



# BOYD'S EYE

District 21 Newsletter - April 16, 2021

Senator Jim Boyd

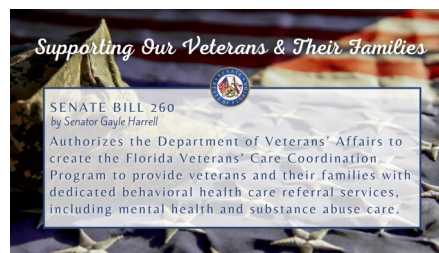


COMMITTEES: Banking and Insurance (Chair), Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government, Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development, Criminal Justice, Judiciary, Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

## Senate Commits to Support Vets and Their Families

The Senate Committee on Appropriations unanimously approved Senate Bill 260: *Services for Veterans and Their Families*, The legislation authorizes the Department of Veterans' Affairs to create the Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program to provide both veterans and their families with dedicated behavioral health care referral services, primarily for mental health and substance abuse.

Through the program, a veteran may call a separate veteran-dedicated support line to receive assistance and support from a fellow veteran who is trained to respond to the calls for assistance.



The Florida Senate is committed to ensuring Florida remains the number one state in the nation for our military and veteran communities and their families.

Follow the link for additional details on [SB 260: Services for Veterans and Their Families](#).

## SB 1234 Enhances Penalties for False Crime Reports

SB 1234: *False Reporting of a Crime*, filed by Senator Boyd, provides enhanced penalties if the public safety agency response from a false report of a crime results in substantial costs to the responding agencies, specified bodily injury, or death.

Swatting is a term used to describe a hoax call made to emergency personnel reporting a serious situation like a hostage taking or murder.

Local officials rush to the scene but typically only find a completely innocent citizen caught wildly off guard. Swatting creates a public safety issue and in some cases has resulted in the death. It diverts valuable resources away from protecting the public. Victims have typically been those who engage in online games capable of streaming their gameplay on platforms such as Twitch and YouTube.

### Contact Us:

#### District 21:

Manatee and a portion of Eastern Hillsborough County

#### District Office

717 Manatee Ave. W.  
Suite 100  
Bradenton, FL 34205  
(941) 742-6445

#### Tallahassee Office

312 Senate Office Building  
404 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 487-5021



On April 13, Senator Boyd joined Governor Ron DeSantis to announce plans to permanently resolve the environmental challenges at Piney Point.



[flsenate.gov/Senators/S21](https://flsenate.gov/Senators/S21)



Twitter: @JimBoydFL

Email: [boyd.jim.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:boyd.jim.web@flsenate.gov)