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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/10/2019	.	
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Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
(Wright) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause
and insert:

Section 1. Section 295.156, Florida Statutes, is created to
read:

295.156 Alternative treatment options for veterans.-

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Posttraumatic stress disorder" means a mental health
disorder that is developed after having experienced or witnessed



11 a life-threatening event, including but not limited to, military
12 sexual trauma.

13 (b) "Traumatic brain injury" means an acquired injury to
14 the brain. This term does not include brain dysfunction caused
15 by congenital or degenerative disorders or by birth trauma.

16 (2) Subject to legislative appropriation, the Department of
17 Veterans' Affairs may contract with a state university or
18 Florida College System institution to furnish alternative
19 treatment options for veterans who have been certified by the
20 United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any branch of
21 the United States Armed Forces as having a traumatic brain
22 injury or posttraumatic stress disorder. The university or
23 institution shall manage, monitor, and ensure the compliance of
24 contracted providers who provide any of the following
25 alternative treatment options:

26 (a) Accelerated resolution therapy.

27 (b) Equine therapy.

28 (c) Hyperbaric oxygen therapy, which must be provided at a
29 registered hyperbaric oxygen facility.

30 (d) Music therapy.

31 (e) Service animal training therapy.

32 (3) A veteran qualifies to receive alternative treatment
33 under this section if he or she:

34 (a) Has been diagnosed by a health care practitioner with
35 service-connected posttraumatic stress disorder or a traumatic
36 brain injury;

37 (b) Voluntarily agrees to such alternative treatment; and

38 (c) Can demonstrate that he or she has previously sought
39 services for a posttraumatic stress disorder or a traumatic



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40 brain injury through the federal Veterans Affairs service
41 delivery system or through private health insurance, if such
42 coverage is available to the veteran.

43 (4) (a) The provision of alternative treatment must be under
44 the direction and supervision of an individual licensed under
45 chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter 464, chapter 490,
46 or chapter 491.

47 (b) The supervising licensed provider must agree to
48 cooperate with the Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide
49 data sufficient to assess the efficacy of alternative treatment
50 modalities.

51 (5) By January 1 of each year, beginning in 2020, the
52 Department of Veterans' Affairs shall prepare a report detailing
53 each alternative treatment provided pursuant to this section,
54 the provider type, the number of veterans served, and the
55 treatment outcomes. The department shall submit the report to
56 the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
57 the House of Representatives.

58 (6) The Department of Veterans' Affairs may adopt rules to
59 implement this section.

60 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

61
62 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

63 And the title is amended as follows:

64 Delete everything before the enacting clause
65 and insert:

66 A bill to be entitled
67 An act relating to alternative treatment options for
68 veterans; creating s. 295.156, F.S.; providing



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69 definitions; authorizing the Department of Veterans'
70 Affairs, subject to appropriation, to contract with a
71 state university or Florida College System institution
72 to furnish specified alternative treatment options for
73 certain veterans; providing requirements as to the
74 provision of alternative treatment options and related
75 assessment data; specifying eligibility to receive
76 alternative treatment; requiring direction and
77 supervision by certain licensed providers; requiring
78 the department to annually prepare a report for
79 submission to the Governor and Legislature;
80 authorizing the department to adopt rules; providing
81 an effective date.