

HOUSE BILL NO. 2581

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SAULS.

5562H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 42, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to alternative treatment options for veterans.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 42, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 42.018, to read as follows:

42.018. 1. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Posttraumatic stress disorder", a mental health disorder that is developed after having experienced or witnessed a life-threatening event including, but not limited to, military sexual trauma;

(2) "Traumatic brain injury", an acquired injury to the brain. "Traumatic brain injury" does not include brain dysfunction caused by congenital or degenerative disorders or birth trauma.

2. The veterans commission may contract with public institutions of higher education in this state to furnish 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. The institution of higher education shall manage, monitor, and ensure the compliance of contracted providers who provide any of the following alternative treatment options:

(1) Accelerated resolution therapy;

(2) Equine therapy;

(3) Hyperbaric oxygen therapy, which shall be provided at a registered hyperbaric oxygen facility;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 (4) Music therapy; or

19 (5) Service animal training therapy.

20 3. A veteran qualifies to receive alternative treatment under this section if he or
21 she:

22 (1) Has been diagnosed by a health care practitioner with service-connected
23 posttraumatic stress disorder or a service-connected traumatic brain injury;

24 (2) Voluntarily agrees to such alternative treatment; and

25 (3) Can demonstrate that he or she has previously sought services for posttraumatic
26 stress disorder or a traumatic brain injury through the federal Veterans Affairs service
27 delivery system or through private health insurance, if such coverage is available to him
28 or her.

29 4. (1) The provision of alternative treatment shall be under the direction and
30 supervision of an individual licensed under chapter 331, 334, 335, or 337.

31 (2) The supervising licensed provider shall agree to cooperate with the veterans
32 commission to provide data sufficient to assess the efficacy of alternative treatment
33 modalities.

34 5. No later than January first of each year, beginning in 2021, the veterans
35 commission shall prepare a report detailing each alternative treatment provided under this
36 section, the provider type, the number of veterans served, and the treatment outcomes and
37 shall submit the report to the governor, the president pro tempore of the senate, and the
38 speaker of the house of representatives.

39 6. The department of public safety may promulgate all necessary rules and
40 regulations for the implementation of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that
41 term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this
42 section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions
43 of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are
44 nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to
45 chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are
46 subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule
47 proposed or adopted after August 28, 2020, shall be invalid and void.

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