

# Florida G.I. Bill



**PRE-SESSION PRESS  
INFORMATION SESSION  
JANUARY 30, 2014**

# Military Presence in Florida



- Military Personnel – 61,189
- Civilian Personnel – 24,705
- National Guard Personnel – 12,052
- National Guard Civilian Personnel – 387

# Economic Impact



- Defense spending was responsible for **\$73.4 billion**, or **9.4 percent** of Florida's gross state product.
- Defense-related spending accounted for a total of **758,112** direct and indirect jobs.
- State and local tax revenue generated by defense-driven activities was estimated to be **\$5.41 billion** in fiscal year 2011.

# Veteran Presence in Florida



- Military Veteran Population (total) – 1,543,496
  - Women Veterans – 164,936
  - Disabled Veterans – 259,248
  - OEF/OIF/OND Servicemembers and Veterans – 231,000
  - World War II Veterans – 113,754
  - Vietnam-era Veterans – 498,167

# Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs



- **Division of Veterans' Benefits and Assistance**
  - Federal Compensation & Pension - \$4,067,030,000
  - Education Benefits - \$782,267,000
  - Medical Benefits - \$3,521,811,000
  - Military Retirement Pay - \$4,811,364,000
  - Other VA-Sponsored Benefits - \$518,321,000
- **State Veterans' Homes Program**
  - Six state veterans' nursing homes
  - One state veterans' domiciliary home

# Florida Department of Military Affairs



- **Florida National Guard**
  - Nearly 12,000 Florida National Guard members
  - More than 2,200 full-time military personnel
  - More than 350 state employees

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- Education
- Employment
- Professional Licensure

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## Education

- “Congressman C. W. Bill Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Program”.
- Increase funding to the Florida Department of Military Affairs’s Educational Dollars for Duty program.
- Fund IT upgrades to manage increased participation in the Educational Dollars for Duty program.



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## Employment

- Extends Florida's veterans' preference in employment process to include excluded veterans, certain family members of veterans, and members of the United States Reserve Forces and the Florida National Guard.

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## Professional Licensure

- Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation licensure fee waiver program.
- Military experience as a substitute for civilian experience.

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## Florida Armory Revitalization Program

- Since 2007, the state has renovated 37 out of 51 armories statewide. The revitalization of these armories has greatly increased the Florida Guard's ability to gain new units with increased capabilities, made the buildings more energy efficient and stimulated the economies of the surrounding communities and the state.
- In total, Florida's armories have an economic impact of over \$476M to the state.

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- Entrepreneur mentoring program for veterans
- Base buffering

# Additional Proposal



- **Marketing research and campaign to promote Florida as a permanent residence to military personnel**
- **Grants to businesses for training veterans for jobs**
- **Public Private Partnership**

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Questions?

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