Types of Discharges

There are five types of discharges issued by the military services:⁴

- **Honorable Discharge:** The servicemember met the conduct and performance standards of the military and is eligible for most veteran benefits including VA education benefits (*i.e.*, GI Bill), military health benefits, military retirement, and military travel benefits.
- **General Discharge under Honorable Conditions:** The servicemember's service has been honest, faithful and satisfactory. However, this characterization of service is warranted when significant negative aspects of the member's conduct or performance of duty outweigh positive aspects of the member's military conduct or performance of duty outweigh positive aspects of the record. This discharge means a member is eligible for most veteran benefits but NOT for VA education benefits.
- **Other than Honorable Discharge:** This discharge is warranted when the reason for separation is based upon a pattern of behavior that constitutes a significant departure from the conduct expected of servicemembers. Examples include abuse of authority, serious misconduct that endangers other members of the military, and use of deliberate force to seriously hurt another person. Generally, a servicemember that has this discharge is ineligible for all VA benefits.
- **Bad Conduct Discharge:** A punitive discharge that's imposed by court-martial (criminal trial conducted by the military). A servicemember is not entitled to any VA benefits.
- **Dishonorable Discharge:** Provided when a serious crime has been committed such as desertion, rape, or murder. This discharge is only given if a servicemember is convicted at a general court-martial and the servicemember is not entitled to any VA benefits.

Generally, in order to receive federal VA benefits, the veteran's character of discharge or service must be under other than dishonorable conditions (e.g., honorable, under honorable conditions, general). However, individuals receiving undesirable, bad conduct, and other types of dishonorable discharges may qualify for VA benefits depending on a determination made by VA.⁵

A discharge characterized by the military as under honorable conditions is binding on the VA and allows for the VA to provide benefits if other eligibility requirements are met. If a discharge was not characterized as under honorable conditions, benefits are not payable unless the VA determines the discharge was "under conditions other than dishonorable. Under federal law, certain situations resulting in a discharge under less than honorable conditions constitute a legal bar to the payment of benefits.⁶

A release or discharge for any of the following reasons constitutes a statutory bar to benefits, unless it is determined that the servicemember was insane at the time he/she committed the offense that resulted in the discharge:⁷

- Sentence of a general court-martial;
- Being a conscientious objector;

⁴ Congressional Research Service, "Who is a Veteran?" Basic Eligibility for Veterans' Benefits, January 23, 2014, at page 3.

⁵ US Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Benefits Administration, available at: http://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/character_of_discharge.asp

⁶ US Department of Veterans Affairs factsheet on claims for benefits involving other-than-honorable discharges, available at: http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/docs/COD_Factsheet.pdf

⁷ 38 U.S.C. § 5303.

- Desertion;
- Resignation by an officer for the good of the service;
- Absence without official leave (AWOL) for a continuous period of 180 days or more, without compelling circumstances to warrant such prolonged unauthorized absence (as determined by VA); or
- Requesting release from service as an alien during a period of hostilities.

Local Governing Bodies Authorized to Assist War Veterans

Current law authorizes the board of county commissioners of each county and the governing body of each city, to aid and assist veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces in presenting claims for, and securing, the following benefits and privileges:

- Compensation;
- Hospitalization;
- Education;
- Loans;
- Career training, and
- Other state or federal benefits or privileges to which they may become entitled.⁸

The law applies to honorably discharged veterans who have who have wartime service and their dependents.

Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation License Fee Waiver

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) was established in 1993 with the merger of the Department of Business Regulation and the Department of Professional Regulation.⁹ DBPR is responsible for licensing and regulating various businesses and professionals in the state, including but not limited to, cosmetologists, veterinarians, real estate agents and pari-mutuel wagering facilities.¹⁰ Section 455.213, F.S., provides the general provisions for issuance of professional licensure by the DBPR. The current statute waives the initial licensing fee, the initial application fee and initial unlicensed activity fee for honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces and their spouses within 60 months prior to applying for licensure.

Agricultural Careers for Veterans

Periodically, Congress establishes agricultural and food policy in a multi-year, omnibus farm bill. The Federal Agricultural Act of 2014¹¹ (Farm Bill), provides opportunities to veterans to pursue agricultural farming jobs. Among other things, the Farm Bill creates a definition for “veteran farmer or rancher” to mean a farmer or rancher who has served in the Armed Forces and who has not operated a farm or ranch, or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10

⁸ s. 292.10, F.S

⁹ Chapter 93-220, L.O.F.

¹⁰ DBPR website, available at: <http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/index.html>

¹¹ Pub. L. No. 113-79, H.R. 2642, 113th Cong

years.¹² The veteran farmer or rancher classification allows veterans to receive additional assistance for agricultural programs, including the following:¹³

- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Transition Incentive Program:** This program allows retiring farmers with land in the CRP to receive additional payments for leasing or selling the land to a beginning farmer or rancher, a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher, or a veteran farmer or rancher. The purpose is to make land available to new farmers while ensuring that land coming out of the CRP is farmed or grazed in a sustainable manner.
- **Conservation Programming Preference for Veteran Farmers:** The USDA is required to set aside a portion of funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and a portion of the acres available for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The amount is five percent for beginning farmers and ranchers and five percent for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Under the Farm Bill, a preference must be given to veteran farmers and ranchers that fall within one of the set-aside categories.
- **Value-Added Development Grants:** Under this program, private farmers may directly receive grants for their business to assist them in developing business plans and strategies to market value-added products. The USDA must also give a priority to veteran farmers and ranchers.

There are also numerous outreach and advocacy programs under the Farm Bill, including the following:¹⁴

- **Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Grants:** This program administers grants to organizations that provide training, education, outreach, and technical assistance to beginner farmers and ranchers. Under the Farm Bill, assistance for veteran farmers is a priority and five percent of funding is set aside for programs serving veterans.
- **Outreach and Assistance Program for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers:** This program allows the USDA to provide additional technical assistance to veterans focused on enabling farm ownership and operation as well as outreach to encourage participation in the USDA programs.

Commercial Drivers' Licenses

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), established within the U.S. Department of Transportation, is the federal agency responsible for establishing minimum federal standards that states must meet regarding the issuance of commercial driver licenses (CDL). Administration of the actual CDL program and issuance of the license itself is the exclusive function of the states. To obtain a CDL in Florida an applicant must pass certain knowledge, endorsement, and skills tests depending on the type of CDL sought.

In 2011, the FMCSA formalized a provision that gives states the authority to substitute two years of commercial motor vehicle safe driving experience in the military for the skills test required upon application for a CDL.¹⁵ In Florida, the CDL skills test waiver is available to military servicemembers (including National Guard members and reservists) and those who are within 90

¹² U.S. Department of Agriculture website on "Natural Resources Conservation Service," available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/farmbill/?cid=stelprdb1256753>

¹³ Farmer Veteran Coalition, available at <http://www.farmvetco.org/archives/2872>,

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Substitute for Driving Skills Tests for Drivers with Military CMV Experience, 49 CFR s. 383.77 (2011).

days of separation from the military. To qualify for the military skills test waiver, the applicant must:¹⁶

- Pass all required written knowledge exams and endorsements required for the class of CDL sought;
- Certify that for at least 2 years immediately preceding the application, the applicant operated a motor vehicle representative of the class of CDL sought; and
- Present the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Certification for Waiver of Skill Test for Military Personnel form, filled out in its entirety, and signed by the applicant's commanding officer or designee.¹⁷

The skills test waiver process must be completed, and the CDL issued, within 120 days of separation from the military.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 288.980, F.S., to remove the 30 percent match requirement for grants awarded under the Defense Infrastructure Grant Program. The bill clarifies that the 30 percent match requirement applies only to the Defense Reinvestment Grant Program.

Section 2 amends s. 292.10, F.S., to expand the authorization of local governing bodies to assist honorably discharged veterans who have wartime service, to additionally include any veteran who has wartime service, regardless of discharge, any veteran who has an honorable discharge, and any veteran who received a general discharge under honorable conditions.

Section 3 amends s. 455.213, F.S., to revise the DBPR general licensing fee waiver requirement for an honorably discharged veteran, to also require that the waiver to apply to a veteran with a general discharge under honorable conditions.

Section 4 requires the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA), through the direct-support organization established under s. 292.055, F.S., (The Florida Veterans Foundation), and in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to include a section in the FDVA Florida Veterans' Benefit Guide (Benefits Guide) on agricultural farming opportunities in the state for veterans. The Benefits Guide must include information on federal, state, and local agricultural farming programs, incentives, assistance, and grants available to veterans.

Additionally, the FDVA must make the Benefits Guide available at all military installations in Florida and provide a concise description of the Benefits Guide's agricultural farming section on the FDVA website including a link to the new section.

Section 5 requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the Department of Military Affairs to create a pilot program by June 30, 2016, to make commercial driving license testing opportunities available to qualified members of the Florida National Guard. The testing

¹⁶ Rule 15A-7.018, F.A.C., Military Qualifications for Waiver of Commercial Driver License Skills Test.

¹⁷ DHSMV Certification for Waiver of Skill Test for Military Personnel form. Available at: <http://www.flhsmv.gov/html/HSMV71054.pdf>

must be held at a Florida National Guard Armory, an Armed Forces Reserve Center, or Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. The pilot program must be accomplished using existing funds appropriated to each department.

Section 6 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:

Section 2: A broader group of veterans and their families may be eligible for assistance provided by local governing bodies under the bill.

Section 3: Expanding eligibility for the DBPR general licensing fee waiver may encourage additional applicants to participate in the fee waiver program.

Section 4: Providing information on veteran-specific farming opportunities in the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide may encourage veterans to seek career opportunities in the agricultural farming industry.

Section 5: A successful pilot program providing commercial driver license testing opportunities for members of the Florida National Guard may lead to recruiting and training of new commercial motor vehicle drivers.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Section 3: In administering the licensure fee waiver program for honorably discharged veterans, it is the DBPR's current practice to allow veterans with a general discharge under honorable conditions to participate. However, the extent to which veterans with a discharge under this category know about DBPR's current practice is unknown. Section 3 merely codifies DBPR's current practice, and therefore, has no fiscal impact.

Section 4: The Florida Veterans' Benefit Guide (Benefits Guide) is a yearly publication printed by the Florida Veterans Foundation (Foundation), the FDVA's direct-support organization. The cost to print and distribute the Benefits Guide is paid through donations collected by the Foundation. Section 4 requires that the Benefits Guide contain information on agricultural farming opportunities for veterans. This information will be incorporated into a currently existing Benefits Guide. The Foundation will incur an expense should it decide to print updated Benefits Guides that include the new section on agricultural farming opportunities for veterans.

The requirement for the FDVA to make the Benefits Guide available to all military installations in Florida can be accomplished with minimal expense via e-mail.

Section 5: The bill requires the Department of Highway Safety Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to partner with the Department of Military Affairs to jointly create a pilot program to provide on-site commercial driver license testing opportunities to Florida National Guard members. The pilot program may be incorporated into the DHSMV's existing 'Florida Licensing on Wheels' (FLOW) program for a minimal fiscal impact. The FLOW program provides a convenient method to renew a driver license, obtain a replacement driver license, change a name or address on a driver license, etc. DHSMV has five FLOW mobiles that provide services out a large bus and six mini-FLOWS that can be set up at tables at smaller venues and indoor events.¹⁸

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 288.980, 292.10, and 455.213.

This bill creates two undesignated sections of Florida law.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

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

None.

¹⁸ DHSMV Florida Licensing on Wheels (FLOW) program. Available at: <http://www.flhsmv.gov/offices/FLOW.htm>.

B. Amendments:

None.

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

FOR CONSIDERATION By the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

583-02320A-15

20157076pb

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to military and veteran support;
 3 amending s. 288.980, F.S.; removing the requirement
 4 that an applicant to the Defense Infrastructure Grant
 5 Program provide matching funds of a certain amount;
 6 amending s. 292.10, F.S.; revising the categories of
 7 veterans eligible to receive assistance from local
 8 governing bodies; amending s. 455.213, F.S.; requiring
 9 the Department of Business and Professional Regulation
 10 to waive initial professional licensing fees for a
 11 veteran who has received a general discharge under
 12 honorable conditions; requiring the Department of
 13 Veterans' Affairs to create, in consultation with the
 14 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, a
 15 section in the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide on
 16 agricultural farming opportunities for veterans;
 17 prescribing requirements; requiring the Department of
 18 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the Department
 19 of Military Affairs to create a pilot program for
 20 commercial driver license testing for qualified
 21 members of the Florida National Guard by a specified
 22 date; requiring that such testing be conducted at
 23 certain locations; providing for funding; providing an
 24 effective date.

25
 26 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

27
 28 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) and subsection
 29 (4) of section 288.980, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

Page 1 of 5

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

583-02320A-15

20157076pb

30 288.980 Military base retention; legislative intent; grants
 31 program.—
 32 (3)
 33 (c) The department shall require that an applicant:
 34 1. Represent a local government with a military
 35 installation or military installations that could be adversely
 36 affected by federal actions.
 37 ~~2. Agree to match at least 30 percent of any grant awarded.~~
 38 2.3. Prepare a coordinated program or plan of action
 39 delineating how the eligible project will be administered and
 40 accomplished.
 41 ~~3.4.~~ Provide documentation describing the potential for
 42 changes to the mission of a military installation located in the
 43 applicant's community and the potential impacts such changes
 44 will have on the applicant's community.
 45 (4) The Florida Defense Reinvestment Grant Program is
 46 established to respond to the need for this state to work in
 47 conjunction with defense-dependent communities in developing and
 48 implementing strategies and approaches that will help
 49 communities support the missions of military installations, and
 50 in developing and implementing alternative economic
 51 diversification strategies to transition from a defense economy
 52 to a nondefense economy. Eligible applicants include defense-
 53 dependent counties and cities, and local economic development
 54 councils located within such communities. The program shall be
 55 administered by the department and grant awards may be provided
 56 to support community-based activities that:
 57 (a) Protect existing military installations;
 58 (b) Diversify the economy of a defense-dependent community;

Page 2 of 5

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

583-02320A-15

20157076pb

59 or

60 (c) Develop plans for the reuse of closed or realigned
61 military installations, including any plans necessary for
62 infrastructure improvements needed to facilitate reuse and
63 related marketing activities.

64
65 Applications for grants under this subsection must include a
66 coordinated program of work or plan of action delineating how
67 the eligible project will be administered and accomplished,
68 which must include a plan for ensuring close cooperation between
69 civilian and military authorities in the conduct of the funded
70 activities and a plan for public involvement. An applicant must
71 agree to match at least 30 percent of any grant awarded.

72 Section 2. Section 292.10, Florida Statutes, is amended to
73 read:

74 292.10 Local governing bodies authorized to assist war
75 veterans; powers.—The board of county commissioners of each
76 county and the governing body of each city in the state are
77 authorized hereby granted full and complete power and authority
78 to aid and assist wherever practical and feasible the veterans,
79 male and female, who have served in the Armed Forces of the
80 United States in any war, ~~and~~ received an honorable discharge,
81 or received a general discharge under honorable conditions from
82 any branch of the military service of the United States, and
83 their dependents, in presenting claims for and securing such
84 compensation, hospitalization, education, loans, career
85 training, and other benefits or privileges to which said
86 veterans, or any of them, are or may become entitled under any
87 federal or state law or regulation by reason of their service in

Page 3 of 5

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

583-02320A-15

20157076pb

88 the Armed Forces of the United States.

89 Section 3. Subsection (12) of section 455.213, Florida
90 Statutes, is amended to read:

91 455.213 General licensing provisions.—

92 (12) The department shall waive the initial licensing fee,
93 the initial application fee, and the initial unlicensed activity
94 fee for a military veteran or his or her spouse at the time of
95 discharge, if he or she applies to the department for a license,
96 in a format prescribed by the department, within 60 months after
97 the veteran is discharged from any branch of the United States
98 Armed Forces. To qualify for this waiver, the veteran must have
99 been honorably discharged or received a general discharge under
100 honorable conditions.

101 Section 4. Agricultural farming opportunities for
102 veterans.—

103 (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs, through the
104 direct-support organization established under s. 292.055,
105 Florida Statutes, and in consultation with the Department of
106 Agriculture and Consumer Services, shall include a section in
107 the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide on agricultural farming
108 opportunities in this state for veterans of the Armed Forces of
109 the United States. The section must, at a minimum, include
110 information on:

111 (a) Federal, state, and local agricultural farming
112 programs, incentives, assistance, and grants that are available
113 to veterans.

114 (b) Federal and state agricultural farming outreach and
115 advocacy programs that are available to veterans.

116 (2) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall:

Page 4 of 5

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

583-02320A-15

20157076pb

117 (a) Make the guides available to all military installations
118 in this state.

119 (b) Provide a concise description of the contents of the
120 section and a link to the section on its website.

121 Section 5. No later than June 30, 2016, the Department of
122 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the Department of Military
123 Affairs shall jointly create a pilot program to provide
124 opportunities for commercial driver license testing to qualified
125 members of the Florida National Guard through the commercial
126 driver license skills test waiver available under s. 322.12,
127 Florida Statutes. Testing held pursuant to the pilot program
128 must be conducted at a Florida National Guard armory, an Armed
129 Forces Reserve Center, or the Camp Blanding Joint Training
130 Center. The pilot program must be administered using existing
131 funds appropriated to each department.

132 Section 6. 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)

3/31/15

Meeting Date

SB 7076

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Military and Veteran Support

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Col. Mike Prendergast

Job Title Executive Director

Address The Capitol, Suite 2105

Phone (850) 487-1533

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32399

City

State

Zip

Email exdir@fdva.state.fl.us

Speaking: [X] For [] Against [] Information

Waive Speaking: [X] 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 [X] No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: [X] 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.

1575

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Elections**

I, Ken Detzner, Secretary of State,
do hereby certify that

Michael A. Calhoun

is duly appointed

Adjutant General of the State of Florida

for a term beginning on the
Twenty-Ninth day of March, A.D., 2015,
to serve at the pleasure of the Governor
and is subject to be confirmed by the Senate
during the next regular session of the Legislature.

*Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the
State of Florida at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
the Twentieth day of March, A.D., 2015.*



Ken Detzner

Secretary of State

If photocopied or chemically altered, the word "VOID" will appear.

State of Florida appears in small letters across the face of this 8 1/2 x 11" document.



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

RECEIVED
15 FEB 25 PM 1:16
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
SECRETARY OF STATE

February 24, 2015

Secretary Kenneth W. Detzner
Department of State
State of Florida
R. A. Gray Building, Room 316
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Secretary Detzner:

Please be advised I have made the following appointment under the provisions of Section 250.10, Florida Statutes:

Mr. Michael A. Calhoun
6907 Strawberry Lakes Circle
Lake Worth, Florida 33463

as Adjutant General of Florida, succeeding Maj. Gen. Emmett Titshaw, subject to confirmation by the Senate. This appointment is effective March 29, 2015, for a term ending at the pleasure of the Governor.

Sincerely,

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

Rick Scott
Governor

RS/vh

OATH OF OFFICE

(Art. II, § 5(b), Fla. Const.)

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2015 MAR 20 AM 9:34

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
TALLAHASSEE, FL

STATE OF FLORIDA

County of ST JOHNS

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida; that I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF FLORIDA

(Title of Office)

on which I am now about to enter, so help me God.

[NOTE: If you affirm, you may omit the words "so help me God." See § 92.52, Fla. Stat.]

Michael A. Calhoun
Signature

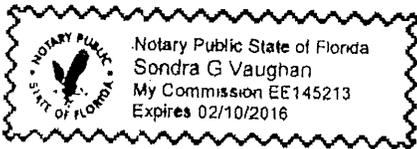
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19th day of MARCH, 2015

Sandra G. Vaughan
Signature of Officer Administering Oath of Notary Public

SONDRA G. VAUGHAN
Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

Personally Known OR Produced Identification

Type of Identification Produced _____



ACCEPTANCE

I accept the office listed in the above Oath of Office.

Mailing Address: Home Office

DMA
PO Box 1008
Street or Post Office Box

ST AUGUSTINE, FL 32085-1008
City, State, Zip Code

MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL A. CALHOUN
Print name as you desire commission issued

Michael A. Calhoun
Signature

The Florida Senate
Committee Notice Of Hearing

IN THE FLORIDA SENATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

IN RE: Executive Appointment of
Michael A. Calhoun
Adjutant General of Florida National Guard

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: Major General Michael A. Calhoun

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security of the Florida Senate will conduct a hearing on your executive appointment on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, in the Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Office Building, commencing at 10:00 a.m., pursuant to Rule 12.7(1) of the Rules of the Florida Senate.

Please be present at the time of the hearing.
DATED this the 25th day of March, 2015

Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs,
Space, and Domestic Security

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thad Altman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Senator Thad Altman
As Chair and by authority of the committee

cc: Members, Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security
Office of the Sergeant at Arms

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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

31 MAR 2015

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic CONFIRMATION

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name MG MICHAEL CALHOUN

Job Title TAG-FL

Address 82 MARINE ST.
Street

Phone (850) 414-9049

ST. AUGUSTINE FL 32084
City State Zip

Email _____

Speaking: For Against Information

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

Representing DMA

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

COMMITTEE WITNESS OATH

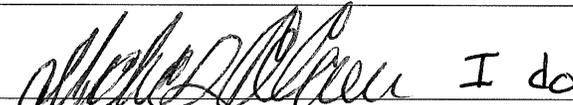
CHAIR:

Please raise your right hand and be sworn in as a witness.

Do you swear or affirm that the evidence you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

WITNESS'S NAME: MICHAEL A. CALHOUN

ANSWER:

 I do

Pursuant to §90.605(1), Florida Statutes: "The witness's answer shall be noted in the record."

COMMITTEE NAME: MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS,
SPACE AND DOMESTIC SECURITY

DATE: MARCH 31, 2015

Florida's Domestic Security Program

Jennifer Pritt

Assistant Commissioner

Florida Department of
Law Enforcement

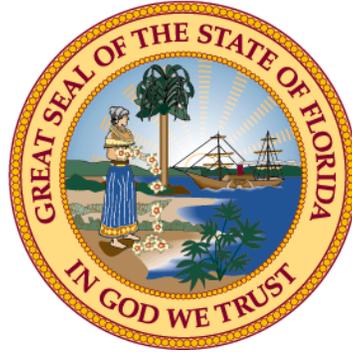
Bryan W. Koon

Director

Florida Division of
Emergency Management



Florida's Domestic Security Authority

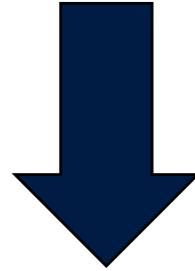


Florida Statute 943.03 (14)

Mandates responsibility for coordinating responses to acts of terrorism and other matters related to the domestic security of Florida to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, but recognizes the importance of many public and private multi-disciplinary partners in accomplishing the domestic security mission.



Regional Domestic Security Task Force



State Working Group



Domestic Security Oversight Council

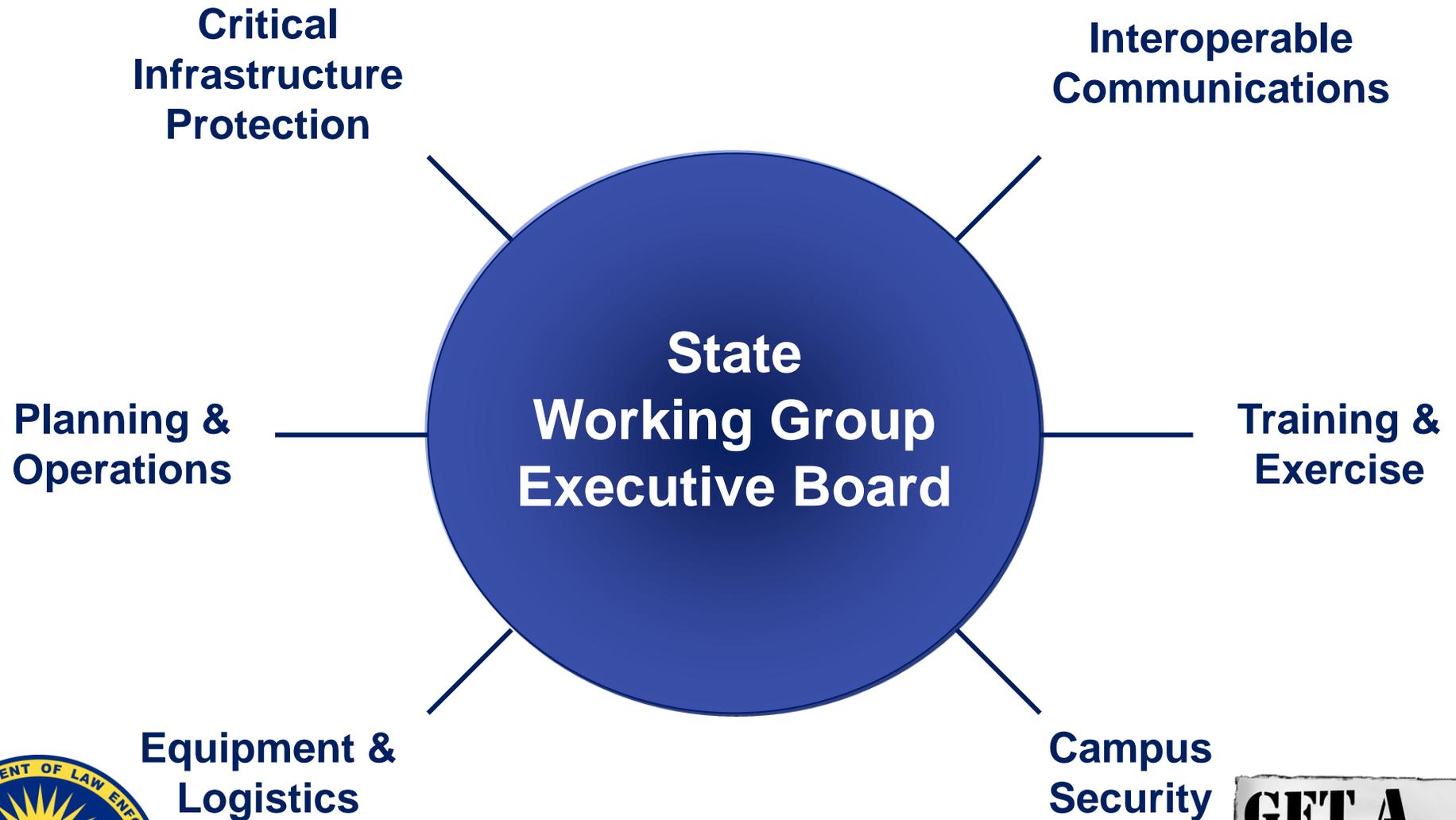


Typical RDSTF Structure

REGIONAL DOMESTIC SECURITY TASK FORCE
Co-chairs - FDLE Regional SAC & 1 Sheriff/Chief of Police from Region

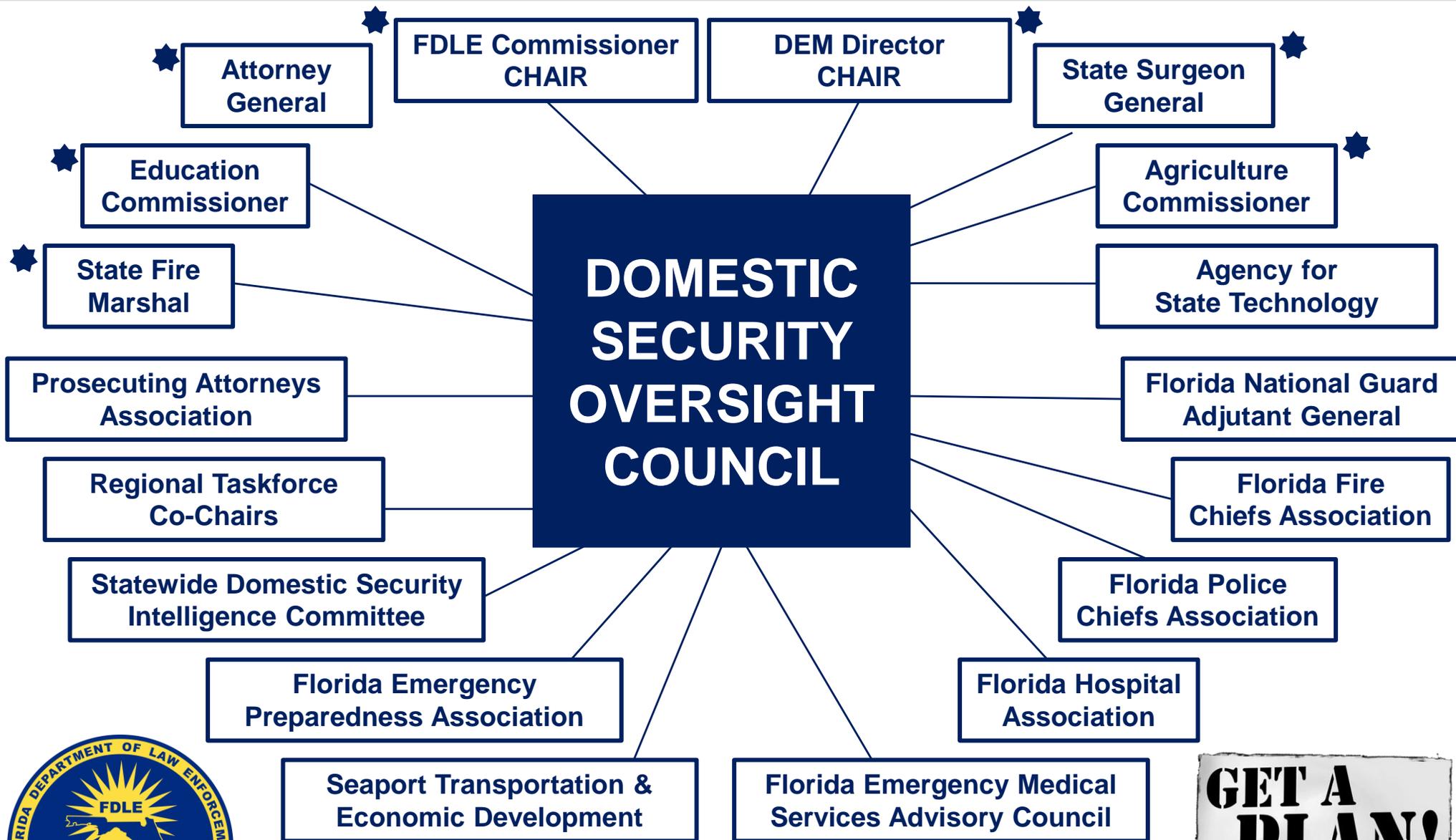


State Working Group on Domestic Preparedness



**GET A
PLAN!**
FLORIDA DIVISION OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Florida's Domestic Security Governance



★ Executive Committee



Florida's Funding Process

Planning

Capability Review

Local Project Development and
State Working Group Review

Prioritized by Peer Review Panel
and Regional Voting Delegates

Recommendations presented
and approved by DSOC

Legislative Budget Authority

Funding

Federal Funding Source



State Administrative Agency

Local Agencies
80%

State Agencies
20%

Discipline and
Regional Input

State Oversight
and
Coordination



**GET A
PLAN!**
FLORIDA DIVISION OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Summary of Department of Homeland Security Funding Requested by Florida

Fiscal Year 2015

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)	\$13,603,989
Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)	\$14,868,395
Operation Stonegarden	\$1,000,000
Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)	\$1,425,000
Total Funding Requested by Florida	\$30,897,384



Planner Positions

Final Project Priority	Funding Committee	Project Title / Description	Requested Amount	Running Total
N/A	Emergency Management	RDSTF PLANNERS (Emergency Management): Sustainment of RDSTF Planners will assist in strengthening regional collaboration and information sharing by providing planning expertise to all disciplines and by functioning as critical link between the Regional Domestic Security Task Force and the State. (6 positions)	\$420,000.00	\$420,000.00
N/A	Agriculture	Agriculture Planner: The planner coordinates and facilitates the SART Project, providing training opportunities to the response community, and participate in all state emergencies or exercises under the direction of ESF 17. (1 position)	\$60,000.00	\$480,000.00
N/A	LE Prevention	Meta Data Planners: Metadata Planners coordinate with law enforcement agencies and information technology staff operating the data sharing systems to identify, classify, extract, transmit, and load data between systems. They coordinate application administration, training and end user support for all participating agencies within their regions. (6 positions)	\$352,850.00	\$832,850.00
N/A	LE Prevention	Fusion Center Analysts: Continues funding for regional analytical positions for a forward node of the Florida Fusion Center .These personnel are essential to successfully executing the Critical Operational Capabilities - Receive, Analyze, Disseminate, and Gather as well as the Enabling Capabilities of Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Protections, Sustainment Strategy, Communications and Outreach, and Security. (8 positions)	\$440,000.00	\$1,272,850.00



State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)

Final Project Priority	Funding Committee	Project Title / Description	Requested Amount	Running Total
1	Fire Rescue	USAR HazMat Teams Sustainment: This project funds the sustainment of specifically identified items from the equipment caches of Regional Hazardous Materials Response teams and Urban Search & Rescue. Funding provides the capability to maintain, repair and/or service specific high end technological equipment purchase with Federal grant funds.	\$537,677.00	\$1,810,527.00
2	Fire Rescue	USAR HazMat Critical Needs: This project funds the build out of specifically identified items from the equipment caches of Regional Hazardous Materials Response teams and Urban Search & Rescue	\$428,560.00	\$2,239,087.00
3	Law Enforcement Prevention	Enhancement of Florida's Fusion Centers: Provides continued support of the established regional fusion centers as well as the Florida Fusion Center to ensure continued collaboration within all disciplines of Florida's domestic security structure. It enhances the dissemination of threat information and information sharing among the state's partners.	\$639,427.00	\$2,878,541.00
4	Law Enforcement Response	Sustainment and Maintenance: This project seeks funds to increase current capabilities to provide for expanded levels of service to the regions and higher levels of protection for regional law enforcement team personnel.	\$473,742.00	\$3,352,256.00
5	Law Enforcement Prevention	Data-Sharing Projects: Offers continued support to State and local law enforcement working together to implement an information system to share data between regional systems under the Florida Law Enforcement Exchange (FLEX) and the Regional Law Enforcement Exchange (RLEX) projects.	\$2,203,480.00	\$5,555,736.00
6	Law Enforcement Response	Specialty Team Critical Needs: This projects provides equipment to law enforcement response teams to respond in an immediate, effective, and coordinate manner.	\$454,812.00	\$6,010,548.00



State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)

Final Project Priority	Funding Committee	Project Title / Description	Requested Amount	Running Total
7	Agriculture	State Agricultural Response Team (SART) Support: Florida SART supports county, regional and state emergency management efforts with coordinated incident response for animal & agricultural emergencies.	\$225,935.00	\$6,236,483.00
8	Emergency Management	Local Planning, Training & Exercise and Capability Enhancement: Allows all seven regions to execute multi-disciplinary planning, training and exercises initiatives that will test the knowledge, skills and abilities of personnel, organizations, teams and the public/private partnerships.	\$839,240.00	\$7,075,723.00
9	Fire Rescue	Mutual Aid Radio Cache (MARC) Sustainment: This project provides for the sustainment through maintenance of the communication equipment. The MARC teams provide immediate response assets to assist in the dispatch & safe arrival of initial fire suppression resources.	\$125,798.00	\$7,201,521.00
10	Fire Rescue	USAR HazMat Training and Exercise: Provides mission specific operations training to Urban Search & Rescue Task Forces and WMD Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams. Additionally, exercises will be conducted in support of the teams and task force training to test and evaluate response proficiency and readiness.	\$822,890.00	\$8,024,411.00
11	Law Enforcement Response	Law Enforcement Enhancements: The project provides equipment to enhance current capabilities for the SWAWT, EOD, WRT, FRT, and aviation teams.	\$411,865.00	\$8,436,276.00
12	Interoperable Communications	EDICS/EDWARDS Upgrades: This project fund an upgrade to the State EDICS/EDWARDS units to a functional status with current technologies. There are nine units located within the State.	\$282,402.00	\$8,718,678.00
13	Fire Rescue	HazMat and MARC Training: Provides mission specific operations training for Hazardous Materials Response Teams and MARC teams. Training is specific for the specialized Type I CBRNE teams. Additionally, exercises will be conducted in support of the teams and task force training to test and evaluate response proficiency and readiness.	\$376,130.00	\$9,094,808.00



State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)

Final Project Priority	Funding Committee	Project Title / Description	Requested Amount	Running Total
14	Law Enforcement Response	Special Team Training & Exercise: This project provides training and exercise for special teams. Continued training for teams is essential to respond in an immediate, effective, and coordinate manner. Additionally, exercises will be conducted in support of the teams and task force training to test and evaluate response proficiency and readiness.	\$356,500.00	\$9,451,308.00
15	Critical Infrastructure	Government Sector – Public Safety Assets: This project supports target hardening efforts for Jacksonville’s Sheriff’s Office Marine Unit Waterborne Operation Facility; the Clay County EOC; Volusia County Sites including Deland Airport Aviation Hanger, Volusia County Marine Storage Facility, and Volusia Courthouse; and Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Headquarters Complex.	\$764,862.00	\$10,216,170.00
16	Campus Security	Mass Notification: This project seeks to correct identified vulnerabilities in the areas of K – 20 Mass Communication/notification Systems for campuses at Florida’s public K-12 schools and institutions of Higher Education.	\$318,577.00	\$10,534,747.00
17	Health	Enhancement to State’s Radiological Nuclear Detection Capability: This project provides equipment used to screen for, search for, detect and locate radioactive material, as well as, equipment to identify the type (isotope) of material, which is key to determining if the material is a threat material that could be used in a weapon of mass destruction/disruption or a non-threat medical source.	\$436,000.00	\$10,970,747.00
18	Interoperable Communications	Region 4, P25 700 MHz Over-Lay System: This project provides Region 4, Tampa Bay, with P25 700 MHz Mutual Aid Overlay equipment for first responders.	\$310,016.00	\$11,280,763.00



State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)

Final Project Priority	Funding Committee	Project Title / Description	Requested Amount	Running Total
19	Critical Infrastructure	Target Hardening for Educational Facilities: This project provides funding for target hardening efforts for Bay, Wakulla, and Jefferson County school districts along with a generator for the FAMU Police Department.	\$299,000.00	\$11,579,736.00
20	Critical Infrastructure	Special Event and Domestic Incident Management: This project supports long-term vulnerability reduction at Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa and the purchase of a Skywatch Tower in Region 6.	\$391,746.00	\$11,971,509.00
21	Critical Infrastructure	Cyber Security Training – Lifeline Critical Infrastructure Assets: Provides training to information security personnel at state and local government lifeline sector critical infrastructure sties.	\$291,490.00	\$12,262,999.00
22	Interoperable Communications	Multi-Band Radios for Santa Rosa County: This project provides Santa Rosa County with 700 MHz Mutual Aid Overlay equipment for first responders, including state, local, tribal, and federal public safety agencies in Santa Rosa County, FL.	\$310,016.00	\$12,573,015.00
23	Health	FEMORS Training: This project provides funding to support the development of four courses in fatality management to be utilized as awareness level training for law enforcement, fire, and medical personnel throughout Florida.	\$75,000.00	\$12,648,380.00
24	Health	Tourniquet Training: This project will train law enforcement officers when tourniquet use is appropriate and how to safely and easily administer a tourniquet when warranted.	\$15,365.00	\$12,663,445.00
25	Health	Ambu-Bus Kits: This project supports the purchase of seven ambu-bus kits for one region to assist in moving non-ambulatory patients in an incident.	\$260,365.00	\$12,923,745.00



THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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

Meeting Date _____

Bill Number (if applicable) _____

Topic Domestic Security Funding

Name Jennifer C. Pritt

Amendment Barcode (if applicable) _____

Job Title Assistant Commissioner

Address 2331 Phillips Road

Phone 850 410 8246

Street

City

Tallahassee FL

State

32306

Zip

Email jenniferpritt@tallahassee.state.fl.us

Speaking: For Against Information

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

Representing FDLE

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)

3/31/2015
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic DSOC projects

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Bryan Koon

Job Title Director Emergency Management

Address 2555 Sheppard Ave S

Phone _____

Street

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32399

Zip

Email Bryan.Koon@em.mylender.com

Speaking: For Against Information

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

Representing Emergency management

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.

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THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

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

3/31/15
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Domestic Security Grants

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Joyce Burroughs

Job Title Sr Mgt Analyst Supervisor, FDLE

Address PO Box 1489
Street

Phone 850-410-7019

Tallahassee FL 32305
City State Zip

Email

Speaking: For Against Information

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

Representing FDLE

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.

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: LL 37

Case:

Type:

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

Judge:

Started: 3/31/2015 10:05:04 AM

Ends: 3/31/2015 10:51:27 AM **Length:** 00:46:24

10:05:06 AM Meeting called to order by Chair Altman
10:05:11 AM Roll call by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham
10:05:14 AM Quorum present
10:05:23 AM Chair Altman ask that all be electronic devices be silence and anyone wishing to speak, complete an appearance card
10:05:35 AM Tab 1 - SB 1144 - Services for Veterans and Their Families by Senator Simpson
10:06:17 AM Ms. Keaton Alexander, Legislative Assistant to Senator Simpson presents the bill
10:06:22 AM Chair Altman ask for questions on the bill
10:06:33 AM Chair Altman ask for speaker cards
10:06:38 AM Mr. Travis Mitchell, Crisis Center of Tampa Bay waives in support
10:06:45 AM Ms. Jill Gran, Legislative Affairs Director, Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association waives in support
10:07:03 AM Col. Mike Prendergast, Executive Director, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs waives in support
10:07:11 AM Chair Altman ask for debate on the bill
10:07:15 AM Chair Altman ask Ms. Alexander to close on the bill
10:07:28 AM Ms. Alexander waives closing
10:07:32 AM Roll call by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham
10:07:40 AM SB 1144 is reported favorably
10:07:44 AM TAB 2 - SPB 7076 - Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security relating to Military and Veteran Support
10:07:57 AM Chair Altman ask Elizabeth Ryon, Staff Director to explain the bill
10:08:48 AM Explanation of SPB 7076 by Elizabeth Ryon
10:08:56 AM Chair Altman gives statement regarding the bill
10:09:06 AM Chair Altman ask for speaker cards
10:09:13 AM Col. Mike Prendergast waives in support
10:09:20 AM Chair Altman ask for debate on the bill
10:09:34 AM Senator Stargel moves that SPB 7076 be submitted as a Committee Bill. Senator Evers seconds
10:09:48 AM Seeing no objection, Chair Altman ask Lois to call the roll for SPB 7076
10:09:54 AM Roll call by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham
10:09:58 AM SPB 7076 is reported favorably as a Committee Bill
10:10:08 AM TAB 3 - Appointment of the Adjutant General of the Florida National Guard
10:10:31 AM Chair Altman ask Major General Michael A. Calhoun to come forward to be sworn in
10:10:42 AM Chair Altman states you are recognized to address the committee
10:10:57 AM Major General Calhoun addresses the committee
10:12:31 AM Chair Altman ask if there were questions for Major General Calhoun
10:12:38 AM Question from Chair Altman
10:12:51 AM Response from Major General Calhoun
10:14:10 AM Chair Altman ask if there were additional questions for Major General Calhoun
10:14:19 AM Chair Altman makes statement regarding Major General Calhoun
10:15:03 AM Senator Gibson makes regarding Major General Calhoun

10:15:29 AM Senator Gibson moves to recommend confirmation of Michael A. Calhoun as Adjutant General of the Florida National Guard
10:15:45 AM Senator Evers second the motion
10:15:53 AM Chair Altman ask Lois to call roll
10:16:04 AM Roll call by Administrative Assistant, Lois Graham
10:16:07 AM Confirmation of Major General Michael A. Calhoun is recommended favorably
10:16:28 AM Senator Sachs makes statement to the committee regarding Major General Calhoun
10:17:05 AM Tab 4 - Joint Presentation by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Division of Emergency Management on Domestic Security Funding
10:17:50 AM Speaker Ms. Jennifer Pritt, Assistant Commissioner, Florida Department of Law Enforcement
10:23:09 AM Question from Chair Altman
10:23:14 AM Questions from Senator Sachs
10:24:40 AM Chair Altman ask that additional questions be held until Mr. Koon's presentation
10:25:06 AM Question from Senator Sachs
10:25:53 AM Comments from Senator Evers
10:26:16 AM Senator Sachs ask another question
10:26:48 AM Introduction of Mr. Bryan Koon
10:27:01 AM Speaker Mr. Bryan W. Koon, Director, Division of Emergency Management
10:28:19 AM Mr. Koon's answers Senator Sachs questions
10:30:37 AM Continued presentation by Mr. Bryan Koon
10:35:08 AM Question from Chair Altman
10:35:19 AM Response from Mr. Koon
10:36:04 AM Additional questions from Chair Altman
10:36:11 AM Question from Senator Sachs
10:36:33 AM Response from Mr. Koon
10:37:11 AM Additional question from Senator Sachs
10:37:24 AM Response from Mr. Koon
10:38:26 AM Question from Senator Gibson
10:38:42 AM Mr. Koon's answers Senators Sachs and Gibson questions
10:40:21 AM Additional question from Senator Sachs
10:40:33 AM Response from Mr. Koon
10:41:01 AM Follow-up question from Senator Sachs
10:41:30 AM Response from Mr. Koon
10:43:50 AM Response from Ms. Pritt
10:45:47 AM Follow-up question from Senator Sachs
10:46:57 AM Response from Ms. Pritt
10:47:11 AM Question from Chair Altman
10:47:57 AM Response from Ms. Pritt
10:49:15 AM Follow-up question from Chairman Altman
10:49:24 AM Chairman Altman thanks Mr. Koon and Ms. Pritt for their presentation
10:49:58 AM Chair Altman ask if there is additional business to come before the committee
10:50:14 AM Senator Sachs introduces Senator Gibson's father
10:51:10 AM Committee welcomes Senator Gibson's father to the committee
10:51:16 AM Senator Gibson moves to rise