

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to military and veteran support;
3 amending s. 83.683, F.S.; requiring landlords,
4 condominium associations, cooperative associations,
5 and homeowners' associations that require a
6 servicemember's spouse or certain adult dependents to
7 submit a rental application to complete processing of
8 the application within a specified timeframe; amending
9 s. 295.187, F.S.; requiring the Department of
10 Veterans' Affairs to create a website to streamline
11 the procedure for businesses applying for
12 certification as a veteran business enterprise;
13 amending s. 454.021, F.S.; authorizing the Supreme
14 Court to admit on motion a bar applicant who is the
15 spouse of a servicemember stationed in this state
16 under certain circumstances; amending s. 1012.56,
17 F.S.; requiring the Department of Education to
18 expedite the processing of an application for educator
19 certification submitted by a spouse of a servicemember
20 stationed in this state; requiring the State Board of
21 Education to adopt rules regarding extending validity
22 of a temporary certificate if the applicant is a
23 spouse of a servicemember stationed in this state;
24 providing legislative findings and intent regarding
25 continuing education for veterans of the United States

26 Armed Forces; providing legislative intent to require
27 collaboration between the State Board of Education and
28 the Board of Governors of the State University System
29 in achieving specified goals regarding educational
30 opportunities for veterans; providing an effective
31 date.

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

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35 Section 1. Section 83.683, Florida Statutes, is amended to
36 read:

37 83.683 Rental application by a servicemember.—

38 (1) If a landlord requires a prospective tenant to
39 complete a rental application before residing in a rental unit,
40 the landlord must complete processing of a rental application
41 submitted by a prospective tenant who is a servicemember, as
42 defined in s. 250.01, within 7 days after submission and must,
43 within that 7-day period, notify the servicemember in writing of
44 an application approval or denial and, if denied, the reason for
45 denial. If the landlord requires the servicemember's spouse or
46 an adult dependent of the servicemember who is to reside in the
47 same rental unit to submit a rental application, the landlord
48 must complete processing of such application within the same 7-
49 day period. Absent a timely denial of the rental application,
50 the landlord must lease the rental unit to the servicemember if

51 all other terms of the application and lease are complied with.

52 (2) If a condominium association, as defined in chapter
53 718, a cooperative association, as defined in chapter 719, or a
54 homeowners' association, as defined in chapter 720, requires a
55 prospective tenant of a condominium unit, cooperative unit, or
56 parcel within the association's control to complete a rental
57 application before residing in a rental unit or parcel, the
58 association must complete processing of a rental application
59 submitted by a prospective tenant who is a servicemember, as
60 defined in s. 250.01, within 7 days after submission and must,
61 within that 7-day period, notify the servicemember in writing of
62 an application approval or denial and, if denied, the reason for
63 denial. If the association requires the servicemember's spouse
64 or an adult dependent of the servicemember who is to reside in
65 the same rental unit or parcel to submit a rental application,
66 the association must complete processing of such application
67 within the same 7-day period. Absent a timely denial of the
68 rental application, the association must allow the unit or
69 parcel owner to lease the rental unit or parcel to the
70 servicemember and the landlord must lease the rental unit or
71 parcel to the servicemember if all other terms of the
72 application and lease are complied with.

73 (3) The provisions of this section may not be waived or
74 modified by the agreement of the parties under any
75 circumstances.

76 Section 2. Present paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of
 77 section 295.187, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph
 78 (e), and a new paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, to
 79 read:

80 295.187 Florida Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunity
 81 Act.—

82 (6) DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS.—The
 83 department shall:

84 (d) Create a website to streamline the procedure for
 85 applying for certification as a veteran business enterprise.

86 Section 3. Subsection (4) is added to section 454.021,
 87 Florida Statutes, to read:

88 454.021 Attorneys; admission to practice law; Supreme
 89 Court to govern and regulate.—

90 (4) (a) The Supreme Court of Florida may admit on motion an
 91 applicant as an attorney at law authorized to practice in this
 92 state if the applicant is a spouse of a servicemember, as
 93 defined in s. 250.01, stationed in this state and upon
 94 certification by the Florida Board of Bar Examiners that the
 95 applicant meets the following requirements:

96 1. The applicant has registered in the Defense Enrollment
 97 Eligibility Reporting System established by the United States
 98 Department of Defense;

99 2. The applicant holds a Juris Doctor or Bachelor of Laws
 100 from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association;

101 3. The applicant is licensed to practice law in another
 102 state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United
 103 States after having passed a written examination;

104 4. The applicant can establish that he or she is a member
 105 in good standing in all jurisdictions where licensed to practice
 106 law and that he or she is not currently subject to discipline or
 107 a pending disciplinary matter relating to the practice of law;

108 5. The applicant can demonstrate his or her presence in
 109 this state as a spouse of a servicemember; and

110 6. The applicant has otherwise fulfilled all requirements
 111 for admission to practice law in this state.

112 (b) The Supreme Court of Florida may specify circumstances
 113 under which the license and authorization to practice law in
 114 this state of an attorney licensed in accordance with paragraph
 115 (a) terminates.

116 Section 4. Subsections (1) and (7) of section 1012.56,
 117 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

118 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

119 (1) APPLICATION.—Each person seeking certification
 120 pursuant to this chapter shall submit a completed application
 121 containing the applicant's social security number to the
 122 Department of Education and remit the fee required pursuant to
 123 s. 1012.59 and rules of the State Board of Education. Pursuant
 124 to the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
 125 Reconciliation Act of 1996, each party is required to provide

126 his or her social security number in accordance with this
127 section. Disclosure of social security numbers obtained through
128 this requirement is limited to the purpose of administration of
129 the Title IV-D program of the Social Security Act for child
130 support enforcement. Pursuant to s. 120.60, the department shall
131 issue within 90 calendar days after the stamped receipted date
132 of the completed application:

133 (a) If the applicant meets the requirements, a
134 professional certificate covering the classification, level, and
135 area for which the applicant is deemed qualified and a document
136 explaining the requirements for renewal of the professional
137 certificate;

138 (b) If the applicant meets the requirements and if
139 requested by an employing school district or an employing
140 private school with a professional education competence
141 demonstration program pursuant to paragraphs (6) (f) and (8) (b),
142 a temporary certificate covering the classification, level, and
143 area for which the applicant is deemed qualified and an official
144 statement of status of eligibility; or

145 (c) If the ~~an~~ applicant does not meet the requirements for
146 either certificate, an official statement of status of
147 eligibility. The statement of status of eligibility must advise
148 the applicant of any qualifications that must be completed to
149 qualify for certification. Each statement of status of
150 eligibility is valid for 3 years after its date of issuance,

151 except as provided in paragraph (2) (d).

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153 If the applicant is the spouse of a servicemember, as defined in
154 s. 250.01, stationed in this state and if the applicant holds a
155 current professional standard teaching certificate issued by
156 another state, the department shall expedite the processing of
157 the application and issue a certificate or statement as provided
158 under paragraphs (a)-(c) within 60 calendar days after the
159 stamped receipted date of the completed application.

160 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

161 (a) The Department of Education shall issue a professional
162 certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to any applicant
163 who meets all the requirements outlined in subsection (2) or,
164 for a professional certificate covering grades 6 through 12, any
165 applicant who:

166 1. Meets the requirements of paragraphs (2) (a)-(h).

167 2. Holds a master's or higher degree in the area of
168 science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

169 3. Teaches a high school course in the subject of the
170 advanced degree.

171 4. Is rated highly effective as determined by the
172 teacher's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part
173 on student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized
174 assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International
175 Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate

176 examination.

177 5. Achieves a passing score on the Florida professional
178 education competency examination required by state board rule.

179 (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to
180 any applicant who completes the requirements outlined in
181 paragraphs (2) (a)-(f) and completes the subject area content
182 requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates
183 mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5) and
184 holds an accredited degree or a degree approved by the
185 Department of Education at the level required for the subject
186 area specialization in state board rule.

187 (c) The department shall issue one nonrenewable 2-year
188 temporary certificate and one nonrenewable 5-year professional
189 certificate to a qualified applicant who holds a bachelor's
190 degree in the area of speech-language impairment to allow for
191 completion of a master's degree program in speech-language
192 impairment.

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194 Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years
195 and is nonrenewable. However, the requirement in paragraph
196 (2) (g) must be met within 1 calendar year of the date of
197 employment under the temporary certificate. Individuals who are
198 employed under contract at the end of the 1 calendar year time
199 period may continue to be employed through the end of the school
200 year in which they have been contracted. A school district shall

201 not employ, or continue the employment of, an individual in a
202 position for which a temporary certificate is required beyond
203 this time period if the individual has not met the requirement
204 of paragraph (2)(g). The State Board of Education shall adopt
205 rules to allow the department to extend the validity period of a
206 temporary certificate for 2 years when the requirements for the
207 professional certificate, not including the requirement in
208 paragraph (2)(g), were not completed due to the serious illness
209 or injury of the applicant, due to the fact that the applicant
210 is the spouse of a servicemember stationed in this state, or due
211 to other extraordinary extenuating circumstances. The department
212 shall reissue the temporary certificate for 2 additional years
213 upon approval by the Commissioner of Education. A written
214 request for reissuance of the certificate shall be submitted by
215 the district school superintendent, the governing authority of a
216 university lab school, the governing authority of a state-
217 supported school, or the governing authority of a private
218 school.

219 Section 5. Legislative findings and intent; continuing
220 education of veterans of the United States Armed Forces.—The
221 Legislature finds that many veterans of the United States Armed
222 Forces in this state have completed training and coursework
223 during their military service, including overseas deployments,
224 resulting in tangible and quantifiable strides in their pursuit
225 of a postsecondary degree. The Legislature further finds that

226 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors of the
227 State University System must work together to ensure that
228 military training and coursework are granted academic credit in
229 order to assist veterans in continuing their education.

230 Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that the State
231 Board of Education and the Board of Governors work
232 collaboratively to:

233 (1) Align existing degree programs, including, but not
234 limited to, vocational and technical degrees, at each state
235 university and Florida College System institution with
236 applicable military training and experience to maximize academic
237 credit awarded for such training and experience.

238 (2) Appoint and train specific faculty within each degree
239 program at each state university and Florida College System
240 institution as liaisons and contacts for veterans.

241 (3) Incorporate outreach services tailored to disabled
242 veterans into existing disability services on the campus of each
243 state university and Florida College System institution to make
244 available to such veterans information on disability services
245 provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,
246 other federal and state agencies, and private entities.

247 (4) Facilitate statewide meetings for personnel at state
248 universities and Florida College System institutions who provide
249 student services for veterans to discuss and develop best
250 practices, exchange ideas and experiences, and attend

251 presentations by individuals with expertise in the unique needs
252 of veterans.

253 (5) Make every effort to provide veterans with sufficient
254 courses required for graduation, including, but not limited to,
255 giving priority registration to veterans.

256 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.