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CHAMBER ACTION

<u>Senate</u>	.	<u>House</u>
Comm: FAV	.	
4/8/2008	.	
	.	
	.	

1 The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs (Rich)
 2 recommended the following **amendment**:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

5 Delete everything after the enacting clause
6 and insert:

7 Section 1. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (2) of
8 section 14.2019, Florida Statutes, to read:

9 14.2019 Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.--

10 (2) The statewide office shall, within available resources:

11 (e) Establish a Veterans' Suicide Prevention and Mental
12 Health Services Project as provided in s. 14.20193.

13 Section 2. Section 14.20193, Florida Statutes, is created
14 to read:

15 14.20193 Veterans' Suicide Prevention and Mental Health
16 Services Project.--

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17 (1) The statewide office shall, within available resources,
18 establish the Veterans' Suicide Prevention and Mental Health
19 Services Project to:

20 (a) Coordinate suicide prevention and mental health and
21 substance abuse services and resources for veterans and their
22 families which are currently provided by or available through the
23 Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Department of Military
24 Affairs, and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

25 (b) Promote awareness of the network of behavioral health
26 service providers that provide community-based suicide prevention
27 and mental health and substance abuse services for veterans and
28 their families.

29 (c) Increase public awareness about the risk of suicide and
30 mental illness among veterans and the mental health and substance
31 abuse services that are available to veterans.

32 (d) Generate guidelines and standards for behavioral
33 service providers serving veterans at risk for suicide and mental
34 illness and develop a list of community behavioral health service
35 providers who meet those standards.

36 (e) Enhance mental health care services for veterans and
37 their families in areas where veterans are underserved by
38 existing services.

39 (f) Develop a standard operating procedure for identifying
40 tier levels of support for veterans.

41 (2) Guidelines and standards for community behavioral
42 health services providers participating in this project shall, at
43 a minimum:

44 (a) Be a nonprofit organization under s. 501(c)(3) of the
45 Internal Revenue Code, be community-based, and have at least 5



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46 years of experience providing behavioral health treatment
47 services in the community.

48 (b) Have experience providing suicide prevention and mental
49 health services outreach to the community and to the veteran
50 population.

51 (c) Commit to linking efforts between the veteran
52 population, community-based veterans services organizations, the
53 federal Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of
54 Veterans' Affairs, the Department of Military Affairs, and other
55 entities that serve and are familiar with the culture and needs
56 of veterans.

57 (d) Show accreditation by a state-recognized accrediting
58 organization, such as the Commission on Accreditation of
59 Rehabilitation Facilities, the Joint Commission on the
60 Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, or the Council on
61 Accreditation, particularly with respect to the service
62 components that serve veterans at risk for suicide and mental
63 illness.

64 (e) Show the professional qualifications of the provider's
65 staff who meet the needs of veterans at risk for suicide and
66 mental illness.

67 (f) Provide evidence that the provider's resources,
68 including facilities, equipment, and client capacity, are
69 adequate and provided in a location that is amenable to the
70 veteran population, including veterans with disabilities.

71 (g) Ensure the privacy and confidentiality of client
72 records, data collected, interview information, and transcripts
73 of group discussions, including how confidential information will
74 be stored and safeguarded and who will have access to the
75 information.



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76 (h) Ensure the ability to collect, document, and report
77 data on performance measures and how the data will be used to
78 manage the program and ensure continuous quality improvement.

79 Section 3. The sum of \$700,000 in nonrecurring funds is
80 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Statewide
81 Office for Suicide Prevention for the 2008-2009 fiscal year for
82 the purpose of funding the Veterans' Suicide Prevention and
83 Mental Health Services Project created by this act. The Executive
84 Office of the Governor may provide at least one additional full-
85 time equivalent position within the Statewide Office of Suicide
86 Prevention to coordinate this project at the state level.

87 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.

88
89 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

90 And the title is amended as follows:

91 Delete everything before the enacting clause
92 and insert:

93 A bill to be entitled
94 An act relating to veteran services; amending s. 14.2019,
95 F.S.; requiring the Statewide Office for Suicide
96 Prevention to establish a Veterans' Suicide Prevention and
97 Mental Health Services Project; creating s. 14.20193,
98 F.S.; establishing the project; specifying the tasks for
99 the office in implementing the project; providing for the
100 office, within available resources, to coordinate suicide
101 prevention, mental health and substance abuse services,
102 and resources for veterans and their families which are
103 currently provided by or available through the Department
104 of Veterans' Affairs, the Department of Military Affairs,
105 and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

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106 providing that a pilot project be conducted in an area
107 where veterans are underserved in order to enhance
108 behavioral health care services for veterans and their
109 families; providing minimum standards for community-based
110 providers that provide services to veterans at risk for
111 suicide and mental illness; providing an appropriation and
112 authorizing an additional position; providing an effective
113 date.