1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to alternative treatment options for 3 veterans; creating s. 295.156, F.S.; providing definitions; authorizing the Department of Veterans' 4 5 Affairs to contract with certain individuals and 6 entities to provide alternative treatment options for 7 certain veterans; requiring direction and supervision 8 by certain licensed providers; authorizing the 9 department to adopt rules; providing an effective 10 date. 11 12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 13 14 Section 1. Section 295.156, Florida Statutes, is created to read: 15 16 295.156 Alternative treatment options for veterans.-17 As used in this section, the term: 18 "Accelerated resolution therapy" means a process that (a) 19 replaces negative images and sensations with positive ones, uses 20 specific eye movements in conjunction with controlled 21 verbalization about details of the prior traumatic experience, 22 and uses metaphors and other interventions to assist the patient 23 in recalling less distressing images while retaining the facts 24 of the original experience.

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"Acupuncture" has the same meaning as provided in s.

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(b)

26 457.102.

- (c) "Acupuncturist" has the same meaning as provided in s. 457.102.
- (d) "Alternative treatment" means a treatment that is not part of the standard of medical care established by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for treating traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder but has been shown by at least one scientific or medical peer-reviewed study to have some positive effect for the treatment of traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder.
- (e) "Equine therapy" means the use of interaction with horses under the supervision of a trained equine instructor to improve the patient's sense of trust and self-efficiency, increase communication, socialization, and emotional management skills, and decrease isolation.
- (f) "Hyperbaric oxygen therapy" means the use of 100percent oxygen at an increased level of atmospheric pressure to
  promote the delivery of oxygen from the environment to the
  patient's bloodstream, organs, and tissues.
- (g) "Meditation therapy" means the use of physical positions or relaxation techniques to encourage calm, reflective thinking and self-inquiry.
- (h) "Music therapy" means the use of music listening or performance to address the patient's physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs and to facilitate communication and

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expression.

- (i) "Outdoor and indoor sports therapy" means the use of sports involving physical activity or action to improve the patient's functional, occupational, and physical fitness. The term does not include any physical activity or action that may result in contact with the patient's head.
- (j) "Service animal training therapy" means a technique that allows the patient to work directly with an animal trainer to train animals as therapy or service animals.
- (k) "Yoga therapy" means the use of physical postures, breathing techniques, and meditation or relaxation for the purpose of reducing the patient's physical, mental, or emotional stress.
- (2) Subject to legislative appropriation, the Department of Veterans' Affairs may contract with one or more individuals, corporations not for profit, state universities, or Florida

  College System institutions to provide the following alternative treatment options for veterans who have been certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the United States Armed Forces as having a traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder:
  - (a) Accelerated resolution therapy.
- (b) Acupuncture, which must be provided by an acupuncturist.
  - (c) Equine therapy.

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76	(d) Hyperbaric oxygen therapy, which must be provided by a
77	licensed operator of a hyperbaric oxygen facility pursuant to a
78	written prescription from an individual licensed under chapter
79	458 or chapter 459.
30	(e) Meditation therapy.
31	(f) Music therapy.
32	(g) Outdoor and indoor sports therapy.
33	(h) Service animal training therapy.
34	(i) Yoga therapy.
35	(3) The provision of alternative treatment must be under
36	the direction and supervision of an individual licensed under
37	chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter 490, or chapter
88	<u>491.</u>
39	(4) The Department of Veterans' Affairs may adopt rules to
90	implement this section.
91	Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

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