

SENATE BILL SUMMARY

Prepared by the Division of Legislative Information for the Senate Bill **AS ORIGINALLY FILED**. For more detail, see Senate Bill Analyses, if available, prepared by the Senate's professional committee staff.

SB 644

Direct-support Organization/Department of Military Affairs
by Senator Justice

Authorizes a direct-support organization for the Department of Military Affairs to administer the Soldiers and Airmen Assistance Program or similar programs as directed by the Adjutant General.

Creates the Soldiers and Airmen Assistance Program to provide financial assistance and services to eligible servicemembers of the Florida National Guard and eligible members of their families.

Authorizes the program to provide assistance for housing, living expenses, vehicles, health care, and other services.

Provides that requests for assistance be reviewed and evaluated based on the following:

- impact of a servicemember's absence and inability to assist in home and vehicle repairs or meet other family needs
- economic impact of deployment
- overall financial situation of the applicant
- assistance authorized under the program and
- other relevant information. (See bill for details)