

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

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

**Senator Gibson, Chair
Senator Broxson, Vice Chair**

MEETING DATE: Thursday, October 12, 2017

TIME: 10:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

PLACE: *Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Office Building*

MEMBERS: Senator Gibson, Chair; Senator Broxson, Vice Chair; Senators Bean, Gainer, Simmons, Stargel, Taddeo, and Torres

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	SB 104 Garcia	Small Business Financial Assistance; Creating the Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program within the Department of Economic Opportunity; directing Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to administer the program; requiring a small business to apply to and enter into an agreement with the corporation to receive grants, etc. MS 10/12/2017 Fav/CS ATD AP	Fav/CS Yeas 7 Nays 0
2	Presentation by the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay on the Florida Veterans Support Line		Presented
3	Presentation by the State Courts System on Veterans Courts		Presented
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 104

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

SUBJECT: Small Business Financial Assistance

DATE: October 12, 2017

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Sanders	Ryon	MS	Fav/CS
2.			ATD	
3.			AP	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 104 creates the Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program to encourage small businesses in Florida to hire veterans. The program is created within the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and is to be administered by Florida Is For Veterans, Inc. (FIFV). Under the program, a small business in Florida that hires a veteran as an employee may receive a one-time grant of \$1,500 for each veteran hired, or \$3,000 for each disabled veteran hired by the small business. These awards may not exceed \$10,500 per fiscal year for a qualifying small business.

To qualify for a grant under the program, a small business must agree to:

- Hire and employ a qualifying veteran for at least one year;
- Provide a report with information on the employment status of each qualifying veteran upon the request of FIFV;
- Pay each qualifying veteran an amount equal to at least 90 percent of the annual median income for veterans in Florida based on the most recent American Community Survey 1-year estimates published by the U.S. Census Bureau;
- Invest any awarded grant moneys into the small business to facilitate further job creation and employment of veterans; and
- Not rehire a veteran previously claimed as an employee in order to receive funds under the program.

FIFV is required to submit an annual report by December 31 for the duration of the grant program to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the grant program's progress and outcomes for the preceding three fiscal years.

Beginning July 1, 2018, and for the 2018-2019 through 2022-2023 fiscal years, the bill appropriates \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds from the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund to the DEO for transfer to FIFV to implement and administer the program. FIFV may award grant moneys up to a maximum of \$500,000 per fiscal year to small businesses and is authorized to expend no more than \$25,000 annually for staffing and administrative costs.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2018.

II. Present Situation:

Florida Veterans

A veteran is defined as a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was honorably discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions.¹ In the United States there are more than 20 million veterans, of which, over 1.5 million reside in Florida.² This makes Florida the state with the third largest veteran population, behind California and Texas.³ The chart below shows veterans residing in Florida by age range. More than half of Florida's veterans are age 60 or older.

Veterans in Florida by Age Range ⁴						
Under 40	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	TOTAL
186,691	172,112	272,772	355,955	318,013	288,675	1,594,218

Florida also has the third largest population of veterans with a service-connected disability in the nation with 315,670.⁵ The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) is the federal agency tasked with making the official determination of the existence of a service-connected disability. The term "disabled veteran" is defined as an individual who has served on active duty in the armed forces, has been separated under honorable conditions, and has established the present existence of a service-connected disability or is receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or a pension because of a public statute administered by the USDVA or a military department.⁶

¹ Section 1.01(14), F.S.

² U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, *Veteran Population* (2016), available at http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp (last visited Oct. 12, 2017).

³ Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, *Fast Facts*, available at http://floridavets.org/?page_id=50 (last visited Oct. 4, 2017).

⁴ Supra note 2.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, *Service-Connected Disability-Rating Status And Ratings For Civilian Veterans 18 Years And Over*, 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, available at https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_1YR_B21100&prodType=table (last visited Oct. 12, 2017).

⁶ 5 USC 2108(2). See also s. 295.07(1)(a)1., F.S.

The term “service-connected” is further defined in the U.S. Code to mean that the disability or death suffered by the veteran was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in active military, naval, or air service.⁷ Veterans who have been determined by the USDVA to have a service-connected disability are eligible for monthly disability compensation. There are instances in which a veteran’s service-connected disability is not determined by the USDVA. In this instance, the Department of Defense (DoD) would determine the existence of a disability and provide compensation to the veteran. The secretaries of the military departments have the authority to make the final determination of disability in each case.⁸ When that determination is made the servicemember may decide whether to receive military retirement benefits from the DoD or disability compensation from the USDVA.

Employment Assistance for Veterans in Florida

The CareerSource Florida network connects employers with qualified, skilled talent and Floridians with employment and career development opportunities. The workforce network is comprised of CareerSource Florida, which is the statewide board charged with setting state workforce policy; the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), the state agency responsible for administrative and fiscal affairs and policy implementation; and 24 local workforce development boards, which oversee the local delivery of workforce services to businesses, job seekers, and workers at over 100 career centers statewide.

Each career center is equipped to help job seekers connect with businesses in their field, locate training opportunities, and teach skills such as resume writing and interview techniques. Within each career center are Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists and Local Veterans’ Employment Representatives (LVER). DVOP specialists focus on intensive case management services for veterans with barriers to employment, particularly disabled veterans.⁹ LVERs build relationships with employers and engage in advocacy efforts with hiring executives and managers to increase employment opportunities for veterans.¹⁰ They are also responsible for ensuring that veterans receive the full range of priority workforce services in the career centers.

Veterans may also utilize the Employ Florida Vets website, an online job search engine and portal administered by CareerSource Florida and the DEO and tailored to veterans.¹¹ Developed through a series of focus groups with Florida veterans, the Employ Florida Vets Portal translates a veteran’s Military Occupational Specialty Code (a code that represents the employment classification for the specialty/job that the military veteran performed while on active duty) into an equivalent civilian job title.¹²

⁷ 38 USC 101(16).

⁸ 10 USC 1201.

⁹ Benefits.gov, *Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP)*, available at <https://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/106> (last visited on Oct. 5, 2017).

¹⁰ Benefits.gov, *Local Veterans Employment Representative Program (LVER)*, available at <https://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/108> (last visited on Oct. 5, 2017).

¹¹ Employ Florida Vets website, <https://veteran.employflorida.com/vosnet/Default.aspx> (last visited Oct. 10, 2017).

¹² See Employ Florida Marketplace (EFM) Veterans’ Web Portal FAQ, *How does the website use the Military Occupational Specialty Code to link veterans with jobs that might be a good fit?*, available at [http://www.floridajobs.org/frequently-asked-questions-directory/employ-florida-marketplace-\(efm\)-veterans-web-portal-faq](http://www.floridajobs.org/frequently-asked-questions-directory/employ-florida-marketplace-(efm)-veterans-web-portal-faq) (last visited Oct. 9, 2017).

Florida's overall unemployment rate in August 2017 was 4.0 percent compared to 4.4 percent nationally.¹³ The unemployment rate among Florida veterans during the 2016 calendar year was 4.2 percent compared to 4.3 percent nationally.¹⁴

Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.

During the 2014 Regular Session, the Legislature created Florida Is For Veterans, Inc. (FIFV), a non-profit corporation created within the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.¹⁵ The purpose of FIFV is to promote Florida as a veteran-friendly state, encourage retired and recently separated military personnel to keep or make Florida their permanent residence, help equip veterans for employment opportunities, and promote the hiring of veterans.¹⁶ FIFV is governed by a nine-member board of directors in which the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives each appoint three members. In April 2015, the FIFV board of directors selected "Veterans Florida" as the organization's brand name.¹⁷

FIFV is responsible for administering the Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS) program for the purpose of connecting veterans and employers.¹⁸ Under the VETS program, FIFV administers a grant program for businesses to train veterans to meet a business's workforce-skill needs and operates a veteran-specific entrepreneur initiative program through a partnership with Florida's state universities.¹⁹ Additionally, as part of the VETS program, FIFV is directed to provide one-on-one assistance to veterans seeking employment, which may include skills assessments, resume creation, identification of employment goals, and referrals to career centers. FIFV must also connect with employers in the state to educate them on the value of a veteran's military experience in the workplace.

Employment Initiatives for Small Businesses in Florida

There do not appear to be any state incentive programs that are targeted to encourage small businesses to hire additional employees nor is there a grant program that specifically encourages small businesses to hire veterans.²⁰ Most of the current state programs are geared towards providing financial and technical assistance to help small businesses grow, which may result in

¹³ Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics, *Florida employment and unemployment release* (Sept. 2017), available at <http://www.floridajobs.org/labor-market-information/labor-market-information-data-releases/monthly-data-releases> (last visited Oct. 9, 2017).

¹⁴ United States Congress Joint Economic Committee, *State Economic Snapshots* (Sept. 18, 2017), available at, https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/c291f019-9afe-43c5-8f3b-f39c8dd76d14/state-economic-snapshots-september-2017.pdf (last visited Oct. 9, 2017).

¹⁵ Chapter 2014-1, s. 12, Laws of Fla.

¹⁶ Section 295.21(2), F.S.

¹⁷ See FIFV press release available at <http://floridavets.org/florida-is-for-veterans-inc-brands-as-veterans-florida/> (last visited Oct. 4, 2017); and Florida Department of State fictitious name registration information available at <http://sunbiz.org/scripts/ficidet.exe?action=DETRREG&docnum=G15000027981&rdocnum=G15000027981> (last visited Oct. 4, 2017). The organization's website is: <http://www.veteransflorida.org/> (last visited Oct. 4, 2017).

¹⁸ Section 295.22, F.S.

¹⁹ During the 2017 Regular Session, FIFV was allocated \$500,000 for the entrepreneur initiative program and \$1 million for the veterans training grant program. See Line items 578 and 579, ch. 2017-70, Laws of Fla.

²⁰ Department of Economic Opportunity, *Senate Bill 104 Agency Analysis* (Sept. 14, 2017) (on file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security).

those businesses hiring additional employees.²¹ Enterprise Florida, Inc.'s (EFI) Minority & Small Business, Entrepreneurship, and Capital (MaSBEC) division supports eligible businesses by providing training, development, and financing options.²² MaSBEC utilizes EFI's network of state, federal, and non-profit resources to assist small businesses in accessing capital, entering new markets, and creating revenue growth and job creation.²³ Small businesses are also eligible for Florida's economic development incentive programs.²⁴

The Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network is another resource available to small business owners seeking assistance. The SBDC is designated as the principal business assistance organization for small businesses in the state, and links the state's education system with community outreach to aid in the development and education of the state's entrepreneurs and small business community.²⁵ The network provides entrepreneurs and small business owners with one-on-one business development consulting; entrepreneurial, business, and management development training; and business information and research.²⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates s. 295.231, F.S., to establish the Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program (program). The program is created within the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and is to be administered by Florida Is For Veterans, Inc. (FIFV). This program is an incentive based program created to stimulate investment in the state's economy by providing grants to small businesses that hire honorably discharged veterans and veterans with a service-connected disability.

The bill defines a "small business" as an independently owned and operated, for-profit, privately held business that employs fewer than 50 persons; generates \$1 million or less in annual revenue; and has maintained its principal place of business in this state for at least the previous four calendar years.

A qualifying small business may receive up to \$10,500 per fiscal year for hiring honorably discharged veterans and veterans with a service-connected disability hired on or after July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2023. A qualifying small business that hires a veteran as an employee may be eligible to receive a one-time grant of:

- \$1,500 for each honorably discharged veteran;²⁷ and

²¹ See s. 288.1082, F.S. (the Grow FL program); ss. 288.993-288.9937, F.S. (microfinance programs); and information about the State Small Business Credit Initiative on the DEO website, available at <http://www.floridajobs.org/business-growth-and-partnerships/for-businesses-and-entrepreneurs/business-resources/state-small-business-credit-initiative> (last visited Oct. 9, 2017).

²² Enterprise Florida, *Small Business*, available at <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/small-business/> (last visited October 3, 2017).

²³ Id.

²⁴ See Department of Economic Opportunity, *Business Resources*, available at <http://www.floridajobs.org/business-growth-and-partnerships/for-businesses-and-entrepreneurs/business-resources> (last visited October 3, 2017).

²⁵ Section 288.001(1), F.S.

²⁶ America's SBDC Florida, *Fact Sheet*, available at <http://floridasbdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Fact-Sheet3.pdf>, (last visited October 3, 2017).

²⁷ As defined in section 1.01(14), F.S.

- \$3,000 for each veteran with a service-connected disability.²⁸

In order to qualify for grant funding, a small business must enter into an agreement with FIFV that requires the small business to:

- Hire and employ a qualifying veteran for at least one year in order to become eligible for grant funding;
- Provide a report with information on the employment status of each qualifying veteran upon the request of FIFV;
- Pay each qualifying veteran an amount equal to at least 90 percent of the annual median income for veterans in Florida based on the most recent American Community Survey 1-year estimates published by the U.S. Census Bureau;²⁹
- Invest any awarded grant moneys into the small business to facilitate further job creation and employment of veterans;³⁰ and
- Not rehire a veteran previously claimed as an employee for purposes of receiving an additional grant.

FIFV must notify the appropriate regional small business development center of a small business's participation in the grant program in order to facilitate improved access to the resources of the Florida Small Business Development Center Network.

The bill requires the DEO to develop rules to implement the program that specify requirements for the application and approval process and the documentation necessary to claim grant funds.

By each December 31 for the duration of the grant program, FIFV must provide an annual report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the grant program's progress and outcomes for the preceding three fiscal years. The report must include:

- The number of small businesses receiving grant funds;
- The number of veterans and disabled veterans employed by each small business receiving grant funds;
- The salary paid to each veteran employed;
- The length of time for which the small business employed each veteran; and
- The grant program's economic benefit to the state and all performance-based metrics and methodologies used to calculate the grant program's economic benefit to the state.

Beginning July 1, 2018, and for the 2018-2019 through 2022-2023 fiscal years, the bill appropriates \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds from the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund to the DEO for transfer to FIFV to implement and administer the program. FIFV may award grant moneys up to a maximum of \$500,000 per fiscal year to small businesses and is authorized to expend no more than \$25,000 annually for staffing and administrative costs.

²⁸ As described in section 295.07(1)(a), F.S.

²⁹ According to the 2016 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, the median income for veterans in Florida is \$36,686 compared to \$25,193 for nonveterans.

³⁰ Expenditures for investment into the small business are limited to manufacturing, equipment, and facilities expenses or other operating costs or fixed capital outlay projects.

The Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program takes effect on July 1, 2018 and terminates on October 1, 2024. If any appropriated funds remain upon termination of the program, FIFV must transfer any unexpended funds to the DEO for deposit in the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund.

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:

Businesses that choose to participate in the program created in the bill may be eligible to receive up to \$10,500 per fiscal year for hiring honorably discharged veterans and veterans with service-connected disabilities. Small businesses may apply to receive:

- \$1,500 for hiring an honorably discharged veteran; and
- \$3,000 for each veteran with a service-connected disability.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill appropriates \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds from the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund to the DEO for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 through Fiscal Year 2022-2023, for transfer to FIFV to implement and administer the program. FIFV may award grant moneys up to a maximum of \$500,000 per fiscal year to small businesses and FIFV is authorized to expend no more than \$25,000 annually for staffing and administrative costs.

The bill provides that the grant program terminates on July 1, 2023. On July 1, 2023, FIFV must transfer all remaining appropriated funds to the DEO for reversion to the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

The bill creates section 295.231 of the Florida Statutes.

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 October 12, 2017:

The CS:

- Requires a small business to calculate the minimum salary requirement using the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year estimates published by the U.S. Census Bureau instead of the federal census or the ACS 5-year estimates.
- Provides that the last date a veteran may be initially hired by a participating business is June 30, 2023.
- Changes the rulemaking authority granted to the Department of Economic Opportunity from permissive to mandatory.
- Requires Florida Is For Veterans, Inc. to submit an annual report each December 31 for the duration of the grant program rather than a singular progress report on December 31, 2021. The annual report must outline the program's progress and outcomes for the preceding fiscal year to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Extends the end date of the program from July 1, 2023 to October 1, 2024.

B. Amendments:

None.



839404

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
10/12/2017	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

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

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 45 - 106

and insert:

(3) A small business that hires a veteran as a new employee may receive a one-time grant of:

(a) Fifteen hundred dollars for each newly hired veteran, as defined in s. 1.01(14).

(b) Three thousand dollars for each newly hired disabled veteran, as that term is described in s. 295.07(1)(a).



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11 (4) The total dollar amount of grants awarded to a
12 participating small business under subsection (3) may not exceed
13 \$10,500 per fiscal year.

14 (5) A small business must apply to, and enter into an
15 agreement with, the corporation in order to participate in the
16 program. The agreement must require that the small business:

17 (a) Hire and employ for at least 1 year a qualifying
18 veteran before becoming eligible for a grant awarded under
19 subsection (3).

20 (b) Report information regarding the employment status of
21 each qualifying veteran, if requested to do so by the
22 corporation.

23 (c) Pay each qualifying veteran an amount equal to at least
24 90 percent of the annual median income for veterans in this
25 state at the time of hire, based on the most recent American
26 Community Survey 1-year estimates published by the United States
27 Census Bureau.

28 (d) Use any awarded grant moneys to facilitate the creation
29 of additional jobs for and employment of veterans by the small
30 business; however, grant moneys may be used only for
31 manufacturing, equipment, and facility expenses or other
32 operating costs or fixed capital outlay projects.

33 (e) Not receive any additional grant for rehiring a veteran
34 who it previously claimed as an employee for purposes of
35 obtaining funds under the program.

36 (f) Is eligible to receive a grant award only for a veteran
37 initially hired on or after July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2023.

38 (6) The corporation shall notify the regional small
39 business development center that serves the county in which a



839404

participating small business is located of the participation of
the small business in the grant program in order to facilitate
improved access to the resources of the Florida Small Business
Development Center Network.

(7) The Department of Economic Opportunity shall adopt
rules to implement and administer this section which specify
requirements for the application and approval process and the
documentation necessary to claim grant moneys awarded under this
section.

(8) By each December 31 for the duration of the grant
program, the corporation shall provide an annual report to the
Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
House of Representatives on the grant program's progress and
outcomes for the preceding fiscal year. The report must include
the following:

(a) An accounting of how the corporation used the state
funds it received for the grant program.

(b) The number of small businesses receiving grant funds.

(c) The number of veterans and disabled veterans employed
by each small business receiving grant funds.

(d) The salary paid to each veteran employed.

(e) The length of time for which the small business
employed each veteran.

(f) The grant program's economic benefit to the state and
the performance-based metrics and methodologies used to
calculate the grant program's economic benefit to the state.

(9) The grant program terminates October 1, 2024.

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



839404

69 And the title is amended as follows:
70 Delete line 17
71 and insert:
72 participation; requiring the department to adopt
73 certain

By Senator Garcia

36-00095-18

2018104__

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to small business financial
 3 assistance; creating s. 295.231, F.S.; creating the
 4 Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program
 5 within the Department of Economic Opportunity;
 6 directing Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to administer
 7 the program; defining terms; authorizing the
 8 corporation to accept and administer moneys
 9 appropriated for such grants; specifying grant
 10 amounts; limiting the amount that a small business may
 11 receive under the program; requiring a small business
 12 to apply to and enter into an agreement with the
 13 corporation to receive grants; prescribing minimum
 14 criteria for such agreements; requiring the
 15 corporation to notify the appropriate regional small
 16 business development center of a small business'
 17 participation; authorizing the department to adopt
 18 rules; prescribing reporting requirements; providing
 19 for termination of the program; providing
 20 appropriations; providing an effective date.
 21
 22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 23
 24 Section 1. Section 295.231, Florida Statutes, is created to
 25 read:
 26 295.231 Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program.—
 27 The Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program is created
 28 within the Department of Economic Opportunity to be administered
 29 by Florida Is For Veterans, Inc. The purpose of the program is

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

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2018104__

30 to stimulate investment in the state's economy by providing
 31 grants to small businesses that hire and employ honorably
 32 discharged veterans or disabled veterans with service-connected
 33 disabilities.
 34 (1) As used in this section, the term:
 35 (a) "Corporation" means Florida Is For Veterans, Inc.
 36 (b) "Small business" means an independently owned and
 37 operated, for-profit, privately held business that employs 50 or
 38 fewer persons; generates \$1 million or less in annual revenue;
 39 and has maintained its principal place of business in this state
 40 for at least the previous 4 calendar years.
 41 (2) The corporation may accept and administer moneys
 42 appropriated to the department for transfer to the corporation
 43 to provide grants to encourage small businesses in this state to
 44 hire and employ veterans.
 45 (3) A small business that initially hires a veteran on or
 46 after July 1, 2018, as an employee may receive a one-time grant
 47 of:
 48 (a) Fifteen hundred dollars per newly hired veteran, as
 49 defined in s. 1.01(14).
 50 (b) Three thousand dollars for each newly hired disabled
 51 veteran, as that term is described in s. 295.07(1)(a).
 52 (4) The total dollar amount of grants awarded to a
 53 participating small business under subsection (3) may not exceed
 54 \$10,500 per fiscal year.
 55 (5) A small business must apply to and enter into an
 56 agreement with the corporation in order to participate in the
 57 program. The agreement must require that the small business:
 58 (a) Employ a qualifying veteran for at least 1 year before

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

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becoming eligible for a grant awarded under subsection (3).

(b) Report information regarding the employment status of each qualifying veteran, if requested to do so by the corporation.

(c) Pay each qualifying veteran an amount equal to at least 90 percent of the annual median income for veterans in this state, based on the most recent federal census or the most recent American Community Survey 5-year estimates published by the United States Census Bureau.

(d) Use any awarded grant moneys to facilitate the small business' creation of additional jobs for and employment of veterans; however, grant moneys may be used only for manufacturing, equipment, and facility expenses or other operating costs or fixed capital outlay projects.

(e) Receive no additional grant for rehiring a veteran previously claimed as an employee by the same small business for purposes of obtaining funds under the program.

(f) Is eligible to receive a grant award only for a veteran initially hired on or after July 1, 2018.

(6) The corporation shall notify the regional small business development center that serves the county in which a participating small business is located of the small business' participation in the grant program in order to facilitate improved access to the resources of the Florida Small Business Development Center Network.

(7) The Department of Economic Opportunity may adopt rules to implement and administer this section, including, but not limited to, rules specifying requirements for the application and approval process and the documentation necessary to claim

36-00095-18 2018104__

grant moneys awarded under this section.

(8) By December 31, 2021, the corporation shall provide a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the grant program's progress and outcomes for the preceding 3 fiscal years. The report must include aggregate information on the total number of veterans and small businesses assisted by the program; an accounting of how the corporation used the state funds it received for the grant program; and a description of the nature of the participation in the program by the Florida Small Business Development Center Network. The report must also contain specific information on the number of small businesses receiving grant funds; the number of veterans employed by each small business receiving grant funds; the salary paid to each veteran employed; the length of time the small business employed each veteran; the grant program's economic benefit to the state; and all performance-based metrics and methodologies used to calculate the grant program's economic benefit to the state.

(9) The grant program terminates July 1, 2023.

Section 2. Beginning July 1, 2018, and for the 2018-2019 through the 2022-2023 fiscal years, the sum of \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds from the State Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund is appropriated to the Department of Economic Opportunity for transfer to Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to contract with the Department of Economic Opportunity to implement and administer the Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program. The corporation may award grant moneys up to a maximum of \$500,000 per fiscal year. The corporation may spend up to \$25,000 per fiscal year of funds transferred by the

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117 department for staffing and administrative costs associated with
118 implementation and administration of the program. If any
119 appropriated funds remain upon termination of the program,
120 Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., shall transfer those funds to the
121 Department of Economic Opportunity for deposit in the State
122 Economic Enhancement and Development Trust Fund.

123 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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

10-11-2017

Meeting Date

109

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic _____

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Brian Pitts

Job Title Trustee

Address 1119 Newton Ave S
Street

Phone 727/897-9291

St Petersburg FL 33705
City State Zip

Email _____

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

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

Representing Justice-2-Jesus

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

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

S-001 (10/14/14)



The Florida Senate
State Senator René García
36th District

Please reply to:

District Office:

1490 West 68 Street
Suite # 201
Hialeah, FL. 33014
Phone# (305) 364-3100

September 26, 2017

The Honorable Audrey Gibson
Chairperson, Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee
215 Knott Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Gibson,

Please have this letter serve as my formal request to have **SB 104: Small Business Financial Assistance** be heard during the next scheduled Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee Meeting. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

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

State Senator René García
District 36

CC: Elizabeth Ryon
Lois Graham

Committees: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax, Vice Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources, Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government, Banking and Insurance, Judiciary, Joint Administrative Procedures Committee.

Biographical Sketch

Clara A. Reynolds
President & CEO

Clara Reynolds, President and CEO Crisis Center of Tampa Bay

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CRC

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Kaley Tash, MD

Timothy W. Traud

Clara Reynolds is the President and CEO of the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay (Crisis Center). For more than forty years, the Crisis Center has been providing services to individuals and families who suffer distress from serious life crisis. Mrs. Reynolds leads a staff of over 220 employees and over 100 volunteers who responds to over 165,000 requests for help every year. Crisis services are provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Crisis Center is a community leader in the implementation of Trauma Informed Care both in service delivery and in organizational culture. As an integral component of Hillsborough County's system of care, the agency provides a wide range of programs/services. The services of the Crisis Center are based on successful national, evidence-based models or certified programs.

Mrs. Reynolds is also the founder and former executive director for *Success 4 Kids & Families*, a non-profit corporation that embraces system of care values and principles to provide children and their families with a comprehensive array of services. Additionally, she was the Project Manager for the Multiagency Network for Severely Emotionally Disturbed Children/Youth (SEDNET) for Hillsborough County Public Schools. She was a school social worker from 1995-97 for the Youth Services Program of the Hillsborough County Public Schools and has worked as a Child Protective Investigation intern for the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services in the State of Florida.

In the community, she is a sustaining member of the *Junior League of Tampa*, a member of *Leadership Tampa Alumni* and advisory *Board Member for First Citrus Bank*.

In 2015, she was awarded the *Tampa Bay Social Worker of the Year* by the National Association of Social Workers.

Educational Background

Master of Business Administration from the University of Tampa
Master of Social Work from Florida State University
Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Florida State University
Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in November 1997



CRISIS CENTER OF TAMPA BAY

Help. Hope. Healing.



**Serving the Community
since 1972**

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

Chair: Senator Audrey Gibson

Vice Chair: Senator Doug Broxson

Senator Aaron Bean

Senator George B. Gainer

Senator David Simmons

Senator Kelli Stargel

Senator Victor M. Torres, Jr.

October 12, 2017

MYFLVET HELPLINE



Struggling to Adjust? Call & Connect
Florida Veterans Support Line

1-844-MYFLVET (693-5838)

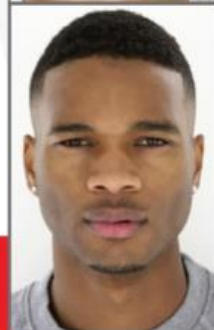


CRISIS CENTER
OF TAMPA BAY

Help. Hope. Healing.

www.crisiscenter.com

We are here 24/7/365



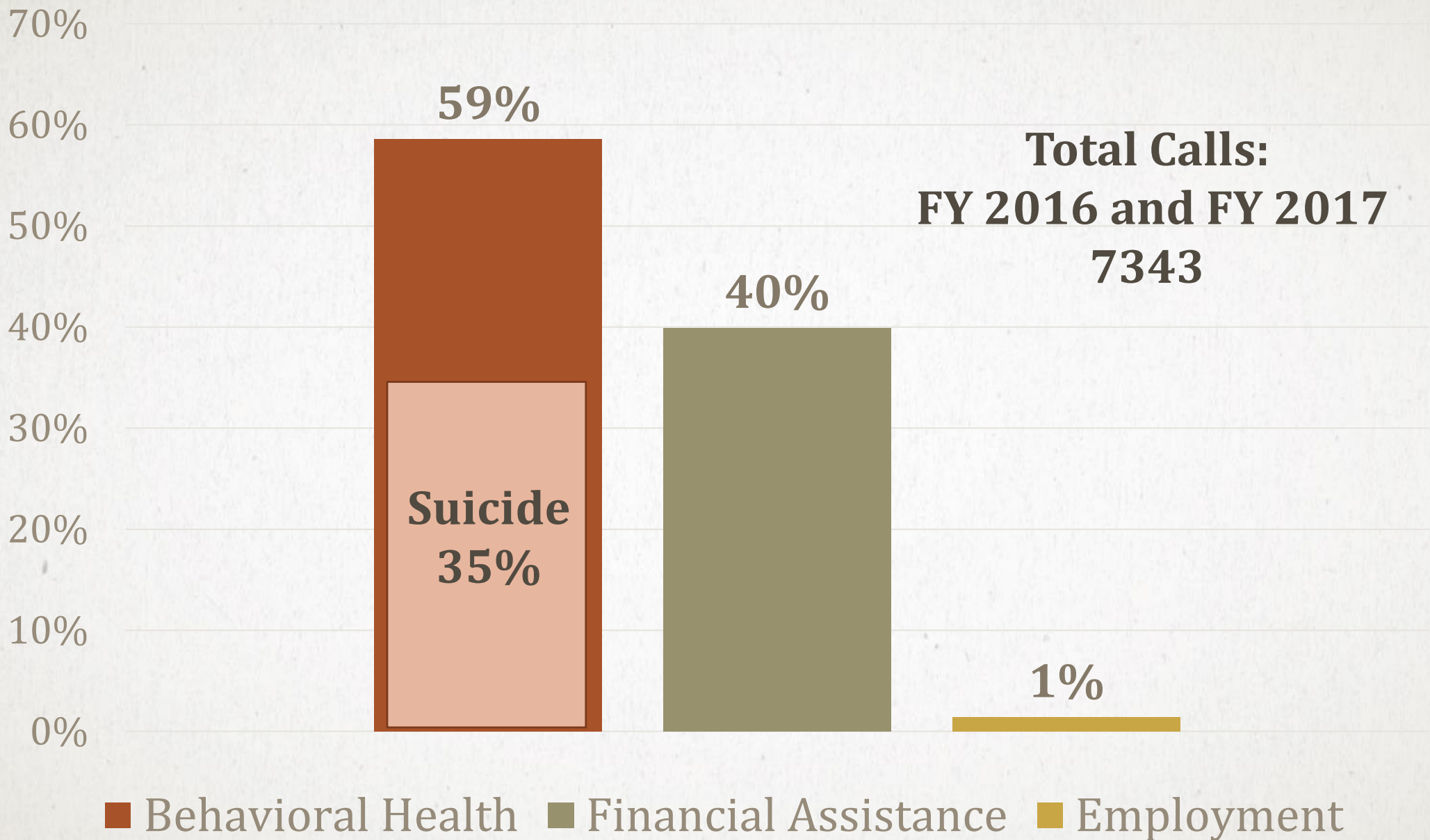
Since 2015

Over **10,000** Calls

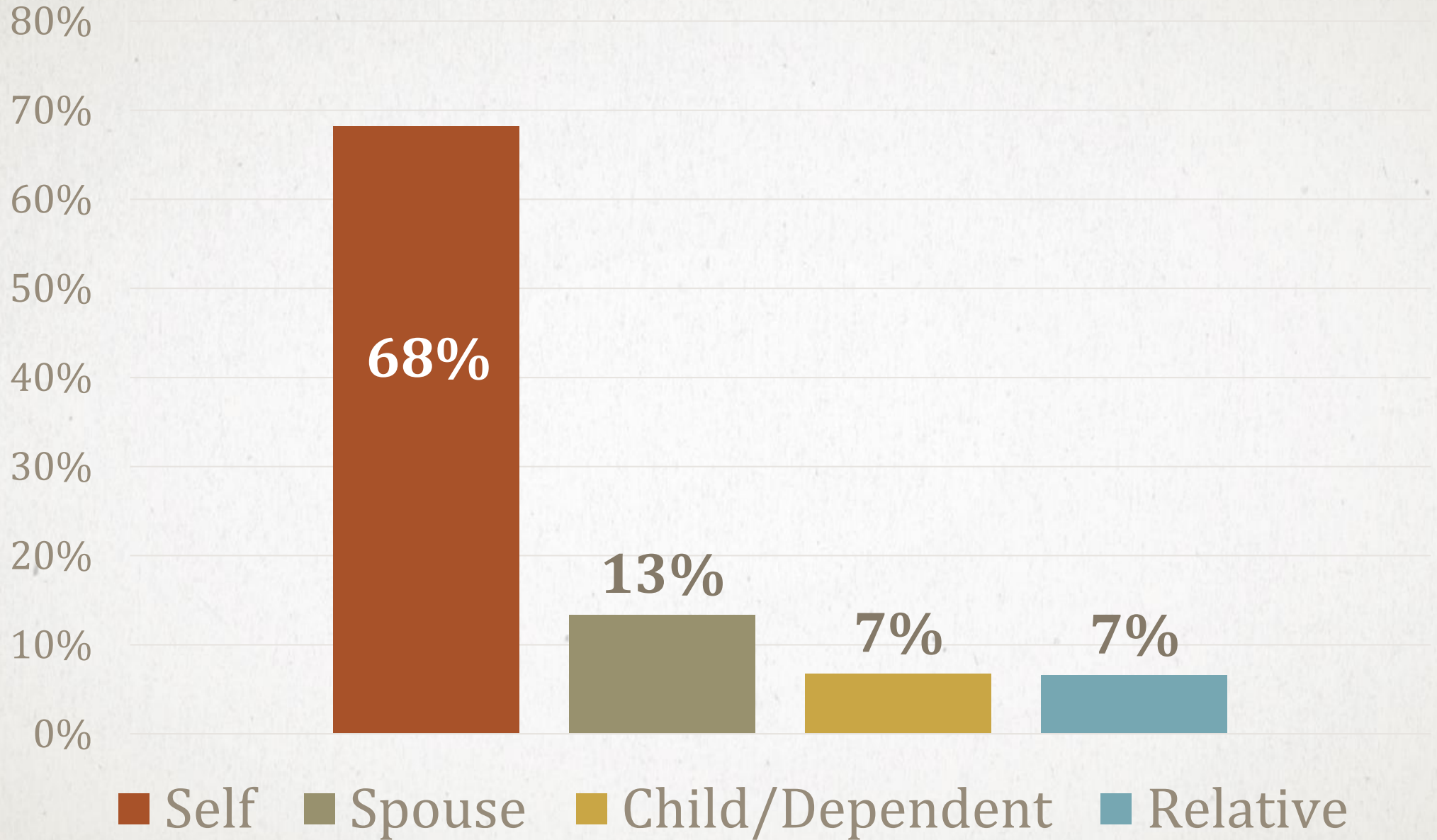
Over **23,000**
Resources Provided

1783 Served with
Care Coordination for
Safety Planning

GREATEST NEEDS



RELATIONSHIP TO SERVICE MEMBER



THERE IS MORE WE CAN DO

- Awareness and Outreach
- Increased capacity for Recruitment for Peer Specialists
- Increased capacity for Care Coordination





CRISIS CENTER
OF TAMPA BAY

Help. Hope. Healing.

Clara Reynolds, President and CEO
creynolds@crisiscenter.com

www.crisiscenter.com



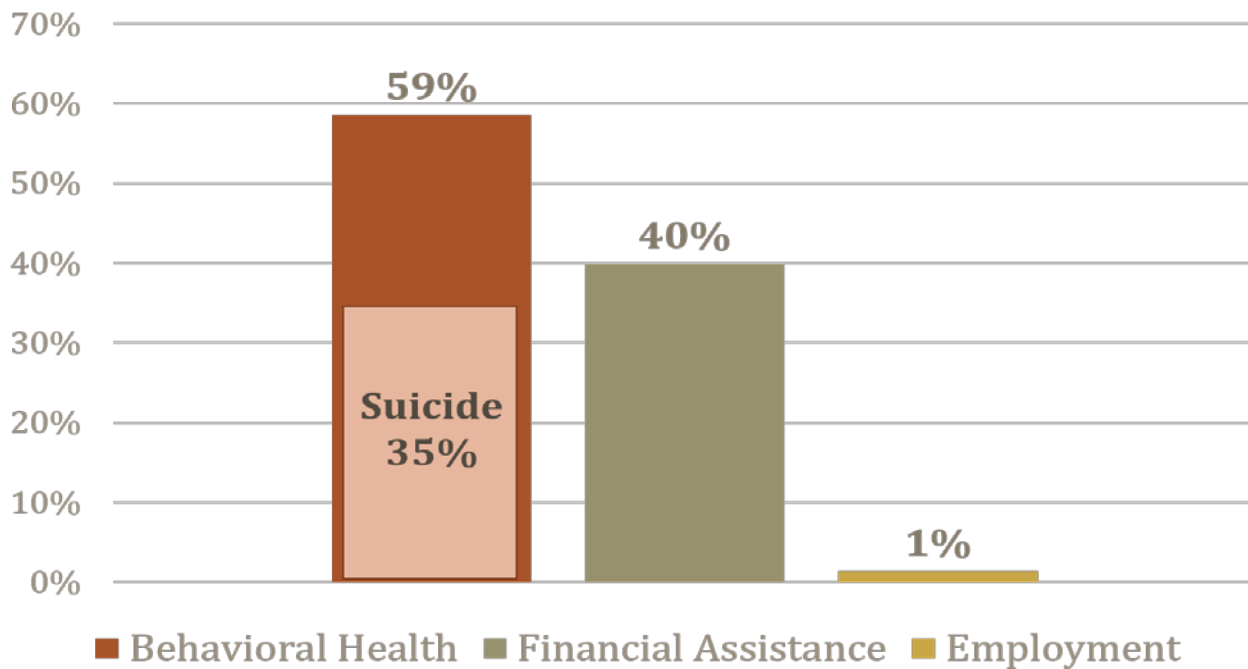
1-844-MYFLVET

**Demographic Data
FY 2016 and FY 2017**

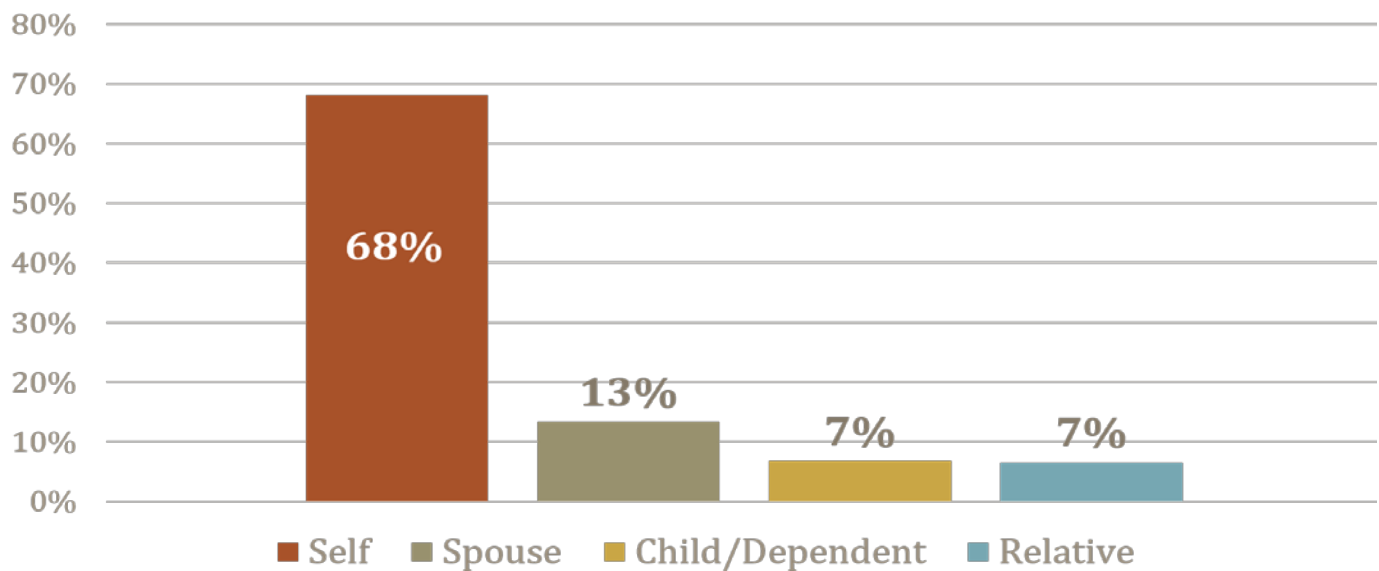
Total Calls: 7343

Age	6%	25 and Under
	16%	26-35
	14%	36-45
	22%	46-55
	20%	56-65
	15%	Over 65
	8%	Refused
Gender	32%	Female
	67%	Male
	1%	Refused
Branch	12%	Air Force
	45%	Army
	1%	Coast Guard
	10%	Marines
	17%	Navy
	15%	Refused
Veteran Status	70%	Veteran
	9%	Retired
	6%	Former Military (<180 Days)
	2%	Reserve
	3%	Active Duty
	1%	National Guard
	8%	Refused
Using VA	44%	Yes
	36%	No
	20%	Refused

GREATEST NEEDS



RELATIONSHIP TO SERVICE MEMBER



CRISIS CENTER
OF TAMPA BAY
Help. Hope. Healing

Clara Reynolds, President and CEO

creynolds@crisiscenter.com

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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

10/12/2017

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Veteran's Support Line

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Clara Reynolds

Job Title President + CEO

Address One Crisis Center Plaza
Street

Phone 813-969-4999

Tampa FL 33613
City State Zip

Email creynolds@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

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S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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

Meeting Date _____

Bill Number (if applicable) _____

Topic VET SUPPORT

Amendment Barcode (if applicable) _____

Name GLENN W. SUTPHIN JR

Job Title EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FDVA

Address Rm 2105 THE CAPITAL 4005 MONROE ST. Phone (850) 487-1533

Street

TALLAHASSEE
City

FL
State

32399
Zip

Email _____

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

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

Representing FDVA

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

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S-001 (10/14/14)

JUDGE T. PATT MANEY

An Okaloosa County Court judge since 1989, Judge Patt Maney was a pioneer in establishing a Veterans Treatment Court to address the unique needs of justice-involved veterans. He was honored when the legislature named the Veterans Treatment Court law after him. Judge Maney successfully spearheaded local efforts to establish a VA Vet Center to serve local combat veterans as well as coordinated a community-based annual Stand Down for homeless veterans, now in its tenth year. He was the “spark plug” to acquire a combat veteran UH-1 “Huey” helicopter to display at the Northwest Florida Regional Airport honoring an Army Medal of Honor recipient and his son, both local Viet Nam veterans. He initiated successful efforts to obtain the bell from the World War II Liberty ship, USS Okaloosa, for Okaloosa County.

Judge Maney serves on the Supreme Court’s Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Abuse and the Department of Highway Safety’s DUI Program Review Board. He previously served on the Florida Defense Support Task Force and the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council. He has served three VA Secretaries on the Congressionally-established Readjustment Advisory Committee. Judge Maney has made presentations for both Florida’s College of Advanced Judicial Studies and the Conference of County Court Judges and holds the highest award from the Conference.

While serving on the bench, he continued as an active Army Reservist retiring as a brigadier general in 2007 with service in Panama, Haiti, Bosnia and Afghanistan. In Bosnia, he served with the Office of the High Representative helping to implement the Dayton Peace Accord. He helped coordinate the 1997 visit of His Holiness John Paul II to Sarajevo. He is a former Deputy Commander of both the Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) and the JFK Special Warfare Center and School (Airborne). He commanded the Pensacola-based, Latin America-oriented 350th Civil Affairs Command and its subordinate units in five states. For seventeen months, BG Maney served as the Political Sector Coordinator and Senior Advisor to the US Ambassador to Afghanistan as part of a team focused on bottom up, citizen targeted, enterprise driven, private sector-assisted economic development under fire. He held the diplomatic status of attaché. He was wounded in an

IED attack and spent almost twenty months recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. For more than fifteen years, he has hosted visits to the courthouse for foreign military officers attending the Air Force Special Operations School at Hurlburt Field.

Among General Maney's military awards are: the Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Purple Heart Medal and the Combat Action Badge. He also holds the Secretary of Defense Award for Outstanding Public Service, the Department of State's Meritorious Honor Award and the Afghan Ghazi Mir Batcha Khan Superior Medal presented by the late king, Zahir Shah. He had a private audience with Pope John Paul II.

Judge Maney is a graduate of the University of Kentucky, Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville, Troy State University, and the Army War College. As an adjunct instructor, he taught in the paralegal programs for University of West Florida and what is now known as Northwest Florida State College. He is a former founding director of a community bank. He and his bride of forty six years, Caroline, have two grown daughters and six grandchildren. Judge Maney is an Eagle Scout and holds the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

JUDGE AUGUSTUS D. AIKENS, JR.

Following three years in private practice, Judge Aikens began his career with the State of Florida serving as Assistant General Counsel for the Department of Administration in 1978 and was promoted to General Counsel for the Department of Administration in 1985. He has also served as the Chief Legal Counsel for the Division of State Employees Insurance and Division of Retirement. Governor Lawton Chiles appointed him to the Leon County Bench in December 1997. He was reelected to his position in 2000, 2006 and 2012.

Judge Aikens was actively involved in military service and was awarded the Bronze Star for his service during Operation Desert Storm. He last held the rank of Colonel in the Florida Army National Guard. Prior to his retirement on June 30, 2003, Judge Aikens served as a Military Judge, Judge Advocate, Battalion and Brigade Staff Officer, Company Commander, and numerous other assignments as a Military Police and Field Artillery Officer. His last assignment was the Staff Judge Advocate, State Area Command, and Florida Army National Guard.

Upon his retirement, Judge Aikens was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal “for exceptionally meritorious service throughout a long and distinguished career.”

Judge Aikens is married to LaGrande Jones of Quitman, Georgia and they are the proud parents of five: Tara, Augustus III, Adrienne, Brice and Karel.

Judge Aikens is actively involved in his church, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal, as a Church School teacher and Steward. He serves on the advisory boards of numerous organizations including the Boy Scouts and 211 Big Bend Telephone Counseling Service. He is an active member of the Rotary Club of Tallahassee.

Judge Aikens is assigned to handle “[a]ll Veteran Court cases” by Administrative Order 2014-05, Sixth Amendment effective July 1, 2015.



Accessible • Fair • Effective • Responsive • Accountable

Veterans Courts

**Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and
Domestic Security Committee**

October 12, 2017

Presentation Topics

- Purpose of veterans courts
- Need for veterans courts
- Court locations
- Whom they serve
- Core components
- Relevant statutes
- Funding
- Consistent and efficient operation
- Veterans courts in action

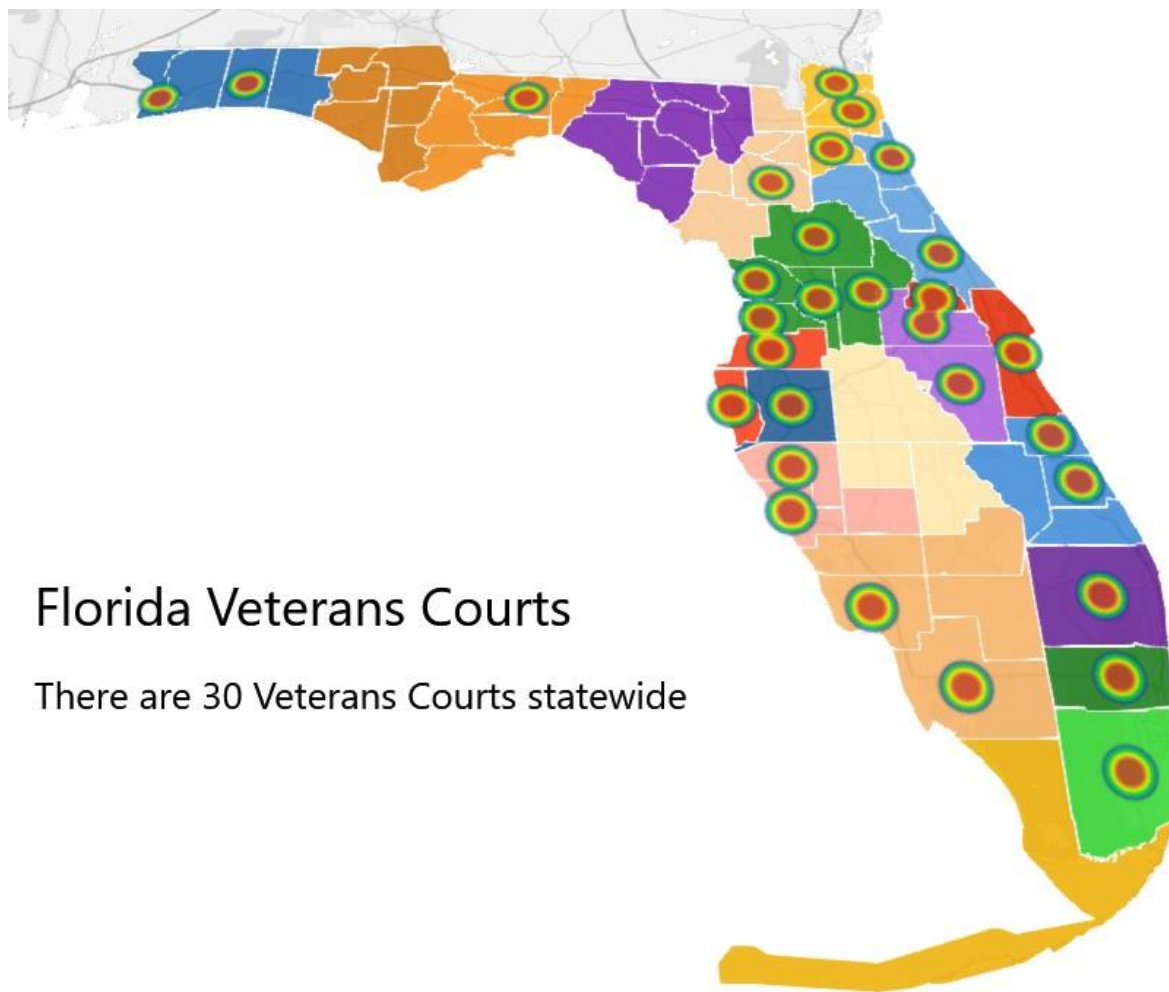
Purpose of Veterans Courts

Section 394.47891, F.S., provides that the chief judge of each judicial circuit may establish a Military Veterans and Servicemembers Court Program under which veterans and servicemembers who are charged or convicted of a criminal offense and who suffer from a military-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem can be sentenced in a manner that appropriately addresses the illness, injury, disorder, or problem through services tailored to the individual needs of the participant.

Need for Veterans Courts

- Florida has the third-largest veteran population in the nation, with 1,533,306 veterans.
- Florida also has a substantial active duty population.
- Studies show promising results, including improvements in psychiatric health and reductions in substance abuse, as well as reductions in rates of rearrest.

Veterans Court Locations



Florida Veterans Courts

There are 30 Veterans Courts statewide

Whom Veterans Courts Serve

- A “veteran” as defined in s. 1.01(14), F.S., including veterans discharged or released under a general discharge, and a “servicemember” as defined in s. 250.01(19), F.S. – i.e., current and former members of the United States Armed Forces, with some exceptions.
- Who CANNOT participate: a veteran or servicemember charged with a felony listed in s. 948.06(8)(c), F.S., or a veteran who received a dishonorable discharge.
- An eligible veteran or servicemember may be transferred to a veterans court in a county other than that in which the charge arose if specified conditions are met.

Core Components of Veterans Courts

- Regular appearances before the court
- Mandatory treatment sessions
- Frequent testing for substance use
- Veteran mentors

Other Relevant Statutes

- Pretrial intervention program – s. 948.08, F.S.
- Misdemeanor pretrial veterans treatment intervention program – s. 948.16, F.S.
- Probation or community control – s. 948.21, F.S.
- Violation of probation – s. 948.06, F.S.

Funding of Veterans Courts

- Treatment funding – U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Out of 30 veterans court statewide, 16 are state-funded.
- Non-state-funded courts are funded by local (county) monies and federal grants.

Consistent and Efficient Operation

Achieved by:

- Creation of operational standards and model
- Fidelity to the model

Veterans Courts in Action

- Participants who successfully complete a veterans court program “graduate” from the program.
- Judge Augustus Aikens, who presides over the veterans court in Leon County, recently hosted a graduation for a participant.

Graduation Video



Additional Resources

- Veterans Resource Guide for the Florida State Courts System, June 2014:
http://www.flcourts.org/core/fileparse.php/539/urlt/VETERANS_RESOURCE_GUIDE.pdf
- Military Law Review, Vol. 214, DA PAM 27-100-214, Winter 2012:
https://www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/Military_Law_Review/pdf-files/214-winter-2012.pdf

Questions?

Contact:

Office of the State Courts
Administrator, Legislative Affairs
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1900
(850) 922-5692
nafs@flcourts.org

THE FLORIDA SENATE

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

10/12/17
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Veterans Courts Presentation

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Judge T. Patt Maney, Okaloosa County

Job Title Okaloosa County Judge

Address 1940 Lewis Turner Blvd.
Street

Phone 850-651-7486

Ft. Walton Beach FL

Email _____

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Zip 32547

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

Representing State Courts System

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

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S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

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

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Veterans Courts Presentation

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Judge Augustus Aikens

Job Title Leon County Judge

Address 301 S. Monroe St.
Street

Phone 850-606-4331

Tallahassee FL 32301

Email _____

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

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

Representing State Courts System

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

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S-001 (10/14/14)

VETERANS COURT MISSION STATEMENT

*Meeting Justice – Involved Veterans
and Service Members Treatment Needs*

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT SERVICES

- On-going judicial supervision to monitor compliance with treatment recommendations
- Ready access to Veterans Administration services and resources
- Specialized substance abuse/mental health treatment services
- Random drug/alcohol testing
- Social service support
- Employment and housing assistance
- Veteran peer mentoring

LOCATION

Okaloosa Co Courthouse
Extension Annex
1940 Lewis Turner Blvd.
Fort Walton Beach, FL
32547

CONTACT INFORMATION

Edwin Rivera
Veterans Treatment
Court Coordinator
Phone: (850)609-5186
Email:
Edwin.Rivera@flcourts1.gov



Okaloosa County Veterans Treatment Court



*The Honorable T. Patt Maney, Presiding
Okaloosa County Courthouse
Annex Extension
1940 Lewis Turner Boulevard
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547*

WHAT IS A VETERANS COURT?

- The Veterans Treatment Court is a court program designed specifically for US military veterans including Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve charged with misdemeanor or felony offenses struggling with addiction, serious mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders that may be a result of their military and/or combat service.
- The program provides a means to divert eligible veteran participants from the traditional justice system and provide them support and rehabilitation through comprehensive substance abuse and/or mental health treatment; education; vocational programs; and community resource referrals for housing, childcare, and transportation, all while being judicially monitored. The Veteran can be entered to Veterans Court one of two ways:
- Condition of Probation
- Deferred Prosecution

- The program is a collaborative effort between the court system, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and community agencies to assist the veteran to move toward stability.
- The Veterans Treatment Court is generally a 12-18 month, voluntary program with an emphasis on outcome-based treatment.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Veteran verified by their DD Form 214 or current Active Duty status
Charged with a misdemeanor and/or some felony level offense
- Experiencing a substance use problem, mental health including TBI, PTSD and MST
- Consent of the prosecuting attorney for referral to the Veterans Court and the Judge's approval to participate
- Veteran's willingness to participate in treatment for the duration of their involvement in the program

PROGRAM OUTLINE

- Attend court hearings once or twice a month to review progress in the program

- Attend substance abuse and/or mental health counseling sessions, as appropriate
- Submit to random urine drug screens
- Comply with individualized treatment plan as outlined by the team
- Upon successful completion of the program, in most cases the veteran's charges will be dismissed. Non-compliance with program requirements could result in termination.

COURT GOALS

- Reduce criminal recidivism
- Facilitate participant recovery
- Increase compliance with treatment and other court-ordered conditions
- Improve access to VA benefits and services
- Improve family relationships and social support connections
- Improve life stability

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: LL 37

Case No.:

Type:

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

Judge:

Started: 10/12/2017 10:01:10 AM

Ends: 10/12/2017 11:37:35 AM **Length:** 01:36:26

10:01:08 AM Meeting Called to Order
10:01:19 AM CAA Lois Graham calls the Roll
10:01:34 AM Quorum announced
10:01:46 AM Chair Gibson with opening comments
10:01:53 AM Pledge of allegiance led by Senator Bean
10:02:19 AM Chair Gibson with comments
10:02:47 AM Chair Gibson with a moment of silence in memory of Senator Evers
10:03:15 AM Chair Gibson welcomes three new members- Senators Gainer, Taddeo, and Simmons
10:03:40 AM Committee Member introductions
10:05:23 AM Chair Gibson thanks Florida National Guard for their assistance during Hurricane Irma
10:06:21 AM Major Jason Hunt is recognized on behalf of the Florida National Guard
10:06:32 AM Tab 1 - SB 104, Small Business Financial Assistance by Senator Garcia
10:06:34 AM Senator Garcia presents bill
10:07:36 AM Amendment Barcode 839404 by Senator Garcia
10:08:40 AM Chair Gibson asks for questions
10:09:40 AM Chair calls for appearance cards
10:09:52 AM Mr. Brian Pitts, Trustee - Justice 2 Jesus waives in support
10:10:03 AM Amendment adopted
10:10:08 AM Back on bill as amended
10:10:16 AM Senator Garcia closes on bill
10:10:55 AM CAA calls the roll on CS/SB 104
10:11:09 AM CS/SB 104 reported favorably
10:11:33 AM Chair Gibson with comments
10:11:39 AM Senator Gainer with comments
10:12:04 AM Chair Gibson moves to Tab 2 - Presentation by the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay/Florida Veterans Support Line
10:12:28 AM Presentation by Clara Reynolds, President and CEO - Crisis Center of Tampa Bay
10:20:22 AM Chair Gibson with comments
10:20:30 AM Senator Torres with question
10:21:17 AM Ms. Reynolds with response
10:23:04 AM Chair Gibson with comments
10:23:08 AM Senator Gainer with comments
10:23:35 AM Ms. Reynolds with response
10:25:43 AM Senator Gainer with follow-up
10:25:56 AM Ms. Reynolds with response
10:26:11 AM Chair Gibson with question
10:26:25 AM Ms. Reynolds with response
10:27:10 AM Chair Gibson with follow-up
10:27:29 AM Ms. Reynolds with response
10:27:39 AM Chair Gibson with follow-up
10:27:52 AM Ms. Reynolds with response
10:28:04 AM Chair Gibson with comments

10:28:25 AM Ms. Reynolds with response
10:29:13 AM Chair Gibson with question
10:29:26 AM Ms. Reynolds with response
10:29:34 AM Chair Gibson with question
10:29:45 AM Ms. Reynolds with response
10:30:00 AM Chair Gibson with follow-up
10:30:32 AM Ms. Reynolds with response
10:30:49 AM Chair Gibson with question
10:31:33 AM Ms. Reynolds with response
10:31:40 AM Chair Gibson with question
10:32:07 AM Ms. Reynolds with response
10:32:14 AM Chair Gibson with comments
10:32:42 AM Ms. Reynolds with response
10:32:53 AM Chair Gibson with questions
10:33:14 AM Ms. Reynolds responds
10:34:08 AM Chair Gibson with question
10:35:11 AM Ms. Reynolds responds
10:36:21 AM Chair Gibson with question
10:37:39 AM Colonel Glenn W. Sutphin, Executive Director Florida Division of Veterans Affairs, responds
10:40:08 AM Chair Gibson with comments
10:40:17 AM Colonel Sutphin responds
10:41:30 AM Chair Gibson calls for additional questions
10:42:16 AM Senator Torres with question
10:42:28 AM Ms. Reynolds responds
10:43:15 AM Senator Torres with follow-up
10:43:25 AM Ms. Reynolds with response
10:43:59 AM Chair Gibson with comments
10:44:05 AM Ms. Reynolds responds
10:44:13 AM Chair Gibson moves to Tab 3 - Presentation by the State Courts System on Veterans Courts
10:44:33 AM Judge T. Patt Maney, First Judicial Circuit - Okaloosa County, with presentation
11:02:00 AM Chair Gibson with comments/questions
11:03:01 AM Judge Maney with response
11:03:14 AM Chair Gibson with questions
11:03:27 AM Judge Maney responds
11:04:33 AM Chair Gibson with question
11:04:48 AM Judge Maney responds
11:05:01 AM Chair Gibson recognizes Senator Simmons
11:05:44 AM Senator Simmons with comment/question
11:06:08 AM Judge Maney responds
11:07:44 AM Senator Simmons with follow-up
11:08:08 AM Judge Maney responds
11:10:30 AM Senator Simmons with follow-up
11:10:40 AM Judge Maney responds
11:10:50 AM Senator Simmons with follow-up
11:11:00 AM Judge Maney responds
11:11:30 AM Senator Gainer with question
11:11:50 AM Judge Maney responds
11:13:22 AM Senator Gainer with comments
11:13:32 AM Chair Gibson with comments
11:14:02 AM Senator Simmons with comment

11:14:50 AM Judge Maney with comments
11:14:57 AM Senator Simmons with further comments
11:15:50 AM Chair Gibson recognizes Judge Augustus Aiken, Second Judicial Circuit-Leon County
11:15:59 AM Judge Aiken with presentation
11:27:06 AM Chair Gibson with comments
11:27:22 AM Judge Aiken presents a video
11:31:11 AM Chair Gibson with comments
11:31:20 AM Senator Simmons with question
11:34:29 AM Chair Gibson with comments
11:35:40 AM Senator Bean with questions/comments
11:36:04 AM Chair Gibson with comments
11:37:05 AM Senator Taddeo moves to adjourn
11:37:25 AM Meeting adjourned

Graham, Lois

From: Biggs, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2017 10:35 AM
To: Gibson, Audrey
Cc: Ryon, Elizabeth; Graham, Lois; Brown, Kevin
Subject: Request for permission to be excused for 10/12/17 meeting

On behalf of Senator Doug Broxson

Dear Senator Gibson,

I request permission to be excused from the Committee meeting on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security on 10/12/17, unfortunately I will not be able to attend.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,



Senator Doug Broxson
District 1