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Executive Director

State of Florida
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
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Rick Scott
Governor
Pam Bondi
Attorney General
Jeff Atwater
Chief Financial Officer
Adam Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture

September 8, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Rick Scott
Honorable Pam Bondi
Honorable Jeff Atwater
Honorable Adam Putnam

FROM: Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs
Glenn Sutphin, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda – Cabinet Meeting of September 20, 2016

The next public meeting of the Governor and Cabinet to transact the business of the Department of Veterans' Affairs will be at 9:00 a.m. (EDT), September 20, 2016 in Tallahassee, Florida.

The Agenda and all required back-up materials are attached for your review.

If you have any questions, please call my Legislative and Cabinet Affairs Director, Roy Clark, at (850) 487-1533 x7723.

cc: Kristin Olson, Director of Cabinet Affairs
Executive Office of the Governor

Cynthia Kelly, Director
Governor's Office of Policy and Budget

Attachments

AGENDA
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Meeting materials for the following items are available on the web at:

<http://floridavets.org/news/public-notice/2016-public-notice-3/cabinet-meeting-materials/>

MEMBERS

Governor Rick Scott
Attorney General Pam Bondi
Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater
Commissioner Adam Putnam

September 20, 2016
9:00 A.M. (EDT)
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida

Contact: Roy Clark, Director of Legislative & Cabinet Affairs
(850) 487-1533

ITEM	SUBJECT	RECOMMENDATION
1.	Respectfully request approval of the minutes of the March 29, 2016 meeting. (ATTACHMENT 1)	RECOMMEND APPROVAL
2.	Respectfully submit the Agency's Legislative Budget Request for FY 2017-2018. (ATTACHMENT 2)	RECOMMEND APPROVAL
3.	Respectfully submit the Agency's Legislative Proposals for 2017. (ATTACHMENT 3)	RECOMMEND APPROVAL
4.	Respectfully submit nominees for the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Class of 2016. (ATTACHMENT 4)	RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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2
3 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Next I would like to
4 recognize Mike Prendergast with the Department of
5 Veterans Affairs.

6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Good morning,
7 Governor Scott, General Bondi, CFO Atwater, and
8 Commissioner Putnam.

9 Before I begin the Department's agenda, I'd
10 like to take a brief moment to highlight two
11 important items for you. First, the Department of
12 Defense is commemorating the 50th anniversary of
13 the Vietnam War to thank and honor our veterans
14 from that war on behalf of a grateful nation.

15 The Sunshine State also thanks and honors its
16 Vietnam War veterans, a community of more than
17 506,000 veterans who make the Sunshine State their
18 home.

19 These men and women bravely answered the call
20 to serve, and served our nation with valor and
21 honor. Tomorrow, on March 30th, the great State of
22 Florida will recognize the 50th anniversary of the
23 Vietnam War, and we want to encourage all citizens
24 to participate in local
25 welcome-home-Vietnam-Veterans-Day events honoring

1 and thanking our Vietnam War veterans for their
2 service all around the state.

3 Ladies and gentlemen, these brave patriots
4 answered the call to duty, so please join me in a
5 moment of silence for the more than 58,000 Vietnam
6 War veterans who did not return home from that war.

7 (A MOMENT OF SILENCE).

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you.

9 Turning now to the second pre-agenda item. As
10 we all know, historic opportunities are rare
11 occurrences in the Sunshine State and are even more
12 uncommon when a tragedy occurs and affects a
13 family. Governor Scott and members of the Cabinet,
14 as all of you know, Naomi and I are among the
15 35,000 Florida families who are victims of the
16 toxic Chinese drywall crisis that has beset us and
17 has caused us to have some financial and health
18 problems in some cases.

19 A little less than three years ago, Naomi and
20 I began experiencing symptoms commonly associated
21 with chronic exposure to the hydrogen sulfite gases
22 linked to this environmental tragedy. Our home
23 that we planned on staying in for the rest of our
24 lives became a hazardous nightmare that we could no
25 longer attend to and live in. Out of concerns for

1 our health, we searched for a safe haven from
2 Tallahassee to Tampa and in all of the counties and
3 communities in between while the lawsuit continued
4 to work its way through the courts.

5 We found everything that we wanted in a
6 community to call home for our children to come and
7 visit whenever they come home from serving our
8 country, and for our grandchildren to come and play
9 and enjoy the recreational opportunities that it
10 has to offer right there in Citrus County between
11 Inverness and Crystal River. So Naomi and I moved
12 up there in 2013 and made it our permanent home
13 while the lawsuit continues to work its way through
14 the legal system.

15 After nearly 20 years in office, our sheriff
16 has announced that he will not seek reelection in
17 2016. Governor Scott, General Bondi, CFO Atwater,
18 and Commissioner Putnam, you're very familiar with
19 my service to our country when I was on active duty
20 in the Armed Forces, which included more than
21 three decades as a military policeman and 20 years
22 or more as a commander, a provost marshal, a
23 director of emergency services, or senior
24 law enforcement staff officer.

25 Because of the importance of the role that a

1 sheriff plays in a community, especially in Citrus
2 County, and because of the timing of this historic
3 opportunity, to continue to serve in a role
4 critical to our future, with your blessings, it is
5 my desire to resign and run for sheriff of
6 Citrus County by tendering my resignation to you
7 today.

8 GOVERNOR SCOTT: First, I just want to tell
9 you, Mike, you've done a great job. I got to meet
10 you back in 2010 when we were both running for
11 office, and it would have been nice if you won your
12 election that year; but fortunately for us you
13 didn't, you had an opportunity to come to work for
14 us, first in my office, and then running the
15 Department.

16 And I just want to tell you thanks for what
17 you're doing, thank you and Naomi for all your hard
18 work. And I wish you the best of luck, and we do
19 expect you to win if you're going to do this. We
20 don't expect you to lose.

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you,
22 Governor.

23 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you very much for all
24 of your hard work.

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you.

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Mike, I've known you
2 for years, and thank you for your service to our
3 country; thank you for your service to our state
4 now.

5 There has not been a time that I have not
6 called him when a veteran had an issue, that I
7 would just come across and you handled it
8 instantly, about helping 18-, 19-year-old young men
9 and women who had come back from war; and just
10 thank you for the remarkable job you've done, and
11 thank you for continuing on in public service.

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you,
13 General Bondi.

14 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Colonel, I want to
15 thank you for your service as well to our country.
16 You have brought a heart for service to this job
17 and a passion for our veterans that's unmatched.
18 No one ever questions your devotion to making sure
19 that these men and women who served our country get
20 everything that they are entitled to, and then
21 some, as they should. And you've never missed an
22 opportunity to recognize them and in every public
23 venue.

24 And so thank you for that, thank you for your
25 partnership with us on Operation of Outdoor

1 Freedom, and all the things that you do to continue
2 to lift up that veteran community and get them the
3 services that they deserve as our small way of
4 saying thank you to them for their service and
5 sacrifice.

6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you.

7 CFO ATWATER: Colonel, I would like to extend
8 my gratitude as a fellow Floridian and fellow
9 American, that you made a choice to dedicate your
10 professional work, your vocation, and your life
11 service to the country, and to the defense of our
12 country; it's more than noble. And that thanks has
13 to go to Naomi as well; that is a family commitment
14 that is made to the service of this country.

15 And I'd like to echo the thoughts that have
16 been shared. In the role that you have assumed for
17 us, it is just abundantly clear of the passion that
18 you would see, that anyone who made the similar
19 choice, would be sure to have the eye of this
20 country, and particularly the State of Florida,
21 looking out for them for the remainder of their
22 lives, and you have done it with such incredible
23 passion and commitment of service.

24 So wishing you and Naomi and the family all
25 the best. Thank you for your service.

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you
2 all. Thank you very much. It's been an honor and
3 privilege to serve our great state; and more
4 importantly, to contribute to the quality of life
5 that's unmatched anywhere across our country for
6 our veteran families and our service members who
7 have come back home after their time in uniform.

8 Turning now to our agenda, Agenda Item 1 is
9 the report of the minutes from the December 8th,
10 2015, Cabinet meeting. We respectfully request
11 approval of the agenda minutes.

12 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion on the
13 item?

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: So moved.

15 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

16 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Second.

17 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Any comments or objections?

18 (NO RESPONSE).

19 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Hearing none, the motion
20 carries.

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you.

22 Agenda Item 2 is the Agency's second quarter
23 report. I'd like to provide just a few highlights
24 next.

25 In the Division of Benefits and Assistance,

1 the Division is in the process of adapting our
2 business practice to align with the new veterans
3 claim management software called VetraSpec. This
4 began this past fall, and we've been updating the
5 system with our historical records.

6 To that end, our usual dollar amount of
7 approximately \$120 to the dollar return on
8 investment is recorded at \$63 to the dollar at this
9 present time. But this lower dollar ratio is
10 temporary and should return to normal numbers when
11 all the necessary information is harvested and
12 inputted into the database of the new system.

13 The Division has also successfully converted
14 all of its paper claims for veterans processing
15 their claims for benefits to a digital format and
16 will now be working with our counterparts across
17 the 67 counties veteran service offices to do the
18 same to convert all of their paper files to the
19 digital format.

20 In our State approving agency within our
21 Division of Benefits and Assistance, we have had a
22 contractual increase from 120 compliance visits to
23 schools per year to 140. This has required the
24 Agency an increase by one federally funded FTE,
25 which has already been approved.

1 Moving on to other items with respect to
2 contract, FDVA signed a new contract to help with
3 its medial outreach and branding services, and
4 we're working with Quest Corporation of America
5 down in Pasco County. FVA expects to get great
6 outcomes to reach even greater audiences across
7 Florida's nearly 1.6 million veteran community for
8 a wide array of benefits, such as in-state tuition
9 rates for veterans and their families using the
10 Post 911 GI Bill; several layers of property tax
11 exemptions; and expanded veterans' preference and
12 licensure opportunities for our veterans, including
13 fee waivers for many activities and occupations;
14 and even the opportunity for disabled veterans to
15 get a hunting and fishing license at no cost.

16 We respectfully request approval of the
17 second quarter report for the Agency.

18 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to accept
19 the report?

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: So moved.

21 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

22 CFO ATWATER: Second.

23 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Comments or objections?

24 (NO RESPONSE).

25 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Hearing none, the motion

1 carries.

2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Agenda Item 3
3 is our State Homes Program update. This section
4 will cover two items beginning with our seventh
5 state veterans nursing home, the Ardie R. Copas
6 home down in St. Lucie County.

7 Before I give the latest update, I must
8 backtrack a bit to provide you some context. In
9 2011, the Governor signed letters and sent them up
10 to then Secretary Rich Inseki in Washington, D.C.,
11 the Secretary of the Department of
12 Veterans Affairs; and the Agency applied for grants
13 to build nursing homes in Florida to be projected
14 in the near or close -- close to the 36 to
15 \$37 million price range, up to \$40 million perhaps
16 to support the construction of four new nursing
17 homes that followed the design parameters of the
18 nursing home that we recently constructed over in
19 St. Augustine in St. Johns County.

20 The following year, the Department of
21 Veterans Affairs published an updated Community
22 Living Center Design Guide for new nursing home
23 construction without soliciting input from the
24 states or providing any analysis of the projected
25 cost escalation associated with the proposed model

1 in the new design guide. This change included more
2 extensive designs, a transition to 100% private
3 rooms from semi-private rooms, a significant
4 increase in square footage requirements, and a
5 shift to build new homes to lead standards.

6 Although the design guide specifically states,
7 this volume is meant to be a guide, not a code or
8 regulation, the new design paradigm took on a
9 financially significant departure from the current
10 structures that the State of Florida understood it
11 would build upon approval of future grant
12 applications that were initially filed in 2011.

13 That leads us to where we are today. Over the
14 past several months, the Department has worked with
15 the Department of Management Services, an
16 architecture firm, and a construction firm to move
17 the project forward and attempt to meet the
18 suggested parameters of the new design guide.
19 Based on this work, the team's assessment of the
20 overall construction cost would raise the cost to
21 build the home from approximately 39 million, which
22 is the authorized grant amount, to more than
23 \$58 million.

24 In view of this dramatic and unforecasted cost
25 increase, the Department recently sent a letter to

1 VA Secretary Bob McDonald, and I also met with Bob
2 in person, requesting relief from an incorrect
3 interpretation of the Community Living Center
4 Design Guide parameters. The Secretary has
5 acknowledged the problem, and his office has
6 acknowledged receipt of our request; but as of
7 yesterday afternoon, they continue to work on a
8 response to our request to adhere to either the old
9 design guide parameters or to increase the amount
10 of the grant that they provided to the State of
11 Florida to build the home.

12 Do you have any questions on the first part?

13 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Go ahead, Commissioner.

14 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Thank you, Governor.

15 So this 50% cost increase, is it a guideline
16 or is it a code? If you were to ignore the new
17 guideline for this home, since it was approved
18 before they changed the rules on you, would that
19 have consequences with your federal funding?

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: That's what
21 we've asked Commissioner --

22 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Secretary.

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST:

24 -- Secretary McDonald to actually answer to us.
25 Because if it is a guideline and it's not a hard

1 and fast rule, we've maintained a 99% occupancy
2 rate in our state veterans nursing homes and we
3 continue to get great accolades from AHCA and the
4 Department of Veterans Affairs when they do their
5 inspections, and so we believe that we could build
6 a facility similar to what we built at the
7 Clyde Lassen facility in St. Augustine for far less
8 money and meet all of the necessary standards to
9 fulfill the needs of our veteran community.

10 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Do you have the money?

11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: We do have
12 the money in our trust fund, Commissioner Putnam,
13 if there are increased costs.

14 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: No, no, no, no, have the
15 Feds transferred the money yet for the Copas home,
16 the 39 million?

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Well, the
18 Fed grant is ready for the two-thirds matching
19 portion to go and build it under the old
20 parameters, which is what they approved the grant
21 at. But now the folks in Washington, D.C., are
22 telling us that we have to build the home in
23 accordance with the guidelines, which is not really
24 a standard, and that's why we've recalled the
25 action back up to Bob McDonald.

1 GOVERNOR SCOTT: That's what the Federal VA is
2 saying?

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Yes,
4 Governor.

5 GOVERNOR SCOTT: So they're not giving you --
6 what they're saying is you're not going to get the
7 money unless you build a more expensive building?

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Well, a
9 formal answer has not come back from the Secretary
10 of the Department of Veterans Affairs yet. The
11 staff in the office is under a state of transition
12 right now where the person we've been working with
13 for the past four years is retiring at the end of
14 this week.

15 And also, the Design Guide that was put
16 together is now under a review by Bob McDonald's
17 staff in Washington, D.C., so there may be a
18 revision to the Design Guide as a consequence of
19 our protest, and other states who are undergoing
20 similar challenges protesting the strict
21 interpretation that the folks at the VA central
22 office have actually put forward and tried to force
23 us to adhere to.

24 GOVERNOR SCOTT: And they haven't told you a
25 timeframe when you're going to get a response?

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: No, Governor,
2 I did inquire yesterday afternoon before the end of
3 the day, and it is in Bob McDonald's hopper, and he
4 just has not responded back to us yet.

5 GOVERNOR SCOTT: You assume on top of that, if
6 you look at what Cissy Proctor said, as far as all
7 of the construction going on in the state, I assume
8 construction costs are going up at the same time,
9 even if you use the old guidelines.

10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Well, yes,
11 Governor, we have; and we actually -- when those
12 actually were assessed initially, that's why we
13 went back in and we went ahead and sought the
14 approval to go with a 10% variance in the cost of
15 construction.

16 But the thing that a lot of folks have
17 overlooked in Washington, D.C., that we are very
18 conscious of, is that the Clyde Lassen home was
19 built at the height of the construction boom when
20 costs were far greater than in other parts of the
21 country. Well, as the economy has continued to
22 recover, the costs still have not caught back up to
23 where we were at the point in time when the
24 Clyde Lassen home was built. So we feel that we
25 should be able to build that home for an

1 approximate price tag of \$39 million, if we were
2 able to use the standards that we used when we
3 built the Clyde Lassen home.

4 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Congressman Miller ought
5 to be able to assist on this as Chairman of the
6 Veterans Affairs Committee.

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Yes,
8 absolutely, Commissioner Putnam. And I have
9 approached Congressman Miller about that, and I'm
10 waiting on a reply from him as well.

11 GOVERNOR SCOTT: So do you need any help from
12 us? Because we all know -- I know Bob McDonald,
13 and we all know Congressman Miller, so do you need
14 any help from any of us?

15 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Well,
16 Governor, I think at this point right now, it would
17 not be a preemptive move if you went ahead and
18 reached out to Bob McDonald now that we have
19 formally brought this before the Cabinet for a
20 discussion, because Bob needs to understand that
21 this is one of the states with the greatest need,
22 and I've briefed him on this.

23 And yet there's another bureaucratic
24 impediment that has been put in place out there
25 that was never staffed and never was really cost

1 estimated for the states to be able to go ahead
2 and, you know, either reapply for the grant or for
3 us to be able to come back and tell you that the
4 Federal VA guideline is not a guideline, it is
5 actually a standard or a rule; and, therefore,
6 we've got to go back and increase the grant money,
7 because we could have gone through the process and
8 gotten the money if that would have been necessary.

9 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Can you just get a timeline
10 of the conversations you've had and get it to
11 Kristin, and I'll call him this afternoon?

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: We'll do
13 that, Governor.

14 GOVERNOR SCOTT: I can call him this
15 afternoon.

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you.

17 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Do you need any of us to call
18 Congressman Miller?

19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: I think it
20 would be appropriate if one or all of you called --

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: I'll call him, too.

22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: --
23 Congressman Miller as well to help us weigh in on
24 that, while we've got the opportunity and while the
25 Federal VA budget is still being worked through the

1 committees and both Houses.

2 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Will you just make sure each
3 of our offices get the details so when we call them
4 we know the exact details?

5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: We'll get all
6 the details for you.

7 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. All right.

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Okay.
9 Thank you.

10 Turning to the second item in our homes
11 update, we do have some great news to share with
12 you today. President Obama recently signed HR 4056
13 into law to transfer the U.S. Department of
14 Veterans Affairs-owned property located in the
15 Orlando Metro community at the Lake Baldwin campus
16 of the former VA medical center. And that facility
17 is a facility we briefed you on several years ago
18 that's been working its way through the process to
19 be excessed to the needs of the Federal VA and
20 destined to be turned over to the State for us to
21 use as a, not nearly turnkey but pretty close to,
22 skilled nursing facility that was built under the
23 parameters of the old paradigm for nursing homes.

24 And as we have worked our way through that,
25 Congressman Mica carried the bill in the House and

1 we got it passed in the Senate, and in 20 days'
2 time the legislation was signed and turned into law
3 providing the State an opportunity to harvest this
4 facility over in the Orlando community and turn it
5 into a nursing home at a future date.

6 The effort to transfer this property did begin
7 in 2011, and at this time we know that the facility
8 will require a kitchen and laundry facility on the
9 campus that does not exist there now. And the
10 reason for that is the standalone community living
11 center used logistic support from the Bay Pines VA
12 Veteran Medical Center for laundry capability, and
13 they also used the kitchen at the clinic to provide
14 the hot meals for the residents in the home.

15 So in order for the home to stand alone as a
16 State facility, we'll have to put that into the
17 process of planning as we continue to do our
18 assessments.

19 Tim Liezert has been very helpful in this
20 process, and as well as Bob McDonald has been very
21 helpful in this process to be able to provide this
22 opportunity for the State to harvest this facility.

23 We also spoke on the phone last -- two weeks
24 ago with senior staff from the Department of
25 Veterans Affairs in DC's real estate office to

1 determine a way to transfer the land from the
2 Federal Government to the State of Florida. We
3 anticipate this process to take roughly 18 to
4 24 months, and we are currently waiting on a
5 timeline from the Federal VA to find out what the
6 actual process is to transfer the property to the
7 State so that the agency can then present it to you
8 at a future Cabinet meeting.

9 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: So you got the law
10 changed in 20 days, and it takes them two years to
11 sign the deed?

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Well, it's a
13 little more complicated than that. I think we can
14 expedite it, Commissioner Putnam, but the
15 Federal VA is presently using the old community
16 living center, the skilled nursing home for swing
17 space as they open more of the clinics out at the
18 Lake Nona campus of the new flagship VA medical
19 center over in Orlando.

20 Ultimately, they were going to board that up
21 and excess all of the property, but a subsequent
22 review has led them to determine that the
23 Federal VA is going to keep three VA outpatient
24 clinics right there in that old medical center
25 campus, which was a Navy clinic back at the time

1 before it was BRAC'd back in the '90s, I believe.

2 So they still have no use ultimately in the
3 long-term for the nursing home, and that's why it
4 makes it a really outstanding opportunity for us to
5 harvest that for that community over there, which
6 our assessment reveals that we could fill those
7 beds nearly immediately and keep those beds filled
8 for the next 25 years serving our veterans over
9 there.

10 At the end, this saves the taxpayers of the
11 State of Florida \$40 million for us to be able to
12 go in and take this facility and continue to use it
13 for the purpose that the money was originally
14 appropriated for and authorized to do to serve that
15 community of veterans over there.

16 So this is a huge coup for the Federal VA, and
17 according to the folks that have been around for a
18 long time, it's never been done where they've given
19 a facility like this that's in as near a pristine
20 capability state over to a State for the State to
21 go in and then turn it into a skilled nursing home.

22 Are there any questions about the skilled
23 nursing home?

24 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Does anybody have any
25 questions?

1 (NO RESPONSE) .

2 GOVERNOR SCOTT: No.

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: In closing,
4 Governor Scott and members of the Cabinet, since
5 2011 and under your watch, this Agency has served
6 526,000 unique veterans. We have provided more
7 than 3,042,000 services to veterans, their family
8 members or their survivors; and we facilitated the
9 delivery of \$76.6 billion to our veteran community
10 and our military retirees right here in the
11 Sunshine State.

12 Our nursing homes have earned six five-star
13 rankings from the Centers for Medicare and
14 Medicaid Services and a Governor's Gold Seal award.
15 And in addition, we've maintained a 99% occupancy
16 rate.

17 And, Governor, as you mentioned earlier when
18 Cissy was up here talking about the great
19 employment opportunities out there for our citizens
20 in this state, more than 151,000 of Florida's
21 veterans have found careers in our economy since
22 you took office.

23 For that, Florida's veterans and Naomi and I
24 are eternally grateful for your leadership and
25 service to this community of veterans, and we thank

1 you from the very bottom of our hearts for allowing
2 this privilege to serve you and our community of
3 veterans all across this great state. Thank you
4 and God bless you all.

5 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you.

6 (APPLAUSE) .

7 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Mike, why don't you come up
8 and get a picture?

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Summary of LBR Issue, By Recurring & Non-Recurring, By Funding Source

Short Issue Title	Priority / BE	General Revenue			State TF			Trust Fund *	Federal Grants TF	Total FY 2017-18 Request		
		Recurring	Non- Recurring	Total	Recurring	Non- Recurring	Total		Non- Recurring	Recurring	Non- Recurring	Total
Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)	1 Homes					\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	SHV TF			\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Increase Capacity - Construction of SVNH #7, Ardie Copas	2 Homes		\$ 6,542,792	\$ 6,542,792		\$ 7,000,000	\$ 7,000,000	O&M TF	\$ 25,150,900		\$ 38,693,692	\$ 38,693,692
Increase Capacity - Renovation of SVNH #8, Lake Baldwin							\$ 3,036,950	\$ 3,036,950	SHV TF	\$ 5,640,050		\$ 8,677,000
Initial Staffing/Start Up Operations Funding SVNHs #7 and #8	3 Homes				\$ 2,960,108	\$ 641,696	\$ 3,601,804	O&M TF		\$ 2,960,108	\$ 641,696	\$ 3,601,804
Transfer Funding for Food Products	4 Homes				\$ 96,736		\$ 96,736	O&M TF		\$ 96,736		\$ 96,736
Furniture and Equipment	5 Homes					\$ 1,094,300	\$ 1,094,300	SHV TF			\$ 1,094,300	\$ 1,094,300
						\$ 41,700	\$ 41,700	G&D TF			\$ 41,700	\$ 41,700
Transfer Funding for Competitive Pay Offset	6 Homes				\$ 1,120,970		\$ 1,120,970	O&M TF		\$ 1,120,970		\$ 1,120,970
Replacement of Wireless System	7 EDSS					\$ 168,944	\$ 168,944	O&M TF			\$ 168,944	\$ 168,944
10 New FTEs - Veterans' Claims Examiners (VCEs)	8 B&A				\$ 700,280	\$ 56,908	\$ 757,188	O&M TF		\$ 700,280	\$ 56,908	\$ 757,188
Increase in Base Budget (BB) for Contracted Services	9 Homes				\$ 987,884		\$ 987,884	O&M TF		\$ 987,884		\$ 987,884
Salaries & Benefits	10 Homes				\$ 648,161		\$ 648,161	O&M TF		\$ 648,161		\$ 648,161
Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Overtime	B&A	\$ 62,345		\$ 62,345						\$ 83,063		\$ 83,063
	EDSS	\$ 24,424		\$ 24,424	\$ 20,718		\$ 20,718	O&M TF		\$ 24,424		\$ 24,424
FIFV Workforce Training Grants	11 FIFV		\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000							\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
FIFV Entrepreneur Training	12 FIFV		\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000							\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
1 New IT FTE	13 EDSS				\$ 93,480	\$ 5,932	\$ 99,412	O&M TF		\$ 93,480	\$ 5,932	\$ 99,412
Replacement of 2 Transport Vans	14 Homes					\$ 163,000	\$ 163,000	G&D TF			\$ 163,000	\$ 163,000
FIFV Operations	15 FIFV	\$ 413,220	\$ 11,100	\$ 424,320						\$ 413,220	\$ 11,100	\$ 424,320
Total All		\$ 499,989	\$ 8,053,892	\$ 8,553,881	\$ 5,410,631	\$ 14,209,430	\$ 19,620,061	N/A	\$ 30,790,950	\$ 5,910,620	\$ 53,054,272	\$ 58,964,892
% of Total Request				14.5%			33.3%		52.2%	10.0%	90.0%	

*** Legend:**

O&M TF - Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund
 SHV TF - State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund
 G&D TE - Grants and Donations Trust Fund
 SVNH - State Veterans' Nursing Home

BE - Budget Entity; BB - Base Budget
 TF - Trust Fund
 VCEs - Veterans Claims Examiners
 FTE - Full Time Equivalent position

FLSA - Fair Labor Standards Act
 I&R - Information and Research

Budget Entity:

Homes - Homes Program
 B&A - Division of Veterans' Benefits & Assistance
 EDSS - Executive Direction & Support Services
 FIFV - Florida Is For Veterans Inc.



2017 AGENCY LEGISLATIVE BILL ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

<u>BILL INFORMATION</u>	
BILL NUMBER:	
BILL TITLE:	<u>Relating to the Divisions within the Department of Veterans' Affairs</u>
BILL SPONSOR:	
EFFECTIVE DATE:	Upon becoming law

<u>COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE</u>
1)
2)
3)
4)
5)

<u>CURRENT COMMITTEE</u>

<u>SIMILAR BILLS</u>	
BILL NUMBER:	
SPONSOR:	

<u>PREVIOUS LEGISLATION</u>	
BILL NUMBER:	
SPONSOR:	
YEAR:	
LAST ACTION:	

<u>IDENTICAL BILLS</u>	
BILL NUMBER:	
SPONSOR:	

<u>Is this bill part of an agency package?</u>
Yes

<u>BILL ANALYSIS INFORMATION</u>	
DATE OF ANALYSIS:	8/17/2016
LEAD AGENCY ANALYST:	Roy Clark
ADDITIONAL ANALYST(S):	Jessica Kraynak
LEGAL ANALYST:	Chuck Faircloth
FISCAL ANALYST:	

POLICY ANALYSIS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This proposed bill updates the organizational structure of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, to include a Division of Homes.

2. SUBSTANTIVE BILL ANALYSIS**1. PRESENT SITUATION:**

Currently, the Department of Veterans' Affairs has two divisions: The Division of Administration and Public Information and the Division of Veterans' Benefits and Assistance. The organizational statute for the Department (F.S. 20.37) does not list a Division of Homes.

2. EFFECT OF THE BILL:

This proposed bill creates a Division of Homes within the Department of Veterans' Affairs, making three divisions total.

3. DOES THE LEGISLATION DIRECT OR ALLOW THE AGENCY/BOARD/COMMISSION/DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP, ADOPT, OR ELIMINATE RULES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES, OR PROCEDURES?

If yes, explain:	No.
What is the expected impact to the agency's core mission?	None.
Rule(s) impacted (provide references to F.A.C., etc.):	None.

4. WHAT IS THE POSITION OF AFFECTED CITIZENS OR STAKEHOLDER GROUPS?

List any known proponents and opponents:	Unknown at this time.
Provide a summary of the proponents' and opponents' positions:	

5. ARE THERE ANY REPORTS OR STUDIES REQUIRED BY THIS BILL?

If yes, provide a description:	No.
Date Due:	
Bill Section Number(s):	

6. ARE THERE ANY GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS OR CHANGES TO EXISTING BOARDS, TASK FORCES, COUNCILS, COMMISSION, ETC. REQUIRED BY THIS BILL?

Board:	No.
Board Purpose:	
Who Appoints:	

Appointee Term:	
Changes:	
Bill Section Number(s):	

FISCAL ANALYSIS

1. WHAT IS THE FISCAL IMPACT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

Revenues:	No fiscal impact.
Expenditures:	N/A
Does the legislation increase local taxes or fees?	No.
If yes, does the legislation provide for a local referendum or local governing body public vote prior to implementation of the tax or fee increase?	

2. WHAT IS THE FISCAL IMPACT TO STATE GOVERNMENT?

Revenues:	No fiscal impact.
Expenditures:	None.
Does the legislation contain a State Government appropriation?	No.
If yes, was this appropriated last year?	

3. WHAT IS THE FISCAL IMPACT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR?

Revenues:	No fiscal impact.
Expenditures:	None.
Other:	

4. DOES THE BILL INCREASE OR DECREASE TAXES, FEES, OR FINES?

Does the bill increase taxes, fees or fines?	No.
Does the bill decrease taxes, fees or fines?	No.
What is the impact of the increase or decrease?	N/A
Bill Section Number:	

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TECHNOLOGY IMPACT

Does the legislation impact the agency's technology systems (i.e., IT support, licensing software, data storage, etc.)?	No.
If yes, describe the anticipated impact to the agency including any fiscal impact.	

FEDERAL IMPACT

Does the legislation have a federal impact (i.e. federal compliance, federal funding, federal agency involvement, etc.)?	No.
If yes, describe the anticipated impact including any fiscal impact.	

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

LEGAL - GENERAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE REVIEW

Issues/concerns/comments and recommended action:	<p>This proposed amendment of Section 20.37, Fla. Stat., creates a Division of Homes within the Department of Veterans' Affairs by adding a subsection (c) to the instant statute. This change more closely aligns the FDVA organizational structure with its actual operational structure. There are no legal issues or concerns with this amendment.</p>
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1 A bill to be entitled
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4 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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6 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 20.37, Florida
7 Statutes, is amended to read:

8 20.37 Department of Veterans' Affairs.— There is created a
9 Department of Veterans' Affairs.

10 (2) The following divisions, and bureaus within these
11 divisions, of the Department of Veterans' Affairs are
12 established:

13 (a) Division of Administration and Public Information.

14 1. Bureau of Information and Research.

15 (b) Division of Veterans' Benefits and Assistance.

16 1. Bureau of Veteran Claims Services.

17 2. Bureau of Veteran Field Services.

18 3. Bureau of State Approving for Veterans' Training.

19 (c) Division of Homes.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming law.
21



2017 AGENCY LEGISLATIVE BILL ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

<u>BILL INFORMATION</u>	
BILL NUMBER:	
BILL TITLE:	Relating to the Trust Funds within the Department of Veterans' Affairs
BILL SPONSOR:	
EFFECTIVE DATE:	Upon becoming law

<u>COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE</u>
1)
2)
3)
4)
5)

<u>CURRENT COMMITTEE</u>

<u>SIMILAR BILLS</u>	
BILL NUMBER:	
SPONSOR:	

<u>PREVIOUS LEGISLATION</u>	
BILL NUMBER:	
SPONSOR:	
YEAR:	
LAST ACTION:	

<u>IDENTICAL BILLS</u>	
BILL NUMBER:	
SPONSOR:	

Is this bill part of an agency package?
Yes

<u>BILL ANALYSIS INFORMATION</u>	
DATE OF ANALYSIS:	8/17/2016
LEAD AGENCY ANALYST:	Roy Clark
ADDITIONAL ANALYST(S):	Jessica Kraynak
LEGAL ANALYST:	Chuck Faircloth
FISCAL ANALYST:	

POLICY ANALYSIS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This proposed bill expands the authorized use of funds from the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund within the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

2. SUBSTANTIVE BILL ANALYSIS**1. PRESENT SITUATION:**

Currently, the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund receives moneys for the care of residents from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and all such moneys must be expended for the purpose of operating and maintaining the home (F.S. 296.11 and 296.38). In accordance with, Sec. 320.089(1)(c), Fla. Stat., the fund is authorized to receive moneys from the sale of the Woman Veterans License Plate and any revenue generated from the sale of this plate shall be used solely for the purpose of creating and implementing programs to benefit woman veterans.

2. EFFECT OF THE BILL:

This proposed bill will expand the use of moneys in the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund within the Department of Veterans' Affairs to include construction, renovations, and creating and implementing programs to benefit women veterans.

3. DOES THE LEGISLATION DIRECT OR ALLOW THE AGENCY/BOARD/COMMISSION/DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP, ADOPT, OR ELIMINATE RULES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES, OR PROCEDURES?

If yes, explain:	No.
What is the expected impact to the agency's core mission?	This will allow FDVA more flexibility to better serve the veterans of the State of Florida by transferring monies deposited in the trust fund.
Rule(s) impacted (provide references to F.A.C., etc.):	None.

4. WHAT IS THE POSITION OF AFFECTED CITIZENS OR STAKEHOLDER GROUPS?

List any known proponents and opponents:	Unknown.
Provide a summary of the proponents' and opponents' positions:	Unknown.

5. ARE THERE ANY REPORTS OR STUDIES REQUIRED BY THIS BILL?

If yes, provide a description:	No.
Date Due:	
Bill Section Number(s):	

6. ARE THERE ANY GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS OR CHANGES TO EXISTING BOARDS, TASK FORCES, COUNCILS, COMMISSION, ETC. REQUIRED BY THIS BILL?

Board:	No.
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Board Purpose:	
Who Appoints:	
Appointee Term:	
Changes:	
Bill Section Number(s):	

FISCAL ANALYSIS

1. WHAT IS THE FISCAL IMPACT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

Revenues:	No fiscal impact.
Expenditures:	None.
Does the legislation increase local taxes or fees?	No.
If yes, does the legislation provide for a local referendum or local governing body public vote prior to implementation of the tax or fee increase?	

2. WHAT IS THE FISCAL IMPACT TO STATE GOVERNMENT?

Revenues:	No fiscal impact.
Expenditures:	N/A
Does the legislation contain a State Government appropriation?	No.
If yes, was this appropriated last year?	

3. WHAT IS THE FISCAL IMPACT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR?

Revenues:	No fiscal impact.
Expenditures:	N/A
Other:	

4. DOES THE BILL INCREASE OR DECREASE TAXES, FEES, OR FINES?

Does the bill increase taxes, fees or fines?	No.
Does the bill decrease taxes, fees or fines?	No.

What is the impact of the increase or decrease?	N/A
Bill Section Number:	

TECHNOLOGY IMPACT

Does the legislation impact the agency's technology systems (i.e., IT support, licensing software, data storage, etc.)?	No.
If yes, describe the anticipated impact to the agency including any fiscal impact.	

FEDERAL IMPACT

Does the legislation have a federal impact (i.e. federal compliance, federal funding, federal agency involvement, etc.)?	No.
If yes, describe the anticipated impact including any fiscal impact.	

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

LEGAL - GENERAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE REVIEW

Issues/concerns/comments and recommended action:	<p>This bill amends Sections 296.11 and 296.38, Fla. Stat., to add purposes for which Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund monies can be expended by FDVA Veterans Nursing Homes (s. 296.38) and Veterans Domiciliary Home (s. 296.11). The bill creates language allowing trust fund monies to be expended for "construction, renovations, and creating and implementing programs to benefit women veterans". The bill will give FDVA more flexibility in how it expends O&M trust fund monies for construction and maintenance of the state's veteran nursing homes and domiciliary. The bill also allows FDVA to expend funds to create and implement programs to benefit women veterans in both types of facilities. There are no legal issues or concerns with the bill.</p>
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1 A bill to be entitled

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

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6 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 296.11, Florida
7 Statutes, is amended to read:

8 296.11 Funds of home and disposition of moneys.—

9 (1) The home shall deposit all moneys which it receives for
10 care of residents from the United States Department of Veterans
11 Affairs and residents into the Operations and Maintenance Trust
12 Fund. All such moneys must be expended for the purpose of
13 operating and maintaining the home, construction, renovations,
14 and creating and implementing programs to benefit women veterans
15 subject to the requirements of chapter 216.

16 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 296.38, Florida
17 Statutes, is amended to read:

18 296.38 Funds of home and disposition of moneys.—

19 (1) The home shall deposit all moneys which it receives for
20 care of residents from the United States Department of Veterans
21 Affairs and residents into the Operations and Maintenance Trust
22 Fund. All such moneys must be expended for the purpose of
23 operating and maintaining the home, construction, renovations,
24 and creating and implementing programs to benefit women veterans
25 subject to the requirements of chapter 216.

26 Section 3. Subsection (3) of Section 20.375, Florida

27 Statutes, is amended to read:

28 20.375 Department of Veterans' Affairs; trust funds.— The
29 following trust funds shall be administered by the Department of
30 Veterans' Affairs:

31 (3) Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund.

32 (a) Funds to be credited to and uses of the trust fund
33 shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of ss.
34 215.32, 296.11, ~~and 296.38~~, and 320.089(1)(c).

35 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming law.

36



Glenn Sutphin
Executive Director

State of Florida
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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www.FloridaVets.org

Rick Scott
Governor
Pam Bondi
Attorney General
Jeff Atwater
Chief Financial Officer
Adam Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture

September 8, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Rick Scott
Honorable Pam Bondi
Honorable Jeff Atwater
Honorable Adam Putnam

FROM: Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs
Glenn Sutphin, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame – Class of 2016

The agency is pleased to recommend the following eleven veterans for induction into the 2016 Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame:

- Reubin Askew, 1st Lt. USAF
- LeRoy Collins, LT j.g. USN
- Jordon Corbett, Sgt. USA
- Kevin Delaney, RADM USN (Ret)
- Dennis Freytes, Lt. Col. USA (Ret)
- David Goetsch, SGT, USMC
- Spessard Holland, Capt. Army Air Corps
- William Proctor, Capt. USAR
- Washington Sanchez, COL USA (Ret)
- John Stewart, CMSgt USAF (Ret)
- Frederick Taylor, Jr. Lt. Col. USA (Ret)

If you have any questions, please call my Cabinet and Legislative Affairs Director, Roy Clark, at (850) 487-1533 ext. 7723.

cc: Kristin Olson, Director of Cabinet Affairs
Executive Office of the Governor

Cynthia Kelly, Director
Governor's Office of Policy and Budget