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:	SPB 7070
INTRODUCER:	For consideration by the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee
SUBJECT:	Advisory Councils of the Department of Veterans' Affairs
DATE:	February 8, 2016 REVISED:

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE		ACTION
1.	Sanders	Ryon	MS	**Pre-meeting**	

I. Summary:

SPB 7070 allows the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council to consider former members of the Florida National Guard for admission into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

II. Present Situation:

Florida Veterans

A veteran is defined in Florida Statutes to mean a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under honorable conditions only or who later received an upgraded discharge under honorable conditions, notwithstanding any action by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs on individuals discharged or released with other than honorable discharges.[1]

Currently, there are 21.8 million veterans in the United States, of which, over 1.6 million reside in Florida.[2] This makes Florida the state with the third largest veteran population, behind only California and Texas.[3]

Florida National Guard

The Florida National Guard (FLNG) is comprised of an Army reserve component (Army National Guard) and an Air Force reserve component (Air Force National Guard). Each

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[1] Section 1.01(14), F.S.
[2] U.S. Census Bureau, *A Snapshot of Our Nation's Veterans*, available at http://www.census.gov/library/infographics/veterans.html (last visited Feb. 3, 2016).
[3] Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, *Fast Facts*, available at http://floridavets.org/?page_id=50 (last visited Feb. 3, 2016).

component of the FLNG is described in law as essential and is required to be an integral part of the first line defenses of the United States to be maintained and assured at all times.[4] The National Guard is governed under Title 32 of the United States Code whereas active duty members of the United States Armed Forces serve under Title 10.

While serving under Title 32, members of the FLNG are under the command of the Governor. However, as a reserve component of the Army and Air Force members of the FLNG may be ordered to active duty by the President. In this instance members of the FLNG become federalized under Title 10. A former member of the Florida National Guard may not qualify as a veteran, as defined in Florida Statutes, unless he or she is federalized under Title 10.

According to the Florida Department of Military Affairs, there are approximately 60,000 former members of the FLNG currently living in Florida.[5]

Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame

The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame (Hall of Fame) was created during the 2011 Regular Session to honor veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the State of Florida.[6] The Hall of Fame is overseen by the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council (council), which is comprised of seven honorably discharged veterans, of which four are members of a congressionally chartered veterans service organization.[7] The Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Attorney General, the Chief Financial Officer, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and the executive director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs each appoint one member to the council.[8] Council members serve 4-year terms.[9]

The council is directed to accept and consider nominations for transmission to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA). The FDVA then presents the list of nominees to the Governor and the Cabinet who will select the nominees to be included in the Hall of Fame. In selecting its nominees, the council shall give preference to veterans who were born in Florida or adopted Florida as their home state or base of operation and who have made a significant contribution to the state in civic, business, public service, or other pursuits.[10] The council is allowed to establish criteria, set the time frame for acceptance of nominations, and the process for selecting nominees.

Since the inaugural Class of 2013 there have been 19 veterans inducted into the Hall of Fame.[11]

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[4] 32 U.S.C. s. 102.
[5] E-mail correspondence with the Florida Department of Military Affairs on Feb. 3, 2016 (on file with the Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee).
[6] Ch. 2011-168, s. 1, Laws of Fla.
[7] Section 265.003(3)(a), F.S.
[8] Id.
[9] Id.
[10] Section 265.003(4), F.S.
[11] Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, *Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame*, available at http://floridavets.org/our-veterans/florida-veterans-hall-of-fame/ (last visited Feb. 5, 2016).

III.   Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill allows the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council to consider former members of the Florida National Guard for admission into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

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:

      None.

      C.   Government Sector Impact:

      None.

VI.   Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII.   Related Issues:

None.

VIII.   Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 265.003 of the Florida Statutes.

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.