

HB 2581 -- VETERANS COMMISSION

SPONSOR: Sauls

This bill allows the Veterans Commission to contract with public institutions of higher education in this state to furnish alternative treatment options, as defined in the bill, 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 veteran qualifies to receive alternative treatment under this bill if he or she has been diagnosed by a health care practitioner with service-connected posttraumatic stress disorder or a service-connected traumatic brain injury, voluntarily agrees to such alternative treatment, and can demonstrate that he or she has previously sought services for posttraumatic stress disorder or a traumatic brain injury through the federal Veterans Affairs service delivery system or through private health insurance, if such coverage is available to him or her.

The alternative treatment will be under the direction and supervision of an individual licensed under Chapters 331, 334, 335, or 337, RSMo, and the supervising licensed provider must agree to cooperate with the Veterans Commission to provide data sufficient to assess the efficacy of alternative treatment modalities.

No later than January 1st of each year, beginning 2021, the Veterans Commission will prepare a report detailing each alternative treatment provided under this bill, the provider type, the number of veterans served, and the treatment outcomes and will submit the report to the Governor, the President Pro Tem of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.