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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to military and veteran support;  
 3           amending s. 292.10, F.S.; revising military discharge  
 4           requirements for veterans authorized to receive  
 5           assistance from local governing bodies; requiring the  
 6           Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs to include a  
 7           section on agricultural farming opportunities for  
 8           veterans, in the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide;  
 9           amending s. 455.213, F.S.; requiring the Department of  
 10          Business and Professional Regulation to waive  
 11          professional licensing fees for veterans with a  
 12          general discharge under honorable conditions;  
 13          requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor  
 14          Vehicles and the Department of Military Affairs to  
 15          create a commercial driver license testing pilot  
 16          program; providing an effective date.

17  
 18   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

19  
 20           Section 1. Section 292.10, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
 21   read:

22           292.10   Local governing bodies authorized to assist war  
 23   veterans; powers.—The board of county commissioners of each  
 24   county and the governing body of each city in the state are  
 25   hereby granted full and complete power and authority to aid and  
 26   assist wherever practical and feasible the veterans, male and

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27 female, who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States  
 28 in any war, or ~~and~~ received an honorable discharge or a general  
 29 discharge under honorable conditions from any branch of the  
 30 military service of the United States, and their dependents, in  
 31 presenting claims for and securing such compensation,  
 32 hospitalization, education, loans, career training, and other  
 33 benefits or privileges to which said veterans, or any of them,  
 34 are or may become entitled under any federal or state law or  
 35 regulation by reason of their service in the Armed Forces of the  
 36 United States.

37 Section 2. Agricultural farming opportunities for  
 38 veterans.--

39 (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs, through a direct-  
 40 support organization under s. 292.055, Florida Statutes, and in  
 41 consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
 42 Services, shall include a section on agricultural farming  
 43 opportunities in the state, for veterans of the United States  
 44 Armed Forces, in the Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide. The  
 45 section must include, at a minimum:

46 (a) Information on federal, state and local agricultural  
 47 farming programs, incentives, assistance, and grants, available  
 48 to veterans.

49 (b) Federal and state agricultural farming outreach and  
 50 advocacy programs, available to veterans.

51 (2) The Department of Veterans' Affairs must:

52 (a) Make the guides available to all military installations

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53 in the state of Florida.

54 (b) Provide a consolidated description of and link to the  
 55 section on its website.

56 Section 3. Subsection (12) of section 455.213, Florida  
 57 Statutes, is amended to read:

58 455.213 General licensing provisions.—

59 (12) The department shall waive the initial licensing fee,  
 60 the initial application fee, and the initial unlicensed activity  
 61 fee for a military veteran or his or her spouse at the time of  
 62 discharge, if he or she applies to the department for a license,  
 63 in a format prescribed by the department, within 60 months after  
 64 the veteran is discharged from any branch of the United States  
 65 Armed Forces. To qualify for this waiver, the veteran must have  
 66 been honorably discharged or received a general discharge under  
 67 honorable conditions.

68 Section 4. Before June 30, 2016, the Department of Highway  
 69 Safety and Motor Vehicles and the Department of Military Affairs  
 70 shall jointly create a pilot program with the purpose of  
 71 providing on-site commercial driver license testing  
 72 opportunities to qualified members of the Florida National Guard  
 73 pursuant to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
 74 commercial driver license skills test waiver in s. 322.12. The  
 75 testing shall be held at a Florida National Guard Armory, Armed  
 76 Forces Reserve Center, or the Camp Blanding Joint Training  
 77 Center. The pilot program shall be accomplished using existing  
 78 funds appropriated to each department.

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Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.