

By Senator Garcia

36-00682-18

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Florida Veterans Care program;
3 creating s. 292.17, F.S.; creating the program within
4 the Agency for Health Care Administration; specifying
5 the purpose of the program; authorizing the agency, in
6 consultation with the Department of Veterans' Affairs,
7 to negotiate with federal agencies in order to seek
8 federal funding for the program; providing that
9 eligible participants may enroll in the program to
10 receive certain benefits; prohibiting the use of state
11 funds to support the program; providing that the act
12 does not affect a person's eligibility for the state
13 Medicaid program; prohibiting the agency and the
14 department from implementing the program without
15 legislative approval; providing an effective date.
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17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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19 Section 1. Section 292.17, Florida Statutes, is created to
20 read:

21 292.17 Florida Veterans Care program created; purpose and
22 authorization.—The Florida Veterans Care program is created
23 within the Agency for Health Care Administration. The purpose of
24 the program is to leverage the structure and operations of the
25 Medicaid managed care program established under part IV of
26 chapter 409 to provide Florida veterans and their families with
27 access to a quality alternative to the federal veterans' health
28 care system. The agency, in consultation with the Department of
29 Veterans' Affairs, is authorized to negotiate with applicable

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30 federal agencies and to seek approval for a waiver, a state plan
31 amendment, or other federal authorization for federal funding
32 for the Florida Veterans Care program. Participants deemed
33 eligible by the federal Veterans Health Administration or the
34 United States Department of Veterans Affairs may voluntarily
35 enroll in the Florida Veterans Care program to receive all
36 necessary managed medical and long-term care services that meet
37 or exceed the authorized benefits provided under ss. 409.973 and
38 409.98, respectively, including home and community-based
39 services, from plans selected through the competitive bid
40 process described under part IV of chapter 409. State funds may
41 not be used to provide medical or long-term care services under
42 the program or to administer the program. This section does not
43 affect a person's eligibility for services under the state
44 Medicaid program. Notwithstanding s. 292.05(7), the agency and
45 the department may not implement this section without prior
46 legislative approval.

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