

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

TO: Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

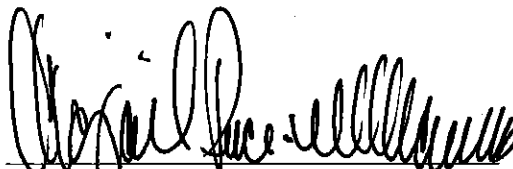
DATE: February 21, 2018

FROM: Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the United States Congress to pass S. 150, H.R. 506, or similar legislation designed to prevent fraudulent crimes committed against veterans

Resolution No. R-174-18

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz.



Abigail Price-Williams
County Attorney

APW/cp

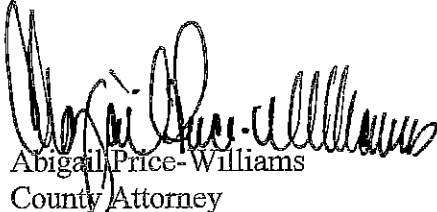


MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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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
- ☐ Statement of social equity 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)(4)
2-21-18

RESOLUTION NO. R-174-18

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
TO PASS S. 150, H.R. 506, OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION
DESIGNED TO PREVENT FRAUDULENT CRIMES
COMMITTED AGAINST VETERANS

WHEREAS, in January 2017, United States Senator Marco Rubio (R – Florida) and United States Representative Thomas J. Rooney (R – Florida) introduced S. 150 and H.R. 506, respectively, bills entitled Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act of 2017, for consideration during the 115th Congress; and

WHEREAS, these bills would criminalize and penalize any entity who knowingly engages in any scheme to defraud an individual of veteran's benefits or in connection with obtaining veteran's benefits for that individual; and

WHEREAS, this legislation seeks to penalize private organizations that defend veterans by charging them fees to expedite services at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

WHEREAS, while it is illegal for anyone who is not an approved agent or attorney to charge a fee for assisting a veteran in filing a claim or appeal with the VA, there is currently no criminal or financial penalty for doing so; and

WHEREAS, Florida has one of the highest concentrations of veterans in the country; and

WHEREAS, this Board is supportive of measures designed to assist and protect veterans who dedicated their lives to serving our country,

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

Section 1. Urges the United States Congress to pass S. 150, H.R. 506, or similar legislation designed to prevent fraudulent crimes committed against veterans.

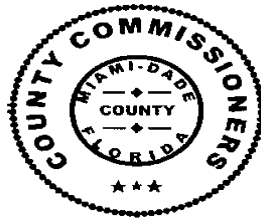
Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to United States Senator Marco Rubio, United States Representative Thomas J. Rooney, and the remaining members of the Florida Congressional Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the legislative action described in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2018 Federal Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz. It was offered by Commissioner **José "Pepe" Diaz**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Chairman	aye
	Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman	aye
Bruno A. Barreiro	absent	Daniella Levine Cava aye
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	aye	Sally A. Heyman aye
Barbara J. Jordan	aye	Joe A. Martinez absent
Jean Monestime	aye	Dennis C. Moss aye
Rebeca Sosa	aye	Sen. Javier D. Souto absent
Xavier L. Suarez	aye	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 21st day of February, 2018. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the 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.

Javier Zapata