

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

BILL: SB 1688

INTRODUCER: Senator Sachs

SUBJECT: Florida Veterans Foundation

DATE: January 25, 2016

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Sanders	Ryon	MS	Pre-meeting
2.			ATD	
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

SB 1688 authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to collect, for the Florida Veterans Foundation, a voluntary contribution of \$1 or more per applicant through the motor vehicle registration, driver license and identification card, and marine vessel registration application forms.

II. Present Situation:

The application forms for motor vehicle registration and renewal, a driver license or replacement driver license, identification card, or marine vessel registration all provide a voluntary contributions section that allows applicants the opportunity to make a donation by checking a box on the form.¹

The Florida Statutes specifically authorize which organizations can receive a voluntary contribution. Section 320.023, F.S., establishes the requirements for organizations seeking to establish a voluntary contribution on motor vehicle registration application forms, and s. 322.081, F.S., establishes similar requirements for driver license and identification card applications. Both sections require:

¹ Sections 320.02(8), (14), and (15) and 328.72(11) and (16), F.S., provide motor vehicle registration applicants with 26 options for voluntary contributions. Section 322.08(7), F.S., provides driver license and identification card applicants with 20 options for voluntary contributions.

- A request for the voluntary contribution being sought, describing the voluntary contribution in general terms;
- An application fee², not to exceed \$10,000, to defray the DHSMV's cost for reviewing the application and developing the voluntary contribution check off, if authorized;
- A marketing strategy outlining short-term and long-term marketing plans for the contribution; and
- A financial analysis outlining the anticipated revenues and the planned expenditures of the revenues to be derived from the contributions.

This information must be submitted to the DHSMV at least 90 days before the next regular session of the Legislature convenes.

Florida Veterans Foundation

The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs was authorized during the 2008 Regular Session to establish a direct-support organization in order to provide assistance, funding, and support for the department in carrying out its mission.³ Incorporated in June of 2008, the Florida Veterans Foundation (foundation) carries out a number of activities that serve, support, and advocate for Florida veterans.

The foundation's main mission is to provide emergency assistance to Florida veterans and their families who, through no fault of their own, are experiencing financial difficulties that cannot be resolved by the veteran or other veteran service organizations.⁴ Other activities of the foundation include:

- Operating and participating in Homeless Veteran Stand Downs;
- Providing guidance and information services regarding Florida veteran benefits and Federal veteran benefits;
- Printing and distributing the Florida Veterans' Benefit Guide;
- Providing veteran employment information; and
- Overseeing projects such as the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame and the Florida Veterans Walk of Honor.⁵

Funding for the foundation comes from donations received as a result of fundraising efforts.⁶ The foundation previously received a portion of the revenue generated from the sale of the Florida Salutes Veterans specialty license plate, which ended 48 months after the foundation was incorporated.⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 1688 authorizes the DHSMV to include language permitting a voluntary contribution of \$1 or more per applicant to the Florida Veterans Foundation on the forms for motor vehicle

² State funds may not be used to pay the application fee. See s. 320.023(b), F.S..

³ Ch. 2008-84, s. 1, Laws of Fla. (creating s.

⁴ Florida Veterans Foundation, available at <http://www.floridaveteransfoundation.org/> (last visited Jan. 22, 2016).

⁵ Id.

⁶ Id.

⁷ Section 320.08058(4)(b)1., F.S.

registration and renewal, a driver license or replacement driver license, identification card, and marine vessel registration. Such contributions will be distributed by the DHSMV to the Florida Veterans Foundation.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Under the bill, individuals may choose to donate to the Florida Veterans Foundation, which will benefit that organization.

C. Government Sector Impact:

Information from the DHSMV on the cost to redesign and develop the new application forms was not available. However, a similar proposal during the 2015 Regular Session creating a voluntary contribution to End Breast Cancer, estimated the cost to be \$55,040, which would be partially offset by the sponsoring organization's \$20,000 application fee. DHSMV would absorb the remaining \$35,040.⁸

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

An organization requesting that a voluntary checkoff be included on a motor vehicle registration or driver license application must submit to the DHSMV an application 90 days prior to the

⁸ See Bill Analysis for Senate Bill 676 (2015 Regular Session).

convening of the next regular session of the Legislature. The DHSMV does not have an application on file from the Florida Veterans Foundation.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 320.02, 322.08, 328.72.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
