

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

SB 7008 — Department of Veterans' Affairs Direct-Support Organization

by Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee and Senator Campbell

The bill (Chapter 2017-6, L.O.F.) saves from repeal the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs' (FDVA) statutory authority to establish a direct-support organization, which was set to expire on October 1, 2017.

In 2008, the Legislature enacted s. 292.055, F.S., authorizing the FDVA to establish a direct-support organization to provide assistance, funding, and support for the FDVA in carrying out its mission. The Florida Veterans Foundation, Inc. (foundation) is the non-profit corporation that has since served as the direct-support organization to the FDVA. The foundation operates pursuant to a written contract with the FDVA. Its primary responsibility is to fund and administer emergency financial assistance grants for veterans during times of serious financial need. The foundation also funds and administers statutorily created programs and projects, such as the Florida Veterans' Walk of Honor, the Florida Veterans' Memorial Garden, and the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

These provisions were approved by the Governor and take effect July 1, 2017.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 114-0