



Kathleen Passidomo
President of the Senate

THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE



Paul Renner
*Speaker of the House of
Representatives*

May 02, 2023

The Honorable Kathleen Passidomo
President of the Senate

The Honorable Paul Renner
Speaker, House of Representatives

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker:

Your Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two houses on CS/CS/HB 1285, same being:

An act relating to Florida State Guard.

having met, and after full and free conference, do recommend to their respective houses as follows:

1. That the Senate and House of Representatives adopt the Conference Committee Amendment attached hereto, and by reference made a part of this report.

Senator Doug Broxson, Chair

Senator Ben Albritton, At Large

Senator Bryan Avila

Senator Dennis Baxley, At Large

Senator Lori Berman

Senator Lauren Book, At Large

Senator Jim Boyd

Senator Jennifer Bradley

Senator Jason Brodeur

Senator Danny Burgess

Senator Colleen Burton

Senator Alexis Calatayud

Senator Jay Collins

Senator Tracie Davis

Senator Nick DiCeglie

Senator Ileana Garcia

Senator Erin Grall

Senator Joe Gruters

Senator Gayle Harrell

Senator Ed Hooper

Senator Travis Hutson, At Large

Senator Blaise Ingoglia

Senator Shevrin D. Jones

Senator Jonathan Martin

Senator Debbie Mayfield, At Large

Senator Rosalind Osgood

Senator Keith Perry, At Large

Senator Jason W. B. Pizzo

Senator Tina Scott Polsky

Senator Bobby Powell

Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez

Senator Darryl Ervin Rouson, At Large

Senator Corey Simon

Senator Linda Stewart

Senator Geraldine F. Thompson

Senator Victor M. Torres Jr.

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Senator Jay Trumbull

Senator Tom A. Wright

Senator Clay Yarborough

Conferees on the part of the Senate

<i>Representative Robert Alexander Andrade, Chair</i>	<i>Representative Thomas J. Leek, Chair</i>
<i>Representative Thad Altman, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Bruce Hadley Antone</i>
<i>Representative Christopher Benjamin, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Adam Botana, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Robert Charles Brannan III, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Demi Busatta Cabrera, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Kevin D. Chambliss, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Linda Chaney</i>
<i>Representative Charles Wesley Clemons, Sr., At Large</i>	<i>Representative Dan Daley, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Fentrice Driskell, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Tiffany Esposito</i>
<i>Representative Randy Fine, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Ashley Viola Gantt</i>
<i>Representative Sam Garrison, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Michael Gottlieb, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Michael Grant, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Tommy Gregory, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Jennifer Harris</i>	<i>Representative Christine Hunschofsky, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Chip LaMarca</i>	<i>Representative Vicki L. Lopez</i>
<i>Representative Ralph E. Massullo, MD, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Stan McClain, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Lawrence McClure, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Kiyon Michael</i>
<i>Representative Bobby Payne, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Daniel Perez, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Susan Plasencia</i>	<i>Representative Felicia Simone Robinson, At Large</i>
<i>Representative Bob Rommel, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Jason Shoaf, At Large</i>
<i>Representative David Silvers, At Large</i>	<i>Representative Tyler I. Sirois</i>
<i>Representative Kelly Skidmore, At Large</i>	<i>Representative John Snyder, At Large</i>

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Representative Josie Tomkow, At Large

Representative Susan L. Valdés, At Large

Representative Patricia H. Williams, At Large

Representative Marie Paule Woodson, At Large

Representative Bradford Troy Yeager

Managers on the part of the House of Representatives

May 02, 2023

The Conference Committee Amendment for HB 1285, relating to Florida State Guard, maintains and modifies provisions of the Florida State Guard. Federal law authorizes each state, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands to create and maintain organized units other than their respective National Guard units. These separate units, called “defense forces,” are for use exclusively within the jurisdiction as considered necessary by the Governor or chief executive of such jurisdiction but may not be called, ordered, or drafted into federal service.

Led by the Governor as commander-in-chief, the Florida National Guard consists of organized, armed, equipped, and federally recognized commissioned officers, warrant officers, and enlisted personnel who are citizens of the United States or who have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States.

The Florida State Defense Force was created in 1941 in order to supplement the state’s National Guard, which had been federalized into service during World War II. The Florida State Defense Force was deactivated and disbanded in 1947 after the return of the state’s National Guard.

The Florida State Guard (FSG) was created in 2022 as a component of the organized guard of the state separate and apart from the Florida National Guard, and is a volunteer force that assists federal, state, and local government agencies and civil relief organizations during impending or actual emergencies in Florida. The FSG will sunset on July 1, 2023.

The amendment repeals the FSG’s expiration date, making it a permanent component of the state militia. The amendment revises the structure of the FSG by creating a Division of the State Guard (Division) within the Department of Military Affairs as a separate budget entity, headed by a director who is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The amendment also transfers administrative duties and powers from the Adjutant General to the director.

The amendment requires the director to organize a specialized unit within the FSG and requires specified members of the unit to meet certain minimum requirements.

The amendment repeals sections of law pertaining to the Florida State Defense Force and makes other conforming changes.

The General Appropriations Act for FY 2023-24 provides \$107.6 million in appropriations from the General Revenue Fund for the Florida State Guard.