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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 Department of Veterans' Affairs; specifying the  
5           purpose of the program; authorizing the department,  
6           the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the  
7           Department of Children and Families to jointly  
8           negotiate with federal agencies in order to seek  
9           federal funding for the program; providing that  
10          eligible participants may enroll in the program;  
11          prohibiting the use of state funds to support the  
12          program; providing that the act does not affect a  
13          person's eligibility for the state Medicaid program;  
14          prohibiting the department from implementing the  
15          program without legislative approval; providing an  
16          effective date.

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

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

22           292.17 Florida Veterans Care program created; purpose and  
23           authorization.—The Florida Veterans Care program is created  
24           within the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The purpose of the  
25           program is to leverage the expertise, structure, or operations  
26           of existing state programs to provide Florida veterans and their  
27           families with access to quality alternatives to the federal  
28           veterans' health care system. The department, the Agency for  
29           Health Care Administration, and the Department of Children and

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30 Families are authorized to jointly negotiate with the applicable  
31 federal agencies to seek approval for a waiver, a state plan  
32 amendment, or other federal authorization for federal funding  
33 for the Florida Veterans Care program. The Florida Veterans Care  
34 program may include medical, behavioral health, or long-term  
35 care services, as negotiated. Participants deemed eligible by  
36 the federal Veterans Health Administration or the United States  
37 Department of Veterans Affairs may voluntarily enroll in any of  
38 the programs of the Florida Veterans Care program based on their  
39 eligibility. State funds may not be used to provide medical,  
40 behavioral health, or long-term care services under the program  
41 or to administer the program. This section does not affect a  
42 person's eligibility for services under the state Medicaid  
43 program. Notwithstanding s. 292.05(7), the department may not  
44 implement this section without prior legislative approval.

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