A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the Florida Veterans Care program;
creating s. 292.17, F.S.; creating the program within
the Department of Veterans’ Affairs; specifying the
purpose of the program; authorizing the department,
the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the
Department of Children and Families to jointly
negotiate with federal agencies in order to seek
federal funding for the program; providing that
eligible participants may enroll in the program;
prohibiting the use of state funds to support the
program; providing that the act does not affect a
person’s eligibility for the state Medicaid program;
prohibiting the department from implementing the
program without legislative approval; providing an
effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 292.17, Florida Statutes, is created to
read:

292.17 Florida Veterans Care program created; purpose and
authorization.—The Florida Veterans Care program is created
within the Department of Veterans’ Affairs. The purpose of the
program is to leverage the expertise, structure, or operations
of existing state programs to provide Florida veterans and their
families with access to quality alternatives to the federal
veterans’ health care system. The department, the Agency for
Health Care Administration, and the Department of Children and
Families are authorized to jointly negotiate with the applicable federal agencies to seek approval for a waiver, a state plan amendment, or other federal authorization for federal funding for the Florida Veterans Care program. The Florida Veterans Care program may include medical, behavioral health, or long-term care services, as negotiated. Participants deemed eligible by the federal Veterans Health Administration or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs may voluntarily enroll in any of the programs of the Florida Veterans Care program based on their eligibility. State funds may not be used to provide medical, behavioral health, or long-term care services under the program or to administer the program. This section does not affect a person’s eligibility for services under the state Medicaid program. Notwithstanding s. 292.05(7), the department may not implement this section without prior legislative approval.

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