



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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*Honoring those who served U.S.*

# Legislative Update

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***Director of Legislative & Cabinet Affairs***

# About Legislative Session

- Regular sessions of the Florida Legislature begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March
- They continue for 60 consecutive days
- May be extended by a three-fifths vote of each house
- Special sessions may be called by the Governor, or may be convened by joint proclamation of the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Special sessions may not exceed 20 days, unless extended by a three-fifths vote of each house
- The 2019 Legislative Session began on March 5 and concluded on May 3.



# Track Legislation with Us



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## Florida Veteran Legislation

Regular sessions of the Florida Legislature begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March and continue for 60 consecutive days, which may be extended by a three-fifths vote of each house. Special sessions may be called by the Governor, or may be convened by joint proclamation of the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives. Special sessions may not exceed 20 days, unless extended by a three-fifths vote of each house. The Florida fiscal year starts July 1 of every year.

The 2019 Legislative Session began on March 5, 2019 and will conclude on May 3, 2019.

Provided here is a list of Florida veteran-related legislation and veteran-related appropriation requests that the agency is tracking. Please note, during session and interim committee weeks, this list is updated weekly. Otherwise, this list is updated monthly. If you have any general questions, please contact the FDVA legislative staff. If you have specific questions pertaining to the legislation or appropriation request, please contact the member who is sponsoring the legislation or request. Inclusion of legislation in this report is for informational purposes only.

*Inclusion does not imply endorsement of, support of, or opposition to any particular piece of legislation by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.*

### Florida Veteran-Related Legislation

Legislation Tracking Websites:



# FDVA's Legislative Budget Request

- ✓ Proper Staffing for Nursing Homes (21 new positions)
- ✓ Increased budget authority for contracted services for the Homes Program
- ✓ Increased OPS funding for Homes Program
- ✓ Replacement vans for Homes Program
- ✓ State Approving Agency increase of 2 positions
- ✓ Increase in security modernization equipment



# Member Projects in FDVA's Budget

- K9s for Warriors
- Five Star Veterans Center Homeless Housing and Reintegration Project
- Florida Veterans Legal Helpline
- Alternative Treatment Options for Veterans
- Network of Care for Veterans and Military Service – Trilogy Integrated Resources, Llc





# Alternative Treatment Options

- **SB 1518**
  - Senator Tom Wright
- **HB 501**
  - Representative Mel Ponder
- **Target TBI / PTSD**
  - \$200,000 appropriation
    - a. Accelerated resolution therapy
    - b. Equine therapy
    - c. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy, which must be provided at a registered hyperbaric oxygen facility
    - d. Music therapy
    - e. Service animal training therapy



# Veterans Treatment Courts

- **HB 1265**
  - Representative Mel Ponder
- **SB 910**
  - Senator George Gainer
- **Establish Statewide Treatment Courts**
  - Chair Bradley appropriation in SB 7072



# Honor and Remember Flag

- **HB 427**
  - Representative Tommy Gregory
- **SB 718**
  - Senator Joe Gruters
- **Honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice**
  - Flown on:
    - a. Veterans' Day
    - b. Gold Star Mother's Day
    - c. A day on which a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who is a resident of FL loses his or her life in the line of duty





# Questions, Comments, Discussion

PROUDLY SERVING FOR 30 YEARS

**FDVA**



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