

By Senator Dockery

15-642-05

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to installations honoring
3 military veterans and their families; providing
4 a short title; providing purpose; authorizing
5 the Department of Transportation to contract
6 with a group or organization for the
7 installation and maintenance of memorials at
8 rest stops; providing for a committee to
9 approve proposals for the contracts; providing
10 for membership and terms of members of the
11 committee; requiring approval by the committee
12 for such contracts; providing conditions for
13 approval; requiring that the group or
14 organization be responsible for costs;
15 requiring that the group or organization
16 provide a bond to secure certain costs;
17 providing an effective date.

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

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21 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Ellwood
22 Robinson 'Bob' Pipping, Jr., Memorial Act."

23 Section 2. The purpose of this act is to create an
24 environment in which state residents and visitors will be
25 reminded of the accomplishments made by military veterans in
26 past conflicts and the continuing sacrifices made by veterans
27 and their families to protect the freedoms we enjoy today.

28 Section 3. The Department of Transportation may
29 contract with a group or organization to install and maintain
30 monuments honoring military veterans at highway rest areas in
31 this state.

1 (1) Proposals for contracts must be approved by a
2 committee composed of the Secretary of Transportation or the
3 secretary's designee, the executive director of the Department
4 of Veterans' Affairs or the executive director's designee, and
5 three members of the Florida Commission on Veterans' Affairs
6 appointed by the chair of the commission. Appointed members
7 shall be appointed for terms not to exceed 2 years and may be
8 reappointed to the committee. Appointed members' terms expire
9 on January 31 of each even-numbered year.

10 (2) Installations may consist of monuments or other
11 memorials, plaques, markers, or retired military equipment
12 that honor the accomplishments of military veterans and the
13 sacrifices made by them and their families. The group or
14 organization making the proposal must pay the total cost to
15 construct, install, and maintain the monument.

16 (3) The cost of maintenance shall be secured by
17 sufficient funds provided annually by the group or
18 organization and deposited into a maintenance account held by
19 the Department of Transportation. The group or organization
20 must also provide a 10-year bond securing the cost of removal
21 of the monument, and any modifications made to the site as
22 part of the placement of the monument, for use if the group or
23 organization does not provide sufficient funds for maintenance
24 for a period of 2 consecutive years. Prior to expiration, the
25 bond must be renewed for an additional 10-year period if the
26 memorial is to remain in place.

27 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
28 law.
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SENATE SUMMARY

Authorizes the Department of Transportation to contract with groups or organizations to install and maintain monuments honoring military veterans at highway rest stops.