



James S. Hartsell
Executive Director

State of Florida
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Office of the Executive Director
11351 Ulmerton Road, #311-K
Largo, FL 33778-1630
Phone: (727) 518-3202 Fax: (727) 518-3407
www.FloridaVets.org

Ron DeSantis
Governor
James Uthmeier
Attorney General
Blaise Ingolia
Chief Financial Officer
Wilton Simpson
Commissioner of Agriculture

2025-2026 ANNUAL REGULATORY PLAN

Section 120.74 (1), Fla. Stat., requires agencies to prepare and publish an Annual Regulatory Plan ("ARP") by October 1 of each year. Subsections (a)-(d) require:

(a) Listing of each law enacted or amended during the previous 12 months which creates or modifies the duties or authority of the agency.

The 2025 Session of the Florida Legislature saw the enactment of F.S. §296.415 and F.S. §501.9741, and the amendment of F.S. §292.05 and F.S. §435.02. These Legislative actions will require the Department of Veterans' Affairs ("FDVA") to create or modify duties, including expanded approval authority for nursing facility beds, mandatory surveys and reporting, new planning for veteran care facilities, and regulatory roles around benefits advisors.

House Bill 797 (Ch. 2025-129) created F.S. §296.415, authorizing licensed skilled nursing facilities to designate beds for veterans and spouses without a Certificate of Need and expands FDVA authority to approve such designations, provided standards are met. FDVA is also empowered to review, inspect, and approve requests, and to adopt implementing rules.

Senate Bill 116 amended F.S. §292.05 to require FDVA to undertake new actions, including:

- Conducting ongoing surveys and studies of program/service awareness.
- Issuing annual reports with recommendations for increasing awareness and health literacy.
- Developing a statewide plan for adult day health care centers with required legislative reporting.
- Expanding suicide prevention program duties, including contracting for mental health training.

Senate Bill 910 created F.S. §501.9741, and amended F.S. §435.02, adding FDVA to agencies that require standardized level 2 background checks for staff/volunteers interacting with vulnerable populations. While the primary enforcement falls to other agencies, FDVA's background screening authority is formally expanded.

(b) Listing of each law not otherwise listed pursuant to paragraph (a) which the agency expects to implement by rulemaking before the following July 1, except emergency rulemaking.

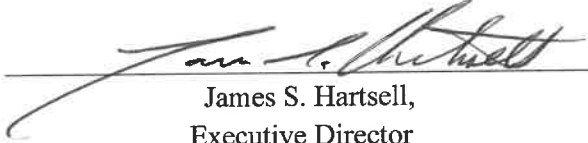
NONE

(c) Desired updates to the prior year's regulatory plan published pursuant to subsection (7).

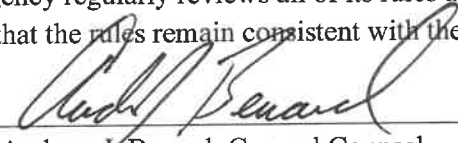
NONE

(d) Certification on behalf of the agency by the agency head and the principal legal advisor.

I, James S. Hartsell, Executive Director, and agency head of the State of Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, certify that I have reviewed the 2025-2026 Annual Regulatory Plan, that the agency regularly reviews all of its rules and has most recently reviewed all agency rules to determine that the rules remain consistent with the agency's rulemaking authority.

By: 
James S. Hartsell,
Executive Director

I, Andrew J. Benard, General Counsel, and principal legal advisor to the agency head of the State of Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, certify that I have reviewed the 2025-2026 Annual regulatory Plan, that the agency regularly reviews all of its rules and has most recently reviewed all agency rules to determine that the rules remain consistent with the agency's rulemaking authority.

By: 
Andrew J. Benard, General Counsel