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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 17, 2014

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging Congress to enact the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act, S. 2013, H.R. 4031 or similar legislation

Resolution No. R-565-14

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Vice Chair Lynda Bell.

R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: June 17, 2014

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SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)

Please note any items checked.

_____ **"3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised**

_____ **6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing**

_____ **4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing**

_____ **Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget**

_____ **Budget required**

_____ **Statement of fiscal impact required**

_____ **Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing**

✓ **No committee review**

_____ **Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous _____) to approve**

_____ **Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required**

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(3)
6-17-14

RESOLUTION NO. R-565-14

RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, S. 2013, H.R. 4031 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, Veterans of the Armed Forces have served and sacrificed for our country; and

WHEREAS, whenever our Armed Services have been called upon to send forces into harm's way, they have always proudly answered the call; and

WHEREAS, the people of this country owe a great debt to the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, all levels of government in our Country have recognized the obligation to support our Veterans; and

WHEREAS, this Board and the people of Miami-Dade County proudly support our Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the millions of Veterans who rely upon the U.S. Department Veterans Affairs for healthcare and other services deserve the best and most accountable senior leaders; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has been faced with systematic problems surrounding Veterans' access to healthcare, including deliberate efforts to conceal long wait times to access critical healthcare services; and

WHEREAS, Veterans should not have to wait to receive the health care services that they deserve; and

WHEREAS, Senator Marco Rubio (R – Florida) has filed S. 2013 and Representative Jeff Miller (R – Florida) has filed H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act would amend federal law to give the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs greater authority to terminate employees due to poor performance and would require the Secretary to notify the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees within thirty days of terminating an employee; and

WHEREAS, both S. 2013 and H.R. 4031 have significant support with 52 Senators and 151 House members signing on as cosponsors, respectively; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act has strong support from veterans groups, including the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), the American Veterans (AMVETS), the American Legion, the Concerned Veterans for America and the Reserve Officers Association; and

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2014, H.R. 4031 passed the House by a vote of 390-33; and

WHEREAS, this Board supports S. 2013, H.R. 4031 or similar legislation, and would urge Congress to pass this important legislation ,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges Congress to enact the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act, S. 2013, H.R. 4031 or similar legislation.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to Senator Marco Rubio, Representative Jeff Miller and the remaining members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the passage of the legislation and action set forth in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2014 Federal Legislative Package to include this item and to include this item in the 2015 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Vice Chair Lynda Bell. It was offered by Commissioner **Dennis C. Moss**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman			**aye**
Lynda Bell, Vice Chair			**aye**
Bruno A. Barreiro	**aye**	Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	**aye**
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	**aye**	Audrey M. Edmonson	**absent**
Sally A. Heyman	**aye**	Barbara J. Jordan	**aye**
Jean Monestime	**absent**	Dennis C. Moss	**aye**
Sen. Javier D. Souto	**absent**	Xavier L. Suarez	**aye**
Juan C. Zapata	**absent**		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 17th day of June, 2014. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: Christopher Agrippa
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency. JMM FOR

Christopher C. Kokoruda