

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Family Readiness Program; creating
 3 s. 250.5206, F.S.; creating the Family Readiness Program
 4 within the Department of Military Affairs; providing
 5 purpose of the program; providing for program funding and
 6 use of program funds; specifying eligible services and
 7 eligible program recipients; providing procedure with
 8 respect to requests for assistance and award of funds
 9 under the program; providing for monthly audit reviews of
 10 the program; providing for annual reports; providing
 11 rulemaking authority of the Department of Military
 12 Affairs; providing an appropriation; providing an
 13 effective date.

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 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 17 Section 1. Section 250.5206, Florida Statutes, is created
 18 to read:

19 250.5206 Family Readiness Program.--The Department of
 20 Military Affairs shall establish a state Family Readiness
 21 Program headed by a program director and based on the United
 22 States Department of Defense National Guard and Reserve Family
 23 Readiness Strategic Plan 2004-2005 initiative.

24 (1) PROGRAM PURPOSE.--The purpose of the program shall be
 25 to provide need-based assistance to families of service members
 26 of the Florida National Guard and United States Reserve Forces,
 27 including the Coast Guard Reserves, who are on active duty
 28 serving in the Global War on Terrorism and who are federally

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

29 deployed or participating in state operations for homeland
30 defense.

31 (2) FUNDING.--Implementation of the program is subject to
32 appropriations expressly provided for this purpose.

33 (3) ELIGIBLE SERVICES.--Program funds may be used in
34 emergency situations to purchase critically needed services,
35 including, but not limited to, reasonable living expenses,
36 housing, vehicles, equipment or renovations necessary to meet
37 disability needs, and health care.

38 (4) ELIGIBILITY.--Eligible recipients shall include
39 persons designated as beneficiaries on the United States
40 Department of Defense Form 93, or who are otherwise dependents
41 of eligible service members, and who are residents of the State
42 of Florida.

43 (5) REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE; REVIEW; AWARDS.--Requests for
44 assistance shall be validated and assessed at the local level by
45 a federal Family Center Support Specialist stationed at a state
46 armory or at a reserve facility by a designated official.
47 Recommendations subsequent to assessment and validation shall be
48 forwarded to the program director, who shall review the
49 recommendations for eligibility, appropriateness, and
50 sufficiency of documentation. The Adjutant General or his or
51 her designee shall receive the recommendations from the program
52 director and is authorized to award funds pursuant to
53 subsections (3) and (4).

54 (6) AUDITS.--The inspector general of the department shall
55 conduct a monthly audit review of the program.

56 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.--The department shall maintain
57 sufficient data to provide an annual report to the Governor and
58 the Legislature on the families served under the program, the
59 types of services provided, and the allocation of funds spent.

60 (8) RULES.--The department is authorized to adopt rules
61 necessary to implement this program, including procedures for
62 applying for assistance, qualifying services, and criteria for
63 eligibility.

64 Section 2. The sum of \$5 million, which includes \$10,000
65 in operating capital outlay and authorizes 3 other-personal-
66 service positions, is appropriated for fiscal year 2005-2006
67 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Military
68 Affairs for the Family Readiness Program to provide need-based
69 assistance to the family members eligible under s. 250.5206,
70 Florida Statutes.

71 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.