



415276

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

Senator Evers moved the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 87 - 141

and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 20.375, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20.375 Department of Veterans' Affairs; trust funds.—The following trust funds shall be administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs:

(2) Grants and Donations Trust Fund.

(a) Funds to be credited to and uses of the trust fund



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12 shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of ss.
13 215.32, 296.11, 296.38, 296.42, and 320.089.

14 Section 2. Section 296.42, Florida Statutes, is created to
15 read:

16 296.42 Site-selection process for state homes for
17 veterans.-

18 (1) Subject to the appropriation of state matching funds,
19 the department may apply for federal grants through the United
20 States Department of Veterans Affairs to construct or acquire
21 facilities that will serve as state homes for veterans which
22 provide domiciliary care, as defined in s. 296.02, or nursing
23 home care.

24 (2) To select sites for state homes, the department shall
25 establish:

26 (a) An open and competitive process to solicit and receive
27 site proposals from any county in this state desiring to submit
28 a proposal.

29 (b) Criteria to be used by the department to evaluate and
30 rank the site proposals.

31 (3) After evaluating and ranking the site proposals, the
32 department shall submit recommendations for site selection to
33 the Governor and Cabinet, which must approve each final site
34 selection.

35 (4) Subject to legislative appropriation, the department
36 may contract for one or more independent studies to assist it in
37 evaluating the needs of veterans for state homes and in
38 selecting areas of the state and sites which will best serve
39 those needs.

40 (5) The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants,



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41 endowments, and moneys from public or private sources to assist
42 with the construction, renovation, furnishing, and maintenance
43 of a state home for veterans. The director may determine how to
44 use such gifts, grants, endowments, or moneys for the purposes
45 identified in this subsection unless the benefactor requests
46 that the donation be used for a specific purpose. Moneys
47 received pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited into the
48 Grants and Donations Trust Fund under s. 20.375(2).

49 (6) The department may adopt rules to implement this
50 section.

51 (7) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (3), the next two
52 sites in this state for a state home for veterans shall be
53 selected based on recommendations completed by the department in
54 calendar year 2014. Each site selection must be approved by the
55 Governor and Cabinet. This subsection expires July 1, 2016.

56
57 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

58 And the title is amended as follows:

59 Delete lines 3 - 15

60 and insert:

61 amending s. 20.375, F.S.; requiring certain funds in
62 the Grants and Donations Trust Fund administered by
63 the Department of Veterans' Affairs to be used for
64 certain purposes relating to state homes for veterans;
65 creating s. 296.42, F.S.; authorizing the Department
66 of Veterans' Affairs, subject to the appropriation of
67 state matching funds, to apply for federal grants to
68 construct or acquire certain state homes for veterans;
69 requiring the department to solicit, evaluate, and



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70 rank county site proposals for state homes for
71 veterans based on criteria established by the
72 department; requiring the department to submit
73 recommendations for site selection to the Governor and
74 Cabinet; requiring the approval of the Governor and
75 Cabinet for final site selections; authorizing the
76 department, subject to legislative appropriation, to
77 contract for certain studies relating to site
78 selection; authorizing the department to solicit and
79 accept gifts, grants, endowments, and moneys for
80 specified purposes relating to state homes for
81 veterans; authorizing the department to adopt certain
82 rules; providing an exception to the act's process for
83 site selection for a specified period; amending ss.
84 458.347 and 459.022, F.S.;