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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: WD	.	
02/25/2020	.	
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Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice
(Brandes) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment

Delete lines 63 - 121

and insert:

2. A current or former member of any state National Guard;

3. A current or former contractor for the United States

Department of Defense; or

4. A current or former military member of a foreign allied
country.

(d) "Veteran" means a person who has served in the



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11 military.

12 (e) "Veterans treatment court" means a specialized docket
13 administered by a court for veterans and servicemembers as set
14 forth in this section.

15 (3) AUTHORIZATION.—The chief judge of each judicial circuit
16 may establish a veterans treatment court.

17 (4) ADMISSION.—A defendant who meets the eligibility
18 requirements under subsection (8) may be admitted to a veterans
19 treatment court at any stage of a criminal proceeding. A
20 defendant seeking to participate in a veterans treatment court
21 must submit an application to the court. The court must review
22 each application and determine whether the defendant meets the
23 eligibility requirements in subsection (8).

24 (5) RECORD OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—A veterans treatment
25 court shall create a record of the policies and procedures
26 adopted to implement subsections (6) and (7).

27 (6) KEY COMPONENTS OF A VETERANS TREATMENT COURT.—

28 (a) A veterans treatment court shall adopt policies and
29 procedures to implement the following key components, including:

30 1. Integrating substance abuse and mental health treatment
31 services and any other related treatment and rehabilitation
32 services with justice system case processing;

33 2. Using a nonadversarial approach in which the state
34 attorney and defense counsel promote public safety while
35 protecting the due process rights of the defendant;

36 3. Providing early identification of eligible defendants;

37 4. Monitoring defendants for abstinence from alcohol and
38 drugs by frequent testing;

39 5. Providing ongoing judicial interaction with each



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40 defendant;

41 6. Monitoring and evaluating the achievement of each
42 defendant's program goals; and

43 7. Forging partnerships among the veterans treatment
44 courts, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the
45 Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, public agencies, and
46 community-based organizations to generate local support and
47 enhance the effectiveness of the veterans treatment court.

48 (b) In adopting policies and procedures under this section,
49 the court shall consult nationally recognized best practices
50 related to the key components of veterans treatment courts.

51 (7) SUPPLEMENTAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF VETERANS
52 TREATMENT COURTS.—A veterans treatment court may adopt
53 supplemental policies and procedures to:

54 (a) Refer a defendant with a medical need to an appropriate
55 health care provider or refer a defendant for other appropriate
56 assistance, including assistance with housing, employment,
57 nutrition, mentoring, and education.

58 (b) Otherwise encourage participation in the veterans
59 treatment court.

60 (8) ELIGIBILITY.—

61 (a) A defendant may participate in a veterans treatment
62 court if:

63 1. The defendant has a mental health