

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  
 31 appropriation; providing an effective date.

32

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

34

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

79 295.187 Florida Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunity  
 80 Act.—

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

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

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

87 454.021 Attorneys; admission to practice law; Supreme  
 88 Court to govern and regulate.—

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

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

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

100 3. The applicant is licensed to practice law in another

101 state, the District of Columbia, or a territory of the United  
102 States after having passed a written examination;

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

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

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

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

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

117 1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

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

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

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

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

144 (c) If the ~~an~~ applicant does not meet the requirements for  
145 either certificate, an official statement of status of  
146 eligibility. The statement of status of eligibility must advise  
147 the applicant of any qualifications that must be completed to  
148 qualify for certification. Each statement of status of  
149 eligibility is valid for 3 years after its date of issuance,  
150 except as provided in paragraph (2) (d).

151  
152 If the applicant is the spouse of a servicemember, as defined in  
153 s. 250.01, stationed in this state and if the applicant holds a  
154 current professional standard teaching certificate issued by  
155 another state, the department shall expedite the processing of  
156 the application and issue a certificate or statement as provided  
157 under paragraphs (a)-(c) within 60 calendar days after the  
158 stamped receipted date of the completed application.

159 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

192  
193 Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years  
194 and is nonrenewable. However, the requirement in paragraph  
195 (2) (g) must be met within 1 calendar year of the date of  
196 employment under the temporary certificate. Individuals who are  
197 employed under contract at the end of the 1 calendar year time  
198 period may continue to be employed through the end of the school  
199 year in which they have been contracted. A school district shall  
200 not employ, or continue the employment of, an individual in a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

246 (4) Facilitate statewide meetings for personnel at state  
247 universities and Florida College System institutions who provide  
248 student services for veterans to discuss and develop best  
249 practices, exchange ideas and experiences, and attend  
250 presentations by individuals with expertise in the unique needs

251 of veterans.

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

255 Section 6. For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the sums of  
256 \$25,000 in recurring funds and \$100,000 in nonrecurring funds  
257 from the General Revenue Fund are appropriated to the Department  
258 of Veterans' Affairs to implement section 2 of this act.

259 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.