

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Alternative Treatment Options
3 for Veterans Pilot Program; creating s. 295.156, F.S.;
4 creating the pilot program within the Department of
5 Veterans' Affairs; requiring the department to
6 contract with individuals and entities to provide
7 alternative treatment options for certain veterans;
8 defining the term "alternative treatment"; requiring
9 alternative treatment to be provided under the
10 direction and supervision of certain licensed
11 individuals; requiring annual reports to the
12 department, the Governor, and the Legislature;
13 providing for expiration of the pilot program;
14 providing an effective date.

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16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18 Section 1. Section 295.156, Florida Statutes, is created
19 to read:

20 295.156 Alternative Treatment Options for Veterans Pilot
21 Program.—

22 (1) The Alternative Treatment Options for Veterans Pilot
23 Program is created within the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

24 (2) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall contract
25 with one or more individuals, corporations not for profit, state

26 universities, or Florida College System institutions for a
27 period of 2 years to provide alternative treatment options for
28 veterans who have been certified by the United States Department
29 of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the United States Armed
30 Forces as having a traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic
31 stress disorder. For purposes of this section, the term
32 "alternative treatment" means a therapeutic service that is not
33 part of the standard of medical care established by the United
34 States Department of Veterans Affairs for treating traumatic
35 brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder but has been shown
36 by at least one scientific or medical peer-reviewed study to
37 have some positive effect on traumatic brain injury or
38 posttraumatic stress disorder.

39 (3) Alternative treatment under the pilot program must be
40 provided under the direction and supervision of an individual
41 licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter
42 464, chapter 490, or chapter 491.

43 (4) By January 1 of each year, each contracted individual
44 or entity shall report to the department each alternative
45 treatment provided under the pilot program, the number of
46 veterans served, and the treatment outcomes. The department
47 shall report such information to the Governor, the President of
48 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
49 March 1 of each year.

50 (5) This section expires June 30, 2020.

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51 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018. |