



Veteran & Military Affairs Subcommittee

Meeting Packet

**Tuesday, February 2, 2016
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
12 HOB**



The Florida House of Representatives

Veteran & Military Affairs Subcommittee

Steve Crisafulli
Speaker

Jimmie T. Smith
Chair

Tuesday, February 2, 2016
Meeting Agenda
Room 12, House Office Building
01:30 p.m. – 03:30 p.m.

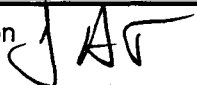
- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- IV. Consideration of the following proposed committee bill(s):**
PCB VMAS 16-01 -- Credit for Relevant Military Service
- V. Adjournment**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: PCB VMAS 16-01 Credit for Relevant Military Service

SPONSOR(S): Veteran & Military Affairs Subcommittee

TIED BILLS: IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 1504

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
Orig. Comm.: Veteran & Military Affairs Subcommittee		Renner	Thompson 

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill requires the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), the Department of Health (DOH), and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) to extend credit for relevant military service across a broad range of professions and occupational fields. The bill also requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) and the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) to provide CDL testing opportunities to Florida National Guard members at certain military facilities in Florida. In part, the bill:

- Requires DBPR, to extend credit towards the requirements for construction and electrical contracting licensure for experience, training, or education received and completed during service in the United States Armed Forces, if the experience, training or education is substantially similar to the experience, training, or education required for licensure; and submit a report to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Governor with specific data on, among other things, how many veterans have applied, been denied, been accepted, and recommendations on ways the agencies could meet the needs of the veterans.
- Provides alternative eligibility criteria for a military servicemember seeking licensure as a health care practitioner through DOH in this state and extends the alternative eligibility criteria, and other current licensure eligibility criteria for military applicants, to the spouses of active duty military personnel who apply for a license as a health care practitioner.
- Removes the law that allows military spouses to obtain temporary licensure as a health care practitioner to conform to the new full-licensure eligibility provisions in the bill for active duty military spouses.
- Allows military health care practitioners who are practicing under a military platform, which is a training agreement with a nonmilitary health care provider, to be issued a temporary certificate to practice in this state.
- Exempts out-of-state or military-trained EMTs or paramedics from a certification examination requirement if the EMT or paramedic is already nationally certified or registered.
- Requires DACS to extend credit towards the requirements for licensure for military training or education received and completed during service in the United States Armed Forces, if the training or education is substantially similar to the training or education required for Private Security, Private Investigative and Recovery Services licenses, and requires DACS to submit a report to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Governor with specific statistics on, among other things, how many veterans have applied, how many have been denied, accepted, and recommendations on ways the agencies could meet the needs of the veterans.
- Requires DHSMV and DMA to create a pilot program to make commercial driver license testing opportunities available to qualified members of the Florida National Guard. The testing must be held at a Florida National Guard Armory, Armed Forces Reserve Center, or Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.

The fiscal impact to the State is insignificant. Provisions of the bill may have a positive fiscal impact to veterans and their families.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2016.

This document does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill sponsor or House of Representatives.

STORAGE NAME: pcb01.VMAS.DOCX

DATE: 1/29/2016

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Background

Veteran Statistics

Currently, there are 21.8 million veterans in the United States, of which, over 1.6 million reside in Florida.¹ This makes Florida the state with the third largest veteran population, behind only California and Texas.² Approximately 299,000 of Florida's veterans are service-disabled.³

Florida's overall unemployment rate was 5 percent at the end of December 2015.⁴ In 2014, the unemployment rate among Florida veterans was 5 percent compared to 5.3 percent nationally.⁵ The unemployment rate among Florida Post-9/11 era veterans averaged 4.8 percent compared to 7.2 percent nationally.⁶

Credentialing

Veterans enter the civilian workforce trained in hundreds of occupations with relevance to the civilian workforce. However, receiving the credential (license or certification) in many of those occupations can require completing training and education standards despite already having highly relevant skills and experience. Such requirements impose additional costs on veterans and taxpayers, who pay both for the initial military training and for re-training outside of the military through veterans' education benefits.⁷

The federal government has undertaken several initiatives to streamline professional licensing and credentialing for veterans. These initiatives include efforts to provide civilian credentials and identify equivalencies between military and civilian occupations. However, ultimate authority for regulating entry into most occupations lies with state governments.⁸ In particular, it has been found that state licensing boards have the responsibility for approving accelerated pathways leading to civilian certification or licensure.⁹

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, *A Snapshot of Our Nation's Veterans*, available at: <http://www.census.gov/library/infographics/veterans.html> (last viewed January 20, 2016).

² Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, *Fast Facts*, available at: http://floridavets.org/?page_id=50 (last viewed January 20, 2016).

³ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, Annual Benefits Report, Fiscal Year 2014, page 22 of 80, available at: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/REPORTS/abr/ABR-IntroAppendix-FY13-09262014.pdf> (Last visited January 18, 2016).

⁴ U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, released January 26, 2016.

⁵ United States Congress Joint Economic Committee, *Economic Snapshot: Florida* (Oct. 2015), available at: http://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/2cb3bde9-27db-4584-86fc-f2ce46e4bb2e/florida.pdf (last visited January 20, 2016).

⁶ Id.

⁷ National Governor's Association, Testimony – Occupational Licenses and Credentials for Veterans, available at: <http://www.nga.org/cms/home/federal-relations/nga-testimony/hsp-testimony/col2-content/main-content-list/testimony--occupational-licenses.html> (last visited January 28, 2016).

⁸ U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Office of Policy Development and Research and Veterans Employment Training Service, Veterans' Licensing and Certification Demonstration Interim Report, March 2015, available at: https://wdr.doleta.gov/research/FullText_Documents/ETAOP_2015-03.pdf (last visited January 28, 2016).

⁹ National Governor's Association, Testimony – Occupational Licenses and Credentials for Veterans, available at: <http://www.nga.org/cms/home/federal-relations/nga-testimony/hsp-testimony/col2-content/main-content-list/testimony--occupational-licenses.html> (last visited January 28, 2016).

Enlistment Timeframes

According to DMA, the average length of a military enlistment contract is four to eight years. Each military branch offers a wide array of enlistment contract terms and options. A standard contract requires four years of active duty service and four years of inactive reserve service. This includes work within the particular military occupational specialty (MOS).¹¹

DBPR

Present Situation

Construction and Electrical Contractors

DBPR is the agency charged with licensing and regulating various businesses and professions in the state, including, but not limited to, construction and electrical contractors. Both the Construction Industry Licensing Board¹² (CILB) and the Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board¹³ (ECLB) are the regulatory bodies mandated with implementing parts I and II of ch. 489, F.S., respectively.

DBPR requires that all construction and electrical industry contractors be licensed.¹⁴ Licensure may be issued by either registration or certification. DBPR must issue a certification or registration to each person qualified by the board and upon receipt of the original license fee.¹⁵ Certified licenses are statewide and allow the contractor to work anywhere in Florida. Registered licenses are limited to certain local jurisdictions and only allow a contractor to work in the cities or counties where the contractor holds a certificate of competency.¹⁶ More specifically, licensure by registration is available when the applicant has taken and passed a local competency examination, which permits the licensee to practice within that specified locale,¹⁷ and licensure by certification is available when the applicant has taken and passed a state competency exam,¹⁸ which permits the certificateholder to engage in contracting in any jurisdiction in the state without being required to fulfill the competency requirements of that jurisdiction.¹⁹

In order to be a certified contractor in Florida, a person must:²⁰

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Be of good moral character;
- Pass the certification examination, achieving a passing grade as established by board rule;
- Meet the educational/experience requirements;

¹¹ Information regarding military enlistment contracts is can be found at the FindLaw website, available at: <http://military.findlaw.com/administrative-issues-benefits/what-is-a-military-enlistment-contract.html> (last visited January 28, 2016).

¹² The CILB oversees the following license categories: air conditioning, building, internal pollutant storage tank lining applicator, mechanical, plumbing, pollutant storage systems, pool/spa, precision tank tester, residential, roofing, sheet metal, solar, specialty, underground utility and excavation.

¹³ The ECLB oversees the following license categories: electrical contractor, alarm system contractor I and II, specialty and electrical contractor.

¹⁴ s. 489.115(1), F.S.

¹⁵ s. 489.115(2)(a), F.S.

¹⁶ Dep't of Business and Professional Regulation, Construction Industry Licensing Board, *Definition of Occupation and Class Codes*, available at: <http://www.myfloridalicense.com/DBPR/pro/cilb/codes.html>, (last visited January 26, 2016).

¹⁷ DBPR website on the Construction Industry Licensing Board, *available at* <http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/pro/cilb/> (last visited January 8, 2016).

¹⁸ See s. 489.111, F.S., on exam requirements.

¹⁹ s. 489.115(2)(b), F.S.

²⁰ s. 489.511, F.S.

- Pay all applicable fees;
- Obtain worker's compensation coverage; and
- Demonstrate financial responsibility.

Section 489.111(2)(c), F.S., provides the experience and education requirements for all construction contractor applicants, without exception for military veterans. These requirements include four years of experience in the category applied for, with one year as a supervisor. Applicants may apply up to three years of college credit toward the experience requirements. The CILB reviews applicant experience when necessary to determine if the experience is within the category applied for.

Section 489.511(1)(b), F.S., provides the experience and education eligibility requirements for all electrical or alarm system contractor applicants, one of which requires at least four years of experience as a supervisor or contractor in the trade for which he or she is making application.

Section 489.511(1)(b)3.c., F.S., provides that an applicant for an electrical or alarm system contractor license may use technical experience in electrical or alarm system work with the military or a governmental entity to meet the minimum 6 year experience requirement.

Section 489.511(1)(b)3.e., F.S., provides that for technical education to be used in conjunction with experience to meet the 6 year experience requirements, and technical training received in the military is acceptable under this provision. The ECLB reviews all applications to determine if the required training and experience has been met.

Additionally, both the CILB and the ECLB provide reciprocity if the applicant has a license from another state and the qualifications are substantially similar to Florida's requirements.²¹

Veteran and Spouse Contractors

Section 455.213, F.S., requires DBPR to waive the initial licensing fee, the initial application fee, and the initial unlicensed activity fee for an honorably discharged military veteran, or his or her spouse at the time of discharge, if he or she applies for a license within 60 months (five years) after discharge.

Section 455.02, F.S., provides that any member of the military on active duty in the military, who at the time he or she became active was in good standing with any DBPR administrative board,²² he or she will be kept in good standing, without registering, paying fees or dues, or performing any act required for continued licensure, as long as the service member remains on active duty and does not engage in his or her profession in the private sector for profit.

Proposed Changes

The bill requires DBPR to provide a method by which honorably discharged veterans may apply for licensure. The method must include a veteran specific application and provide the following:

- Extension of credit to the fullest extent possible toward the requirements for licensure for military experience, training, or education received and completed during service in the U.S. Armed Forces if the experience, training, or education is substantially similar to the experience, training, or education required for licensure.
- For a Construction Contracting License: Up to three years of active duty service in the U.S. Armed Forces, regardless of duty or training, must be accepted to meet the four year of experience requirement. A minimum of one additional year of active experience as a foreman in the trade, either civilian or military, is required to fulfill the experience requirement.

²¹ ss. 489.115(3) and 489.511(5), F.S.

²² See s. 20.165(4)(a), F.S., for a complete list of all boards and programs established within the Division of Professions.

- For Electrical or Alarm System Contracting Licenses: At least four years of experience as a supervisor or contractor in the military equivalent to the trade for which he or she is making application must be accepted to meet the four year experience requirement. A minimum of one additional year of active experience as a foreman in the trade, either civilian or military, is required to fulfill the experience requirement.

Additionally, beginning October 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, in conjunction with the boards, DBPR is required to prepare and submit a report titled Construction and Electrical Contracting Veteran Applicant Statistics to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Governor. The report must include the:

- Number of applicants who identified themselves as veterans;
- Number of veterans whose applications for a license were approved, denied and reason for denial;
- Data on the application processing times for veterans; and
- Recommendations on ways to improve DBPR's ability to meet the needs of veterans which would effectively address the challenges that veterans face when separating from military service and seeking a license for a profession or occupation regulated under parts I and II of ch. 489, F.S.

Lastly, the bill amends s. 489.511, F.S., to specify that anyone wishing to be an electrical contractor must have at least six years of technical education or training in addition to the technical experience in current law in electrical or alarm system work with the U.S. Armed Forces or a governmental entity.

DOH

Present Situation

Health Care Practitioner Licensure

DOH is responsible for the regulation of health care practitioners and health care facilities in Florida for the preservation of the health, safety, and welfare of the public.²³ The Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA), within DOH, has general regulatory authority over health care practitioners.²⁴ MQA works in conjunction with 22 boards²⁵ and six councils to license and regulate more than 40 health care professions.²⁶ Each profession is regulated by an individual practice act and by ch. 456, F.S., which provides general regulatory and licensure authority for MQA.

Military Health Care Practitioners

An individual who serves or has served as a health care practitioner in the U.S. Armed Forces, U.S. Reserve Forces, or the National Guard on active duty or has served on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces as a health care practitioner in the U.S. Public Health Service, is eligible for licensure in Florida.²⁷ DOH is required to waive the application fee, licensure fee, and unlicensed activity fee for such applicants. The applicant will be issued a license to practice in Florida if the applicant submits a completed application, and:

²³ s. 20.43(1)(g), F.S.

²⁴ Pursuant to s. 456.001(4), F.S., health care practitioners are defined to include acupuncturists, physicians, physician assistants, chiropractors, podiatrists, naturopaths, dentists, dental hygienists, optometrists, nurses, nursing assistants, pharmacists, midwives, speech language pathologists, nursing home administrators, occupational therapists, respiratory therapists, dieticians, athletic trainers, orthotists, prosthetists, electrologists, massage therapists, clinical laboratory personnel, medical physicists, dispensers of optical devices or hearing aids, physical therapists, psychologists, social workers, counselors, and psychotherapists, among others.

²⁵ See s. 20.165(4)(a), F.S., for a complete list of all boards and programs established within the Division of Professions.

²⁶ Florida Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance, *Annual Report and Long-Range Plan, Fiscal Year 2014-2015*, 3, available at <http://mqawebteam.com/annualreports/1415/#6> (last visited January 19, 2016).

²⁷ s. 456.024, F.S.

- Receives an honorable discharge within the 6 months before or after submission of the application;
- Holds an active, unencumbered license issued by another state, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. territory or possession, with no disciplinary action taken against it in the five years preceding the date of application;
- Attests that he or she is not, at the time of submission, the subject of a disciplinary proceeding in a jurisdiction in which he or she holds a license or by the U.S. Department of Defense for a reason related to the practice of the profession for which he or she is applying;
- Has actively practiced the profession for which he or she is applying for the three years preceding the date of application; and
- Submits to a background screening, if required for the profession for which he or she is applying, and does not have any disqualifying offenses.²⁸

DOH refers to this program as the Veterans Application for Licensure Online Response System (VALOR) and it additionally provides expedited licensing for honorably discharged veterans with an active license in another state.²⁹ To qualify for the VALOR program, a veteran must apply for a license six months before or after his or her honorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces.³⁰

The VALOR licensing provisions do not apply to an individual who is serving or has served as a health care practitioner in the military for which state licensure is not required.

Veteran and Spouse Health Care Practitioners

Section 456.013, F.S., requires DOH to waive the initial licensing fee, the initial application fee, and the initial unlicensed activity fee for a military veteran or his or her spouse at the time of discharge, if he or she applies to the department for an initial license within 60 months (five years) after the veteran is honorably discharged from any branch of the United States Armed Forces. The applicant must apply for the fee waiver using a form prescribed by the department and must submit supporting documentation as required by the department.

Section 456.024, F.S., provides that any member of the military on active duty in the military, who at the time he or she became active was in good standing with any DOH administrative board, he or she will be kept in good standing, without registering, paying fees or dues, or performing any act required for continued licensure, as long as the service member remains on active duty and does not engage in his or her profession in the private sector for profit.

Section 456.024, F.S., also provides temporary license privileges for spouses of active duty members of the Armed Forces.³¹ DOH is authorized to issue a temporary professional license to the spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States if the applicant submits a completed application, and the following:

- Application fee;
- Proof of his or her marriage to an active duty military member;
- Proof of a valid professional license in another state, the District of Columbia, any U.S. possession or territory, or any foreign jurisdiction;
- Proof of active duty military orders that the applicant and his or her spouse are both assigned to duty in Florida; and

²⁸ s. 456.024(3)(a), F.S.

²⁹ See Department of Health, *Veterans*, available at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/licensing-and-regulation/armed-forces/veterans/index.html> (last visited Jan. 18, 2016).

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ *Id.*

- A complete set of the applicant's fingerprints to be submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for state and federal criminal background check, at the applicant's expense.

Section 456.024, F.S., requires an applicant who is issued a temporary professional license to practice as a dentist pursuant to this section to practice under the indirect supervision³² of a dentist licensed pursuant to chapter 466, F.S.

Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics

DOH, Division of Emergency Operations regulates emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics. "Emergency Medical Technician" is defined in s. 401.23, F.S., as a person who is certified by DOH to perform basic life support.³³ "Paramedic" means a person who is certified by DOH to perform basic and advanced life support.³⁴

The National Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Education Standards define the minimal entry-level educational competencies, clinical behaviors, and judgments that must be met by Emergency Medical Service personnel to meet national practice guidelines.³⁵ The National EMS Education Standards assume there is a progression in practice from the entry-level Emergency Medical Responder level to the Paramedic level. That is, licensed personnel at each level are responsible for all knowledge, judgments, and behaviors at their level and at all levels preceding their level. According to these standards, there are four licensure levels of EMS personnel: Emergency Medical Responder; Emergency Medical Technician; Advanced Emergency Medical Technician; and Paramedic. For example, a paramedic is responsible for knowing and doing everything identified in that specific area, as well as knowing and doing all tasks in the three preceding levels.³⁶

Under Florida law, an applicant for certification or recertification as an EMT or paramedic must:

- Have completed an appropriate training program as follows:
 - For an EMT, an EMT training program approved by DOH as equivalent to the most recent EMT-Basic National Standard Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards of the United States Department of Transportation; or
 - For a paramedic, a paramedic training program approved by DOH as equivalent to the most recent EMT-Paramedic National Standard Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards of the United States Department of Transportation;
- Certify under oath that he or she is not addicted to alcohol or any controlled substance;
- Certify under oath that he or she is free from any physical or mental defect or disease that might impair the applicant's ability to perform his or her duties;
- Within 2 years after program completion have passed an examination developed or required by DOH;

³² s. 466.003(9), F.S., defines "Indirect supervision" to mean supervision whereby a dentist authorizes the procedure and a dentist is on the premises while the procedures are performed.

³³ "Basic life support" means the assessment or treatment by a person qualified under this part through the use of techniques described in the EMT-Basic National Standard Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards of the United States Department of Transportation and approved by the DOH. The term includes the administration of oxygen and other techniques that have been approved and are performed under conditions specified by rules of the DOH.

³⁴ "Advanced life support" means assessment or treatment by a person qualified under this part through the use of techniques such as endotracheal intubation, the administration of drugs or intravenous fluids, telemetry, cardiac monitoring, cardiac defibrillation, and other techniques described in the EMT-Paramedic National Standard Curriculum or the National EMS Education Standards, pursuant to rules of the DOH.

³⁵ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Emergency Medical Services, Educational Standards and NSC: National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards, available at: <http://www.ems.gov/EducationStandards.htm> (last visited Jan. 19, 2016).

³⁶ *Id.*

- For an EMT, hold a current American Heart Association cardiopulmonary resuscitation course card or an American Red Cross cardiopulmonary resuscitation course card or its equivalent as defined by DOH rule;
- For a paramedic, hold a certificate of successful course completion in advanced cardiac life support from the American Heart Association or its equivalent as defined by DOH rule;
- Submit the certification fee and the nonrefundable examination fee prescribed in s. 401.34, F.S., which examination fee will be required for each examination administered to an applicant; and
- Submit a completed application to DOH, which application documents compliance with the certification requirements.³⁷

Proposed Changes

Military and Military Spouse Health Care Practitioners

The bill authorizes DOH to waive fees and issue a health care practitioner license to an active duty member of the military, who applies six months before or after an honorable discharge, in a profession for which licensure is not required in another state.³⁸ However, the applicant must provide evidence of military training or experience substantially equal to the requirements for licensure in Florida, and proof of a passing score on the appropriate examination of a national or regional standards organization, if required for licensure in Florida.

The bill also authorizes DOH to issue a health care practitioner license to the spouse of an active duty military member in a profession that may not require a license in another state and allows the applicant to apply in the same manner as those military members applying for a health care practitioner license within six months of an honorable discharge, meaning the military spouse applicant will not be subject to application fees and will have a truncated application process. As is required for military applicants, the military spouse applicant who is not licensed in another state must provide evidence of training or experience equivalent to the requirements for licensure in Florida and provide proof of a passing score on the appropriate exam of a national or regional standards organization, if required for licensure in Florida. The bill repeals the law pertaining to temporary licensure of military spouses to conform to the new full-licensure provisions of the bill for military spouses.

The repealed provisions include the elimination of the requirement that a military spouse who has been issued a temporary dental license practice only under the supervision of a Florida dentist.

The bill allows military health care practitioners who are practicing under a military platform, which is a training agreement with a nonmilitary health care provider, to be issued a temporary certificate from DOH, which authorizes the practitioner to practice in this state for up to six months. This would allow military health care practitioners to develop and maintain technical proficiency in their profession.

The bill includes certain safeguards to ensure military health care practitioners applying for a temporary certificate will competently and safely practice in nonmilitary health care settings. An applicant who has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor related to the practice of a health care profession, who has had a health care provider license revoked or suspended in another jurisdiction, who has failed the Florida licensure examination for his or her profession, or who is under investigation in another jurisdiction for an act that constitutes a violation under a Florida practice act, is ineligible to apply for a temporary certificate. Upon application, the bill requires the military health care practitioner seeking a temporary certificate to:

³⁷ Section 401.27, F.S.

³⁸According to the DOH, professions not licensed in all states and jurisdictions, but are licensed in Florida, include: respiratory therapists and assistants, clinical laboratory personnel, medical physicists, opticians, athletic trainers, electrologists, nursing home administrators, midwives, orthotists and assistants, prosthetists and assistants, pedorthotists and assistants, orthotic fitters and assistants, certified chiropractic physician assistants, and pharmacy technicians. *Supra* note 34 at 3.

- Submit proof that he or she will practice pursuant to a military platform;
- Submit a complete application and a nonrefundable application fee not to exceed \$50;
- Hold a valid and unencumbered license to practice as a health care professional in another state, the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States, or is a military health care practitioner in a profession for which licensure in a state or jurisdiction is not required for practice in the military and who provides evidence of training and experience substantially equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this state for that profession;
- Attest that he or she is not, at the time of application, the subject of a disciplinary proceeding in another jurisdiction or by the United States Department of Defense for reasons related to the practice of the profession for which he or she is applying;
- Be determined to be competent in the profession for which they are applying for a temporary certificate; and
- Submit a set of fingerprints for a background screening, if required in this state, for a profession for which he or she is applying for a temporary certificate.

Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics

The bill exempts out-of-state or military-trained EMTs or paramedics from the certification examination required by the DOH if the EMT or paramedic is nationally certified or registered.

DACS

Present Situation

Private Security, Private Investigative and Recovery Services

The Division of Licensing, within DACS, issues licenses to persons providing private security, private investigative and recovery services to the public pursuant to ch. 493, F.S. In 2015, the division regulated 26 different license types, including, six private investigator, seven private security officer, seven recovery agent, and six firearm; for a total of approximately 1.6 million private security, private investigative, and recovery services licenses in the state of Florida.³⁹

Private Investigators are defined as any person who, for a fee, provides or performs private investigation,⁴⁰ which means investigation for the purpose of obtaining information with reference to certain activities, which are set forth in statute.⁴¹ A private security officer is defined as any individual who, for consideration:

- Advertises as providing or performs bodyguard services or otherwise guards persons or property;
- Attempts to prevent theft or unlawful taking of goods, wares, and merchandise; or

³⁹ Florida DACS, Division of Licensing, *Number of Licensees by Type As of December 31, 2015*, available at: http://www.freshfromflorida.com/content/download/7471/118627/Number_of_Licensees_By_Type.pdf, (last visited January 26, 2016).

⁴⁰ s. 493.6101(17), F.S., provides the activities that provide grounds for an investigation include, crime or wrongs done or threatened against the United States or any state or territory of the United States, when operating under express written authority of the governmental official responsible for authorizing such investigation; the identity, habits, conduct, movements, whereabouts, affiliations, associations, transactions, reputation, or character of any society, person, or group of persons; the credibility of witnesses or other persons; the whereabouts of missing persons, owners of unclaimed property or escheated property, or heirs to estates; the location or recovery of lost or stolen property; the causes and origin of, or responsibility for, fires, libels, slanders, losses, accidents, damage, or injuries to real or personal property; or the business of securing evidence to be used before investigating committees or boards of award or arbitration or in the trial of civil or criminal cases and the preparation therefor.

⁴¹ s. 493.6101(17), F.S.

- Attempts to prevent the misappropriation or concealment of goods, wares or merchandise, money, bonds, stocks, choses in action, notes, or other documents, papers, and articles of value or procurement of the return thereof.⁴²

The definition of a private security officer also includes armored car personnel and those personnel engaged in the transportation of prisoners.⁴³ A recovery agent is any individual who, for consideration, advertises as providing or performs authorized⁴⁴ repossessions,⁴⁵ which are defined to mean the recovery of certain personal property as set forth in statute.⁴⁶

General license requirements for all three professions require each applicant to:⁴⁷

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Be of good moral character.
- Not have been adjudicated, involuntarily placed in a treatment facility for the mentally ill unless his capacity and competency has been judicially restored, and not been diagnosed as having an incapacitating mental illness, unless he or she is not currently impaired and has successfully completed a rehabilitation course.
- Not have been committed for controlled substance abuse or been found guilty of a crime relating to controlled substances in any other state within a three-year period immediately preceding the date the application was filed, unless the individual establishes that she or he is not currently abusing and has successfully completed a rehabilitation course.
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident alien. For applicants who are not U.S. citizens, they must provide additional documentation and proof that they are a permanent and legal resident alien of the U.S.

Those applicants must provide to DACS, among other things, an application with the following:

- Name;
- Date of birth;
- Social Security number;⁴⁸
- Place of Birth;
- A statement of all criminal convictions, including dispositions, and adjudications withheld;
- A statement of whether he or she has been adjudicated incapacitated or committed to a mental institution;
- A statement regarding any history of illegal drug use or alcohol abuse;
- One full-face, color photograph; and
- A full set of prints on the division's fingerprint card or submitted electronically via a personal inquiry waiver and the appropriate fees.⁴⁹

⁴² s. 493.6101(19), F.S.

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ s. 493.6101(2), requires repossessions to be performed by an individual who is authorized by the legal owner, lienholder, or lessor to recover, or to collect money payment in lieu of recovery of, that which has been sold or leased under a security agreement that contains a repossession clause.

⁴⁵ s. 493.6101(21), F.S.

⁴⁶ s. 493.6101(22), F.S., restricts "repossession" to the recovery of the following items: a motor vehicle as defined under s. 320.01(1), F.S., a mobile home as defined in s. 320.01(2), F.S., a motorboat as defined under s. 327.02, F.S., an aircraft as defined in s. 330.27(1), F.S., a personal watercraft as defined in s. 327.02, F.S., an all-terrain vehicle as defined in s. 316.2074, F.S., farm equipment as defined under s. 686.402, F.S., or industrial equipment.

⁴⁷ s. 493.6106, F.S.(1), F.S.

⁴⁸ DACS will not disclose an applicant's social security number without consent of the applicant to anyone outside DACS unless required by law. See Chapter 119, F. S., 15 U.S.C., ss. 1681 et seq., 15 U.S.C. ss. 6801 et seq., 18 U.S.C. ss. 2721 et seq., Pub. L. No. 107-56 (USA Patriot Act of 2001), and Presidential Executive Order 13224.

⁴⁹ See also Fla. Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, *Private Investigator Handbook*, p.11, available at:

https://licensing.freshfromflorida.com/forms/P-00093_PrivateInvestigatorHandbook.pdf; *Security Officer Handbook*, p. 16, available

In addition to the general licensure requirements above, depending on what class an applicant applies for, the applicant may have to prove they successfully completed certain training or education requirements and/or have relevant work experience.⁵⁰

DACS currently requires returning veterans and their spouses to pay application fees, fingerprint fees, and all other applicable fees when applying for licenses under ch. 493, F.S., as private investigators, security officers or recovery agents.

In addition, current law does not specifically require DACS or its boards to extend credit towards licensure for relevant training, experience, or education gained in the military.

Proposed Changes

The bill requires DACS to provide a method by which honorably discharged veterans may apply for licensure. The method must include the following:

- Extension of credit towards the requirements for licensure for military training or education received and completed during service in the Armed Forces, if the training or education is substantially similar to the training or education required for licensure.
- Identification of overlaps and gaps between the requirements for licensure and the military training and education received and completed by the veteran applicant, and notification to the applicant of the overlaps and gaps.
- Assistance in identifying programs that offer training and education needed to meet the licensure requirements.

Additionally, beginning October 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, DACS is required to submit a report to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Governor. The report must include the following:

- Number of applicants who identified themselves as veterans.
- Number of veterans whose applications for a license were approved, denied and reason for denial.
- Data on the application processing times for veterans.
- Information on DACS efforts to assist veterans in identifying programs that offer training and education needed to meet the requirements for licensure.
- Information on DACS identification of the most common overlaps and gaps between the requirements for licensure and the military training and education received and completed by the veteran applicants.
- Recommendations on ways to improve DACS ability to meet the needs of veterans that would effectively address the challenges that veterans face when separating from military service and seeking a license for a profession or occupation regulated under ch. 493, F.S.

DHSMV

Present Situation⁵¹

Troops to Truckers

Active duty and recently separated servicemembers that have experience driving large trucks in the military are currently eligible to obtain a Florida Commercial Driver License (CDL) without retaking the

at: https://licensing.freshfromflorida.com/forms/P-00092_SecurityOfficerHandbook.pdf; *Recovery Agent Handbook*, at p. 9, https://licensing.freshfromflorida.com/forms/P-00094_RecoveryAgentHandbook.pdf, (Last visited January 22, 2016).

⁵⁰ See ss. 493.6203, 493.6303, and 493.6403, F.S.

⁵¹ Information on the "Troops to Truckers" program is available at: <http://www.troopstotruckers.com/> (last visited January 7, 2016).

skills tests normally required. FMCSA Regulation 49 CFR, Section 383.77, gives states the authority to substitute two years of commercial motor vehicle safe driving experience in the military for the skills test portion of the commercial driver license skills test. The process allows states to assist veterans and active duty personnel in their transition from their military occupation to a civilian career.

Current law gives DHSMV the authority to waive the knowledge, endorsement, and skills tests for an applicant who is otherwise qualified and who surrenders a driver license issued by the U.S. Armed Forces, if the driver applies for a Florida license of an equal or lesser classification.⁵² DHSMV implements this provision pursuant to agency rule.⁵³ The provision:

- Allows active duty, and those who are within 90 days of separation, to qualify for the skills test waiver;
- Requires the applicant to meet all the test waiver requirements within 120 days of separation; and
- Requires the applicant to have driven military vehicles two years prior to the waiver application that in the civilian world would have required a CDL.

Specifically, applicants who seek a waiver of CDL skills testing due to military experience must do the following:

- Pass all required written knowledge exams for the CDL class and endorsements they will be issued.
- Apply for the CDL qualification waiver while on active duty status or within 90 days of separation of service. The applicant must provide a military active duty identification card or DD-214 (military discharge papers). The skills test waiver process must be completed, and the CDL issued, within 120 days of separation from service.
- Certify that for at least 2 years immediately preceding the application, he or she operated a motor vehicle representative of the CDL class and endorsements for which he or she is applying.
- Present the Certification for Waiver of Skill Test for Military Personnel form,⁵⁴ filled out in its entirety, and signed by his or her commanding officer or designee.⁵⁵

Proposed Changes

The bill requires DHSMV and DMA beginning July 1, 2017, to jointly conduct a pilot program to provide onsite commercial driver license testing opportunities to qualified members of the Florida National Guard pursuant to the DHSMV commercial driver license skills test waiver under s. 322.12, F.S. described previously. Testing must be held at a Florida National Guard Armory, an Armed Forces Reserve Center, or the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. The pilot program shall be accomplished using existing funds appropriated to the departments.

DHSMV and DMA are required to submit, by June 30, 2018, a report on the pilot program to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1 Amends s. 401.27, F.S., relating to emergency medical technician and paramedic personnel; standards and certification.

⁵² s. 322.12, F.S.

⁵³ Rulemaking Authority: s. 322.02(6), F.S. Law Implemented: s. 322.12, F.S.

⁵⁴ A copy of the Certification for Waiver of Skill Test for Military Personnel form is available at: <http://www.flhsmv.gov/html/HSMV71054.pdf> (last visited January 7, 2016).

⁵⁵ Rule 15A-7.018, F.A.C., Military Qualifications for Waiver of Commercial Driver License Skills Test.

- Section 2 Amends s. 456.024, F.S., relating to members of the Armed Forces in good standing with administrative boards or DOH; spouses; licensure.
- Section 3 Creates s. 456.0241, F.S., relating to temporary training certificates for active duty military health care practitioners.
- Section 4 Creates s. 489.1131, F.S., relating to the extension of credit for relevant military service toward construction contracting licensure by DBPR.
- Section 5 Amends s. 489.511, F.S., relating to DBPR certifications, applications, examinations, and endorsements.
- Section 6. Creates s. 489.5161, F.S., relating to the extension of credit for relevant military service toward electrical and alarm system contracting licensure by DBPR.
- Section 7. Creates s. 493.61035, F.S., requiring DACS to extend credit for relevant military training and education towards the requirement for private security, private investigative and recovery services licensure.
- Section 8. Requires DHSMV and DMA to create and conduct a commercial driver license testing pilot program.
- Section 9. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2016.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

According to each agency impacted by the bill, the fiscal impact is insignificant and implementation can be accomplished within existing resources.

DACS

According to DACS, the cost to implement the bill will be minimal with no recurring or non-recurring fiscal impact and "can be accomplished within existing resources."⁵⁶ Currently, all moneys paid under ch. 493, F.S., are deposited in the Division of Licensing Trust Fund pursuant to s. 493.6117, F.S. There may be an insignificant negative fiscal impact connected to the review of current licensure requirements. This will be absorbed within agency resources.

DOH

According to DOH, the impact to the department to implement the bill is indeterminate but insignificant. Currently, all fees collected pursuant to chapter 456, F.S., are paid into the Medical Quality Assurance Trust Fund pursuant to s. 456.025(8), F.S. Each profession has a separate account within the trust fund. There may be an insignificant negative fiscal impact connected to the review of current licensure requirements. This will be absorbed within agency resources.

The DOH provisions are also included in CS/HB 941 (SB 918).

DBPR

Currently, all moneys collected by DBPR pursuant to chapter 455, F.S., general licensing fees are paid into the Professional Regulation Trust Fund pursuant to s. 455.219(3), F.S. Each profession has a separate account within the trust fund. Funds collected by the boards must be transferred at the end of each licensing period to the department to fund projects relating to the building construction industry or continuing education programs offered to persons engaged in the building construction industry in Florida, to be selected by the Florida Building Commission.

DHSMV and DMA

There will be no additional costs to DHSMV and DMA for the commercial drivers' license pilot program as their funding is to come from existing funds. Currently, DHSMV operates a program titled 'Florida Licensing on Wheels (FLOW)',⁵⁷ which provides a convenient method to renew a driver license, obtain a replacement driver license, change a name or address on a driver license, get an identification card, etc. This requirement may be incorporated into DHSMV's existing FLOW program and will not have a negative fiscal impact on state funds.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

Honorably discharged veterans may be able to utilize their experience, education, and training that they obtained while in the Armed Forces for the required education and training for various licenses issued by DACS, DOH, DBPR, and CDLs from DHSMV.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

Rulemaking may be required by DOH, DBPR, and DACS to develop veteran specific application processes and define what military education and training is substantially similar to current license requirements. Tracking mechanisms may need to be put in place for veterans' applications, approvals, denials, and the reasons for the denials. There may also be costs associated with preparing the annual reports required by DBPR, and DACS. According to each agency, the fiscal impact to implement the provisions of the bill will be insignificant and can be accomplished within existing resources.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. This bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

⁵⁷ Information on the FLOW program is available at the DHMSV FLOW website here: <http://www.flhsmv.gov/offices/FLOW.htm> (last visited January 26, 2016).

Rulemaking may be required by DOH, DBPR, and DACS to develop veteran specific application processes and define what military education and training is substantially similar to current license requirements. Since 2010, the Legislature pursuant to s. 120.541(3), F.S., has required all rules having certain potential negative fiscal impacts exceeding \$1 million over five years be submitted to, and ratified by, the Legislature before the rule may go into effect. According to each agency, the fiscal impact to implement the provisions of the bill will be insignificant and can be accomplished within existing resources.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to credit for relevant military
 3 service; amending s. 401.27, F.S.,; revising
 4 eligibility for certification; deleting a requirement
 5 that applicants successfully complete a certification
 6 examination within a specified timeframe; amending s.
 7 456.024, F.S.; revising the eligibility criteria for a
 8 military health care practitioner to be issued a
 9 license to practice as a health care practitioner in
 10 this state; authorizing a spouse of an active duty
 11 military member to be licensed as a health care
 12 practitioner in this state if certain criteria are
 13 met; deleting temporary professional licensure for
 14 spouses of active duty members of the Armed Forces of
 15 the United States; creating s. 456.0241, F.S.,
 16 providing for the issuance of a temporary certificate
 17 under certain conditions for certain military health
 18 care practitioners pursuant to a military training
 19 agreement with a nonmilitary health care provider,
 20 which is designed to develop and support medical,
 21 surgical, or other health care treatment opportunities
 22 in a nonmilitary health care provider setting;
 23 providing definitions; providing eligibility
 24 requirements for the issuance of the temporary
 25 certificate; providing for the automatic expiration of
 26 the temporary certificate unless renewed; setting an

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27 application fee; authorizing the department to adopt
 28 rules; creating s. 489.1131, F.S.; requiring the
 29 Department of Business and Professional Regulation to
 30 provide a method by which honorably discharged
 31 veterans may apply for licensure; providing for
 32 extension of credit towards licensing requirements for
 33 substantially similar military experience, training
 34 and education; providing for extension of experience
 35 credits for military service; requiring the Department
 36 of Business and Professional Regulation to annually
 37 report to the Governor and Legislature; amending s.
 38 489.511, F.S.; providing for extension of experience
 39 credits for military service; creating s. 489.5161,
 40 F.S.; requiring the Department of Business and
 41 Professional Regulation to provide a method by which
 42 honorably discharged veterans may apply for licensure;
 43 providing for extension of credit towards licensing
 44 requirements for substantially similar military
 45 training and education; requiring the Department of
 46 Business and Professional Regulation to annually
 47 report to the Governor and Legislature; creating s.
 48 493.61035, F.S.; requiring the Department of
 49 Agriculture and Consumer Services to provide a method
 50 by which honorably discharged veterans may apply for
 51 licensure pursuant to chapter 493, F.S.; providing for
 52 extension of credit towards licensing requirements for

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53 substantially similar military training and education;
 54 requiring identification and notification of overlaps
 55 and gaps between license requirements and the military
 56 training and education received by the applicant;
 57 providing denial assistance; requiring an annual
 58 report to the Governor and Legislature; requiring the
 59 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and
 60 the Department of Military Affairs to create a
 61 commercial driver license testing pilot program;
 62 providing an effective date.

63

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

65

66 Section 1. Subsection (12) of section 401.27, Florida
 67 Statutes, is amended to read:

68 401.27 Personnel; standards and certification.—

69 (12) An applicant for certification as an emergency
 70 medical technician or paramedic who is trained outside the state
 71 or who is militarily trained must provide proof of current
 72 emergency medical technician or paramedic certification or
 73 registration that is nationally recognized and based upon
 74 successful completion of a training program approved by the
 75 department as equivalent to the most recent EMT-Basic or EMT-
 76 Paramedic National Standard Curriculum or the National EMS
 77 Education Standards of the United States Department of
 78 Transportation and hold a current certificate of successful

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79 | course completion in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or
 80 | advanced cardiac life support for emergency medical technicians
 81 | or paramedics, respectively, to be eligible for the
 82 | certification examination. ~~The applicant must successfully~~
 83 | ~~complete the certification examination within 2 years after the~~
 84 | ~~date of the receipt of his or her application by the department.~~
 85 | ~~After 2 years, the applicant must submit a new application, meet~~
 86 | ~~all eligibility requirements, and submit all fees to reestablish~~
 87 | ~~eligibility to take the certification examination.~~

88 | Section 2. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 456.024,
 89 | Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

90 | 456.024 Members of Armed Forces in good standing with
 91 | administrative boards or the department; spouses; licensure.--

92 | (3)(a) A person is eligible for licensure as a health care
 93 | practitioner in this state if he or she:

94 | 1. who Serves or has served as a health care practitioner
 95 | in the United States Armed Forces, the United States Reserve
 96 | Forces, or the National Guard;

97 | 2. ~~or a person who~~ Serves or has served on active duty
 98 | with the United States Armed Forces as a health care
 99 | practitioner in the United States Public Health Service; or

100 | 3. Is a health care practitioner in another state, the
 101 | District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United
 102 | States and is the spouse of a person who serves on active duty
 103 | with the United States Armed Forces ~~is eligible for licensure in~~
 104 | this state.

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The department shall develop an application form, and each board, or the department if there is no board, shall waive the application fee, licensure fee, and unlicensed activity fee for such applicants. For purposes of this subsection, "health care practitioner" means a health care practitioner as defined in s. 456.001 and a person licensed under part III of chapter 401 or part IV of chapter 468.

(b)~~(a)~~ The board, or department if there is no board, shall issue a license to practice in this state to a person who:

1. Submits a complete application.

2. If a member of the military, submits proof that he or she has received ~~Receives~~ an honorable discharge within 6 months before, or will receive an honorable discharge within 6 months after, the date of submission of the application.

3.a. Holds an active, unencumbered license issued by another state, the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States and who has not had disciplinary action taken against him or her in the 5 years preceding the date of submission of the application;

b. Is a military health care practitioner in a profession for which licensure in a state or jurisdiction is not required to practice in the United States Armed Forces, if the applicant submits to the department evidence of military training or experience substantially equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this state in that profession and evidence that the

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131 applicant has obtained a passing score on the appropriate
 132 examination of a national or regional standards organization if
 133 required for licensure in this state; or

134 c. Is the spouse of a person serving on active duty in the
 135 United States Armed Forces and is a health care practitioner in
 136 a profession for which licensure in another state or
 137 jurisdiction may not be required, if the applicant submits to
 138 the department evidence of training or experience substantially
 139 equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this state in
 140 that profession and evidence that the applicant has obtained a
 141 passing score on the appropriate examination of a national or
 142 regional standards organization if required for licensure in
 143 this state.

144 4. Attests that he or she is not, at the time of
 145 submission, the subject of a disciplinary proceeding in a
 146 jurisdiction in which he or she holds a license or by the United
 147 States Department of Defense for reasons related to the practice
 148 of the profession for which he or she is applying.

149 5. Actively practiced the profession for which he or she
 150 is applying for the 3 years preceding the date of submission of
 151 the application.

152 6. Submits a set of fingerprints for a background
 153 screening pursuant to s. 456.0135, if required for the
 154 profession for which he or she is applying.

155

156 The department shall verify information submitted by the

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157 applicant under this subsection using the National Practitioner
158 Data Bank.

159 (c)~~(b)~~ Each applicant who meets the requirements of this
160 subsection shall be licensed with all rights and
161 responsibilities as defined by law. The applicable board, or
162 department if there is no board, may deny an application if the
163 applicant has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo
164 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any felony or
165 misdemeanor related to the practice of a health care profession
166 regulated by this state.

167 (d)~~(e)~~ An applicant for initial licensure under this
168 subsection must submit the information required by ss.
169 456.039(1) and 456.0391(1) no later than 1 year after the
170 license is issued.

171 ~~(4)(a) The board, or the department if there is no board,~~
172 ~~may issue a temporary professional license to the spouse of an~~
173 ~~active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who~~
174 ~~submits to the department:~~

175 1. ~~A completed application upon a form prepared and~~
176 ~~furnished by the department in accordance with the board's~~
177 ~~rules;~~

178 2. ~~The required application fee;~~

179 3. ~~Proof that the applicant is married to a member of the~~
180 ~~Armed Forces of the United States who is on active duty;~~

181 4. ~~Proof that the applicant holds a valid license for the~~
182 ~~profession issued by another state, the District of Columbia, or~~

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183 ~~a possession or territory of the United States, and is not the~~
 184 ~~subject of any disciplinary proceeding in any jurisdiction in~~
 185 ~~which the applicant holds a license to practice a profession~~
 186 ~~regulated by this chapter;~~

187 ~~5. Proof that the applicant's spouse is assigned to a duty~~
 188 ~~station in this state pursuant to the member's official active~~
 189 ~~duty military orders; and~~

190 ~~6. Proof that the applicant would otherwise be entitled to~~
 191 ~~full licensure under the appropriate practice act, and is~~
 192 ~~eligible to take the respective licensure examination as~~
 193 ~~required in Florida.~~

194 ~~(b) The applicant must also submit to the Department of~~
 195 ~~Law Enforcement a complete set of fingerprints. The Department~~
 196 ~~of Law Enforcement shall conduct a statewide criminal history~~
 197 ~~check and forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of~~
 198 ~~Investigation for a national criminal history check.~~

199 ~~(c) Each board, or the department if there is no board,~~
 200 ~~shall review the results of the state and federal criminal~~
 201 ~~history checks according to the level 2 screening standards in~~
 202 ~~s. 435.04 when granting an exemption and when granting or~~
 203 ~~denying the temporary license.~~

204 ~~(d) The applicant shall pay the cost of fingerprint~~
 205 ~~processing. If the fingerprints are submitted through an~~
 206 ~~authorized agency or vendor, the agency or vendor shall collect~~
 207 ~~the required processing fees and remit the fees to the~~
 208 ~~Department of Law Enforcement.~~

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209 ~~(e) The department shall set an application fee, which may~~
 210 ~~not exceed the cost of issuing the license.~~

211 ~~(f) A temporary license expires 12 months after the date~~
 212 ~~of issuance and is not renewable.~~

213 ~~(g) An applicant for a temporary license under this~~
 214 ~~subsection is subject to the requirements under s. 456.013(3)(a)~~
 215 ~~and (e).~~

216 ~~(h) An applicant shall be deemed ineligible for a~~
 217 ~~temporary license pursuant to this section if the applicant:~~

218 ~~1. Has been convicted of or pled nolo contendere to,~~
 219 ~~regardless of adjudication, any felony or misdemeanor related to~~
 220 ~~the practice of a health care profession;~~

221 ~~2. Has had a health care provider license revoked or~~
 222 ~~suspended from another of the United States, the District of~~
 223 ~~Columbia, or a United States territory;~~

224 ~~3. Has been reported to the National Practitioner Data~~
 225 ~~Bank, unless the applicant has successfully appealed to have his~~
 226 ~~or her name removed from the data bank; or~~

227 ~~4. Has previously failed the Florida examination required~~
 228 ~~to receive a license to practice the profession for which the~~
 229 ~~applicant is seeking a license.~~

230 ~~(i) The board, or department if there is no board, may~~
 231 ~~revoke a temporary license upon finding that the individual~~
 232 ~~violated the profession's governing practice act.~~

233 ~~(j) An applicant who is issued a temporary professional~~
 234 ~~license to practice as a dentist pursuant to this section must~~

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235 ~~practice under the indirect supervision, as defined in s.~~
 236 ~~466.003, of a dentist licensed pursuant to chapter 466.~~

237 Section 3. Section 456.0241, Florida Statutes, is created
 238 to read:

239 456.0241 Temporary certificate for active duty military
 240 health care practitioners.-

241 (1) As used in this section, the term:

242 (a) "Military health care practitioner" means:

243 1. A person practicing as a health care practitioner as
 244 defined in s. 456.001, as a person licensed under part III of
 245 chapter 401, or as a person licensed under part IV of chapter
 246 468, who is serving on active duty in the United States Armed
 247 Forces, United States Reserve Forces, or National Guard; or

248 2. A person who is serving on active duty in the United
 249 States Armed Forces and serving in the United States Public
 250 Health Service.

251 (b) "Military platform" means a military training
 252 agreement with a nonmilitary health care provider which is
 253 designed to develop and support medical, surgical, or other
 254 health care treatment opportunities in the nonmilitary health
 255 care provider setting to allow a military health care
 256 practitioner to develop and maintain the technical proficiency
 257 necessary to meet the present and future health care needs of
 258 the United States Armed Forces. Such agreements may include
 259 Training Affiliation Agreements and External Resourcing Sharing
 260 Agreements.

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261 (2) The department may issue a temporary certificate to an
 262 active duty military health care practitioner to practice in a
 263 regulated profession if the applicant:

264 (a) Submits proof that he or she will be practicing
 265 pursuant to a military platform.

266 (b) Submits a complete application and a nonrefundable
 267 application fee.

268 (c) Holds a valid and unencumbered license to practice as
 269 a health care professional in another state, the District of
 270 Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States or
 271 is a military health care practitioner in a profession for which
 272 licensure in a state or jurisdiction is not required for
 273 practice in the United States Armed Forces and who provides
 274 evidence of military training and experience substantially
 275 equivalent to the requirements for licensure in this state in
 276 that profession.

277 (d) Attests that he or she is not, at the time of
 278 submission, the subject of a disciplinary proceeding in a
 279 jurisdiction in which he or she holds a license, or by the
 280 United States Department of Defense, for reasons related to the
 281 practice of the profession for which he or she is applying.

282 (e) Has been determined to be competent in the profession
 283 for which he or she is applying.

284 (f) Submits a set of fingerprints for a background
 285 screening pursuant to s. 456.0135 if required for the profession
 286 for which he or she is applying.

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The department shall verify information submitted by the applicant under this subsection using the National Practitioner Data Bank.

(3) A temporary certificate issued under this section expires 6 months after issuance but may be renewed upon proof of continuing orders in this state and evidence that the military health care practitioner continues to be a military platform participant.

(4) A military health care practitioner applying under this section is exempt from ss. 456.039-456.046. All other provisions of this chapter apply.

(5) An applicant for a temporary certificate under this section is deemed ineligible if the applicant:

(a) Has been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, any felony or misdemeanor related to the practice of a health care profession;

(b) Has had a health care provider license revoked or suspended in another state, the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States;

(c) Has failed the Florida examination required to receive a license to practice the profession for which he or she is applying; or

(d) Is under investigation in another jurisdiction for an act that would constitute a violation of the applicable licensing chapter or this chapter until the investigation is

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313 complete and all charges against the applicant are disposed of
 314 by dismissal, nolle prosequi, or acquittal.

315 (6) The department shall, by rule, set an application fee
 316 not to exceed \$50 and a renewal fee not to exceed \$50.

317 (7) Application shall be made on a form prescribed and
 318 furnished by the department.

319 (8) The department shall adopt rules to implement this
 320 section.

321 Section 4. Section 489.1131, Florida Statutes, is created
 322 to read:

323 489.1131 Credit for relevant military training and
 324 education.-

325 (1) The department shall provide a method by which
 326 honorably discharged veterans may apply for licensure. The
 327 method must include a veteran specific application and provide:

328 (a) Extension of credit to the fullest extent possible
 329 towards the requirements for licensure for military experience,
 330 training, or education received and completed during service in
 331 the Armed Forces of the United States if the experience,
 332 training, or education is substantially similar to the
 333 experience, training, or education required for licensure.

334 (b) Up to three years of active duty service in the Armed
 335 Forces of the United States, regardless of duty or training,
 336 shall be accepted to meet the experience requirements of s.
 337 489.111(2)(c). A minimum of one additional year of active
 338 experience as a foreman in the trade, either civilian or

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339 military, is required to fulfill the experience requirement
 340 pursuant to s. 489.111(2)(c).

341
 342 The board may adopt rules pursuant to s. 120.536(1) and s.
 343 120.54 to implement the provisions of this subsection.

344 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning
 345 October 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, in conjunction with
 346 the board, the department is directed to prepare and submit a
 347 report titled Construction and Electrical Contracting Veteran
 348 Applicant Statistics to the President of the Senate, the Speaker
 349 of the House of Representatives, and the Governor. The report
 350 must include statistics and information relating to this section
 351 and s. 489.5161 which detail:

352 (a) The number of applicants who identified themselves as
 353 veterans;

354 (b) The number of veterans whose application for a license
 355 was approved;

356 (c) The number of veterans whose application for a license
 357 was denied, including the reasons for denial;

358 (d) Data on the application processing times for veterans;

359 (e) Recommendations on ways to improve the department's
 360 ability to meet the needs of veterans which would effectively
 361 address the challenges that veterans face when separating from
 362 military service and seeking a license regulated by the
 363 department pursuant to chapter 489, part I.

364 Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section

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365 489.511, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

366 489.511 Certification; application; examinations;
367 endorsement.—

368 (1)

369 (b) Any person desiring to be certified as a contractor
370 shall apply to the department in writing and must meet the
371 following criteria:

372 1. Be of good moral character;

373 2. Pass the certification examination, achieving a passing
374 grade as established by board rule; and

375 3. Meet eligibility requirements according to one of the
376 following criteria:

377 a. Has, within the 6 years immediately preceding the
378 filing of the application, at least 3 years' proven management
379 experience in the trade or education equivalent thereto, or a
380 combination thereof, but not more than one-half of such
381 experience may be educational equivalent;

382 b. Has, within the 8 years immediately preceding the
383 filing of the application, at least 4 years' experience as a
384 supervisor or contractor in the trade for which he or she is
385 making application or at least 4 years of experience as a
386 supervisor in electrical or alarm system work with the Armed
387 Forces;

388 c. Has, within the 12 years immediately preceding the
389 filing of the application, at least 6 years of comprehensive
390 training, technical education, or supervisory experience

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391 associated with an electrical or alarm system contracting
 392 business, or at least 6 years of technical experience,
 393 education, or training in electrical or alarm system work with
 394 the Armed Forces or a governmental entity;

395 d. Has, within the 12 years immediately preceding the
 396 filing of the application, been licensed for 3 years as a
 397 professional engineer who is qualified by education, training,
 398 or experience to practice electrical engineering; or

399 e. Has any combination of qualifications under sub-
 400 subparagraphs a.-c. totaling 6 years of experience.

401 Section 6. Section 489.5161, Florida Statutes, is created
 402 to read:

403 489.5161 Credit for relevant military training and
 404 education.-

405 (1) The department shall provide a method by which
 406 honorably discharged veterans may apply for licensure. The
 407 method must include a veteran specific application and provide:

408 (a) Extension of credit to the fullest extent possible
 409 towards the requirements for licensure for military experience,
 410 training, or education received and completed during service in
 411 the Armed Forces of the United States if the experience,
 412 training, or education is substantially similar to the
 413 experience, training, or education required for licensure.

414
 415 The board may adopt rules pursuant to s. 120.536(1) and s.
 416 120.54 to implement the provisions of this subsection.

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417 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning
 418 October 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, in conjunction with
 419 the board, the department is directed to prepare and submit a
 420 report titled Construction and Electrical Contracting Veteran
 421 Applicant Statistics to the President of the Senate, the Speaker
 422 of the House of Representatives, and the Governor. The report
 423 must include statistics and information relating to this section
 424 and s. 489.5161 which detail:

425 (a) The number of applicants who identified themselves as
 426 veterans;

427 (b) The number of veterans whose application for a license
 428 was approved;

429 (c) The number of veterans whose application for a license
 430 was denied, including the reasons for denial;

431 (d) Data on the application processing times for veterans;

432 (e) Recommendations on ways to improve the department's
 433 ability to meet the needs of veterans which would effectively
 434 address the challenges that veterans face when separating from
 435 military service and seeking a license regulated by the
 436 department pursuant to chapter 489, part II.

437 Section 7. Section 493.61035, Florida Statutes, is created
 438 to read:

439 493.61035 Credit for relevant military training and
 440 education.—

441 (1) The department shall provide a method by which
 442 honorably discharged veterans may apply for licensure. The

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443 method shall include:

444 (a) Extension of credit to the fullest extent possible
 445 towards the requirements for licensure for military training or
 446 education received and completed during service in the Armed
 447 Forces of the United States if the training or education is
 448 substantially similar to the training or education required for
 449 licensure.

450 (b) Identification of overlaps and gaps between the
 451 requirements for licensure and the military training and
 452 education received and completed by the veteran applicants, and
 453 subsequent notification to the applicant of the overlaps and
 454 gaps.

455 (c) Assistance in identifying programs that offer training
 456 and education needed to meet the requirements for licensure.

457 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning
 458 October 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the department is
 459 directed to prepare and submit a report to the President of the
 460 Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Governor.
 461 In addition to any other information the Legislature may
 462 require, the report shall include statistics and relevant
 463 information detailing:

464 (a) The number of applicants who identified themselves as
 465 veterans;

466 (b) The number of veterans whose applications for a license
 467 were approved;

468 (c) The number of veterans whose applications for a license

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469 were denied, including data on the reasons for denial;
 470 (d) Data on the application processing times for veterans;
 471 (e) Information on the department's efforts to assist
 472 veterans in identifying programs that offer training and
 473 education needed to meet the requirements for licensure;
 474 (f) Information on the department's identification of the
 475 most common overlaps and gaps between the requirements for
 476 licensure and the military training and education received and
 477 completed by the veteran applicants; and
 478 (g) Recommendations on ways to improve the department's
 479 ability to meet the needs of veterans that would effectively
 480 address the challenges that veterans face when separating from
 481 military service and seeking a license for a profession or
 482 occupation regulated by the department pursuant to chapter 493.
 483 Section 8. (1) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor
 484 Vehicles and the Department of Military Affairs shall jointly
 485 conduct a pilot program to provide onsite commercial driver
 486 license testing opportunities to qualified members of the
 487 Florida National Guard pursuant to the Department of Highway
 488 Safety and Motor Vehicles commercial driver license skills test
 489 waiver under s. 322.12. Testing must be held at a Florida
 490 National Guard Armory, an Armed Forces Reserve Center, or the
 491 Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. The pilot program shall be
 492 accomplished using existing funds appropriated to each
 493 department.
 494 (2) By June 30, 2017, the Department of Highway Safety and

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495 Motor Vehicles and the Department of Military Affairs shall
 496 jointly submit a report to the President of the Senate and the
 497 Speaker of the House of Representatives providing the results of
 498 the pilot program.

499 (3) This section is repealed October 1, 2017, and shall
 500 not be codified in the Florida Statutes.

501 Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.



Amendment No.

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	___	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	___	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	___	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	___	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	___	(Y/N)
OTHER	_____	

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Veteran & Military Affairs
 2 Subcommittee
 3 Representative Smith offered the following:

Amendment

6 Remove line 73 and insert:
 7 registration that is nationally recognized by the department and
 8 based upon

9 Remove line 307 and insert:

10 (c) Has failed to obtain a passing score on the Florida
 11 examination required to receive

