

Amendment No. 1

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

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

27 (a) Accelerated resolution therapy.

28 (b) Equine therapy.

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

31 (d) Music therapy.

32 (e) Service animal training therapy.

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

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

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

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39 (c) Can demonstrate that he or she has previously sought
40 services for a posttraumatic stress disorder or a traumatic
41 brain injury through the federal Veterans Affairs service
42 delivery system or through private health insurance, if such
43 coverage is available to the veteran.

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

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

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

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

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

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T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

64
65 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:
66 An act relating to alternative treatment options for veterans;
67 creating s. 295.156, F.S.; providing definitions; specifying
68 eligibility to receive alternative treatment; authorizing the
69 Department of Veterans' Affairs to contract with a state
70 university or Florida College System institution to furnish
71 specified alternative treatment options for certain veterans;
72 providing requirements as to the provision of alternative
73 treatment options and related assessment data; requiring
74 direction and supervision by certain licensed providers;
75 requiring the department to annually prepare a report for
76 submission to the Governor and Legislature; authorizing the
77 department to adopt rules; providing an effective date.