

Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Space

SB 212 — Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

by Senator Wright

SB 212 reenacts provisions of law establishing and implementing the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and provides for future legislative review and repeal of the Compact on July 1, 2022.

Participation in the compact enables member states to address educational transition issues faced by military families as they transfer from various states and school districts in accordance with official military orders. States are required to enact the compact into law in order to join the compact, which the Legislature did during the 2008 Regular Session. As of January 2015, all 50 states and the District of Columbia are active members of the compact. Since its enactment in 2008, Florida's compact legislation has included a provision requiring automatic repeal of the compact after a period of time, unless reauthorized by the Legislature. The Legislature last reauthorized the compact in 2016, and provided for its repeal on April 10, 2019.

In addition to reauthorizing the compact and providing for future legislative review and repeal of the law, by reauthorizing the compact, the Legislature adopts two changes to Compact Rules. The first requires each state council to meet at least once per fiscal year and submit state council meeting dates, agendas, and minutes to the Interstate Commission office within 60 days following each state council meeting. Florida's state council is an active council and exceeds the requirements of the rule. The second rule change increased the annual dues from \$1.00 to \$1.15 per military child; an increase above current dues of \$2,373 for Fiscal Year 2019-20. Florida Statutes require that compact membership dues must be paid within existing resources by the Department of Education.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 112-0

Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs And Space

CS/SB 292 — Education

by Military and Veterans Affairs and Space Committee and Senator Lee

This bill allows a student who is graduating from a public pre-K-12 educational institution to wear a dress military uniform to the graduation ceremony. Specifically, the bill prohibits a district school board from preventing a student from lawfully wearing to his or her graduation ceremony a dress uniform of any of the Armed Forces of the state or of the United States.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 115-0

Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs And Space

CS/CS/HB 427 — Honor and Remember Flag

by State Affairs Committee; Local, Federal and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee; and Rep. Gregory and others (CS/SB 718 by Military and Veterans Affairs and Space Committee and Senator Gruters)

This bill establishes the Honor and Remember flag as the state's emblem of the service and sacrifice of the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces (USAF) who have given their lives in the line of duty.

The bill authorizes the flag to be displayed at the following state-owned locations: a building at which the United States flag is displayed, a military memorial, and any other location. A flag may also be flown at a local government building. Days on which the flag may be displayed are Veterans Day, Gold Star Mother's Day, and a day on which a Florida resident who is a member of the USAF has died in the line of duty. The flag must be made in the United States and displayed with no more than two additional flags on the flagpole.

By July 1, 2020, a department or an agency responsible for a location at which a flag may be flown or a participating local government may adopt regulations to implement this law. However, a regulation may not require an employee to report to work solely to display the flag.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect January 1, 2020.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 113-0

Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs And Space

CS/CS/SB 620 — Military-friendly Initiatives

by Rules Committee; Military and Veterans Affairs and Space Committee; and Senator Broxson

This bill provides a number of benefits to servicemembers and their families and additional protections and benefits for military organizations, land uses, and interests.

The bill requires K-12 public education school districts to accept a permanent change of station order as proof of residency for all public school programs. In accepting the order as proof of residency, the district must provide preferential treatment to the student in the entire controlled open enrollment process. The bill also enables an active duty member or a family member residing in the state to qualify for in-state tuition at the time of acceptance for admission at a public postsecondary institution, even if the active duty member is subsequently transferred.

To further protect military lands, the bill adds the Naval Support Activity Orlando and the United States Southern Command to the list of military installations that designated local governments are required to coordinate with on the compatibility of land development. The bill also provides that a conservation easement created to prevent the encroachment to a military installation survives a sale of property for the nonpayment of taxes.

Finally, the bill establishes the Blue Angels license plate as a specialty license plate, to be designed and implemented by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. The Blue Angels, or the Navy Flight Exhibition Team based in Pensacola, Florida, has performed flight shows since 1946 for almost 500 million fans. Annual use fees collected will be remitted to the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation for further distribution to fund the activities of the National Naval Aviation Museum and the National Flight Academy in Pensacola. However, the development of the plate is contingent upon the enactment of legislation creating the annual use fee for the Blue Angels license plate.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2019.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 113-0