



**HB 29 Military and Veterans Affairs
(CH. 2018-7, Laws of Florida)**

Bill Sponsor: Commerce Committee, Representative Ponder, Representative Renner

Effective Date: July 1, 2018

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Executive Summary:

The bill eases professional licensing fees and requirements for certain military members, veterans, and their spouses, including temporary certificates in education, and a pathway for veteran officers for certification as a school principal. Additionally, the bill expands and clarifies the process for obtaining veteran training grants and instituting a veteran entrepreneurship program through Veterans Florida in the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Section 4.

Amends s. 295.22, F.S., Veterans Employment and Training Services Program, to

- Clarify that businesses receiving Veterans Florida training grants must cover the entire cost of training before receiving a 50 percent reimbursement,
- Lower the maximum time the training program may last from 48 to 12 months,
- Require the business receiving the grant to describe the instructional program and any related vendors to be used in training in their contract with Veterans Florida,
- Remove curriculum and overhead costs from eligibility for reimbursement,
- Remove specific limitations on who may be the training provider,
- Expand which entities may administer the program, from universities to any entity meeting the requirements, and
- Require the administering entity to have demonstrated experience working with veteran entrepreneurs, and be recognized for its ability to help Florida entrepreneurs launch successful businesses.

Section 5.

Amends s. 446.041, F.S., Apprenticeship program, duties of the department, to:

- Require the Department of Education to lead and coordinate outreach efforts to educate veterans about apprenticeship and career opportunities.



Section 6.

Amends s. 446.081, F.S., Limitation, to:

- Prohibit any rules adopted or contained in any approved apprenticeship agreement from invalidating any special provision for:
 - Veterans,
 - Minority persons, or
 - Women.

Section 49.

Creates s. 683.147, F.S., Medal of Honor Day, to:

- Establish March 25 of each year as “Medal of Honor Day.”
- Allow the governor to annually issue a proclamation designating March 25 as Medal of Honor Day and encouraging public officials, schools, private organizations and all residents of the state to commemorate Medal of Honor Day and honor recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Section 52.

Amends s. 1012.55, F.S., Positions for which certificates required, to:

- Require the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) to issue a 3-year temporary certificate in educational leadership to an individual who meets the following requirements:
 - Earned a passing score on all subtests of the Florida Educational Leadership Examination (FELE);
 - Served for at least 3 years as a commissioned or noncommissioned military officer in the U.S. Armed Forces;
 - Retired or was honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces; and
 - Employed full-time in a position requiring a Florida educator certificate at a Florida public school, state-supported school, or non-public school with an FDOE-approved Level II program per s. 1012.562, F.S.
- Require an FDOE-approved Level II program to admit an applicant who earned a temporary certificate in educational leadership by satisfying the aforementioned requirements.
- Require the FDOE to issue a permanent certificate in school principal to the individual who completed the FDOE-approved Level II program and earned a temporary certificate through the aforementioned pathway.
- Allow for an instructor of junior reserve officer training under s. 1012.55(4), F.S., to receive funds provided through the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program per s. 1012.71, F.S.

Section 53.

Amends s. 1012.56, F.S., Educator certification requirements, to:

- Allow the FDOE to extend the validity period of a temporary certificate for two years due to the military service of an applicant’s spouse.



- Insert language that indicates that State Board of Education rules must authorize the FDOE to extend the validity period of a temporary certificate for one year based on the certificate holder's highly effective or effective rating based on student performance per s. 1012.34(8), F.S.

Section 54.

Amends s. 1012.59, F.S., Certification fees, to:

- Allow for the waiving of initial fees for educator certification and certification examinations as well as certification renewal fees for the following individuals:
 - A member of the U.S. Armed Forces or a reserve component who is serving or has served on active duty or the spouse of the service member.
 - The surviving spouse of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or a reserve component who was serving active duty at the time of death.

An honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or a veteran of a reserve component who served on active duty and the spouse or surviving spouse of the veteran.

Section 55.

- Provides an effective date of July 1, 2018.

General Implementation Timeline:

July 1, 2018	The act becomes effective.
December 31, 2018	The Division of Career and Adult Education and the Florida College System will coordinate to make district technical centers and the Florida College System institutions aware of changes to the Veterans Employment and Training Services Programs as it relates to being a training provider.
December 31, 2018	Provide any requested support to the Division of Career and Adult Education on the development of an awareness document on apprenticeship opportunities to be shared with veterans across the state through the Florida Veterans Administration.