

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to alternative treatment options for
 3 veterans; creating s. 295.156, F.S.; providing
 4 definitions; authorizing the Department of Veterans'
 5 Affairs to contract with a state university or Florida
 6 College System institution to furnish specified
 7 alternative treatment options for certain veterans;
 8 providing university or institution responsibilities
 9 and requirements; requiring direction and supervision
 10 by certain licensed providers; authorizing the
 11 department to adopt rules; providing an effective
 12 date.

13
 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15
 16 Section 1. Section 295.156, Florida Statutes, is created
 17 to read:

18 295.156 Alternative treatment options for veterans.-

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

20 (a) "Accelerated resolution therapy" means a process that
 21 replaces negative images and sensations with positive ones, uses
 22 specific eye movements in conjunction with controlled
 23 verbalization about details of the prior traumatic experience,
 24 and uses metaphors and other interventions to assist the patient
 25 in recalling less distressing images while retaining the facts

26 | of the original experience.

27 | (b) "Alternative treatment" means a treatment that is not
28 | part of the standard of medical care established by the United
29 | States Department of Veterans Affairs for treating traumatic
30 | brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder but has been shown
31 | by at least one scientific or medical peer-reviewed study to
32 | have some positive effect for the treatment of traumatic brain
33 | injury or posttraumatic stress disorder.

34 | (c) "Equine therapy" means the use of interaction with
35 | horses under the supervision of a trained equine instructor to
36 | improve the patient's sense of trust and self-efficiency,
37 | increase communication, socialization, and emotional management
38 | skills, and decrease isolation.

39 | (d) "Music therapy" means the use of music listening or
40 | performance to address the patient's physical, emotional,
41 | cognitive, and social needs and to facilitate communication and
42 | expression.

43 | (e) "Service animal training therapy" means a technique
44 | that allows the patient to work directly with an animal trainer
45 | to train animals as therapy or service animals.

46 | (2) The Department of Veterans' Affairs may contract with
47 | a state university or Florida College System institution to
48 | furnish alternative treatment options for veterans who have been
49 | certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or
50 | any branch of the United States Armed Forces as having a

51 traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder. The
52 university or institution shall be responsible for the
53 procurement of providers and the management, monitoring, and
54 compliance of any contracted providers. The university or
55 institution shall provide or contract for provision of the
56 following alternative treatment options for veterans:

57 (a) Accelerated resolution therapy.

58 (b) Equine therapy.

59 (c) Music therapy.

60 (d) Service animal training therapy.

61 (3) The provision of alternative treatment must be under
62 the direction and supervision of an individual licensed under
63 chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter 490, or chapter
64 491.

65 (4) The Department of Veterans' Affairs may adopt rules to
66 implement this section.

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