

HB 821 -- Redline

Introduced to H 821 c1 -- Business Development Incentives for Veterans and Military Spouses

Deletions ~~struck~~ · Insertions underlined

F L O R I D A H O U S E O F R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S ~~HB~~CS/HB 821 2025 A bill to be entitled An act relating to business development incentives for veterans and military spouses;

~~providing a short title;~~

~~amending s.~~

~~205.187, F.S.;~~

~~defining the term "veteran-owned or military spouse-owned business";~~

~~providing for contracting preferences for such businesses;~~

providing a short title;

providing legislative findings and intent;

providing eligibility and registration requirements for the fee waivers;

~~providing specified tax exemptions for certain businesses;~~

~~requiring the Department of Revenue to develop procedures for such exemptions;~~

~~providing that such exemptions apply for a specified period for certain businesses relocating to this state;~~

~~establishing the Veteran and Military Spouse Entrepreneurship Program in consultation with the Department of Commerce;~~

~~providing requirements for the program;~~

~~requiring that certain businesses receive expedited processing for certain certifications;~~

Page~~Section~~ 11. of 6 CODING:

Words stricken are deletions;

words underlined are additions.

~~hb821-00 F L O R I D A H O U S E O F R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S HB 821 2025 Section 1.~~

~~Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 205.187, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (e), subsection (4) is amended, and a new paragraph (d) is added to subsection (3), to read:~~

~~205.187 Florida Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunity Act.-- (3) DEFINITIONS.--For the purpose of this section, the term:~~

~~(d) "Veteran-owned or military spouse-owned business" has the same meaning as in s.~~

~~205.180(1).~~

~~(4) VENDOR PREFERENCE.-- (a) A state agency, when considering two or more bids, proposals, or replies for the procurement of commodities or contractual services, at least one of which is from a certified veteran business enterprise or veteran-owned or military spouse-owned business, which are equal with respect to all relevant considerations, including price, quality, and service, shall award such procurement or contract to the certified veteran business enterprise or veteran-owned or military spouse-owned business.~~

~~(b) Notwithstanding s.~~

~~287.057(12), if a veteran business enterprise or veteran-owned or military spouse-owned business entitled to the vendor preference under this section and one or more businesses entitled to this preference or another vendor~~ Page 2 of 6 CODING:

Words stricken are deletions;

words underlined are additions.

~~hb821-00 F L O R I D A H O U S E O F R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S HB 821 2025 preference provided by law submit bids, proposals, or replies for procurement of commodities or contractual services which are equal with respect to all relevant considerations, including price, quality, and service, the state agency shall award the procurement or contract to the business having the smallest net worth.~~

~~(c) Political subdivisions of the state are encouraged to offer a similar consideration to businesses certified under this section.~~

~~Section 2.~~

(b) The Legislature recognizes the challenges of frequent ~~relocations~~Page and 1 ~~economic~~of instability4 facedCODING: ~~by many military spouses.~~

~~(c) It is the intent of the Legislature that this act attracts and supports veteran-owned and military spouse-owned businesses by providing financial and operational incentives.~~

Page 3 of 6 CODING:

~~hb821-00~~hb821-01-c1 F L O R I D A H O U S E O F R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S ~~HB~~CS/HB 821 2025

~~(3) relocations~~ DEFINITIONS.--For and the economic purpose instability of faced this by section, many
~~the military term: spouses.~~

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature that this act attracts and supports veteran-owned and military spouse-owned businesses by providing incentives.

(3) DEFINITIONS.--For the purpose of this section, the term:

(c) "Veteran-owned or military spouse-owned business" means a business ~~entity entity: that is at least 51 percent owned, controlled, or managed by one or more veterans or military spouses.~~

1.

That employs 200 or fewer permanent full-time employees;

2.

That, together with its affiliates, has a net worth of \$5 million or less or, if a sole proprietorship, has a net worth of \$5 million or less including personal and business investments;

3.

That is organized to engage in commercial transactions;

4.

That is domiciled in this state;

5.

That is at least 51 percent owned and operated by one or more veterans or military spouses who are residents of this state;

Page 2 of 4 CODING:

Words stricken are deletions;

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hb821-01-c1 F L O R I D A H O U S E O F R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S CS/HB 821 2025 6.

The management and daily business operations of which are controlled by one or more veterans or military spouses;

and 7.

That has a professional license, if required by the industry, in the name of a veteran or military spouse who owns the business entity.

For veterans, a DD Form 214 or another acceptable form of identification as specified by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs;

For military spouses, verification of a military spouse relationship and that the other spouse is on active ~~duty~~ duty or a veteran.

(c) The fee waivers shall apply to veteran-owned or ~~Page~~ military 4 spouse-owned of businesses 6 established ~~CODING: or certified between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2030.~~

(5) ADMINISTRATION.--The Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of State shall:

(a) Develop rules for administering this section.

Page 3 of 4 CODING:

~~hb821-00~~ hb821-01-c1 F L O R I D A H O U S E O F R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S HB ~~CS/HB 821 2025~~

~~military~~ (b) spouse-owned Ensure businesses interagency established cooperation or for certified seamless between implementation July of 1, this 2025, section. and December 31, 2030.

~~(5)(6) TAX ANNUAL EXEMPTIONS.--REPORTING.--Beginning (a) December Eligible 31, veteran-owned 2025, and military each spouse-owned December businesses 31 thereafter, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall receive; submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature that includes:~~

~~1--~~

~~A 5-year exemption from the state corporate income tax and state franchise tax.~~

~~2--~~

~~A one-time sales tax exemption on equipment and supplies directly related to its business operations.~~

~~(b) The Department of Revenue shall establish procedures for claiming these exemptions.~~

~~(c) For businesses relocating to this state, tax exemptions shall apply for 5 years after the date of certification.~~

~~(6) VETERAN AND MILITARY SPOUSE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM.-- (a) The Department of Veterans' Affairs, in conjunction with the Department of Commerce, shall establish the Veteran and Military Spouse Entrepreneurship Program, including an application process and eligibility criteria.~~

~~The program shall include:~~

~~1--~~

~~Personalized business mentorship and consulting services.~~

~~2--~~

~~Assistance with obtaining startup capital through state and federal funding programs.~~

~~3-~~

~~Educational resources, including workshops on business~~ Page 5 of 6 CODING:

~~Words stricken are deletions;~~

~~words underlined are additions.~~

~~hb821-00 F L O R I D A H O U S E O F R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S~~ HB 821-2025 planning, marketing, and regulatory compliance.

~~(b) Priority shall be given to businesses that veteran-owned or military spouse-owned.~~

~~(7) EXPEDITED PROCESSING. -- Veteran-owned and military spouse-owned businesses shall receive expedited processing for certifications.~~

~~(8) ADMINISTRATION. -- The Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Department of Revenue, and the Department of State shall:~~

~~(a) Develop rules for administering this section.~~

~~(b) Ensure interagency cooperation for seamless implementation of this section.~~

~~(9) ANNUAL REPORTING. -- The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature that includes:~~

Section ~~3-~~2.

This act shall take effect ~~upon July becoming 1, a 2025.~~ law.

Page ~~64~~ of ~~64~~ CODING:

~~hb821-00~~hb821-01-c1