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**Veterans Dental Care Grant Bill Passes First Committee in the
Florida Senate**

TALLAHASSEE, FL — The Florida Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security has advanced legislation to expand access to dental care for Florida’s veterans.

Senate Bill 96, introduced by **Senator Barbara Sharief**, amends section 295.157, Florida Statutes, to broaden the purpose of the Veterans Dental Care Grant Program. The purpose of the program is to provide oral health care to veterans who reside in Florida, and who have incomes of up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

To support this effort, the legislation includes a recurring appropriation of \$500,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs for the 2026–2027 fiscal year.

“This legislation reflects our continued commitment to caring for those who have served our country,” said **Senator Barbara Sharief (D-35)**. “Expanding access to dental care will improve veterans’ overall health and quality of life.”

If passed, SB 96 will take effect **July 1, 2026**.

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