

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to veteran suicide prevention  
3           training; creating s. 394.9088, F.S.; requiring the  
4           Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish the pilot  
5           program; providing the purpose of the pilot program;  
6           requiring pilot program participants to receive  
7           certain training; requiring the department to contract  
8           with a certain organization to develop the curriculum  
9           for such training; requiring the department to oversee  
10          the process for administering training and certifying  
11          participants; requiring the department to adopt rules;  
12          requiring an annual report to the Legislature;  
13          providing an appropriation; providing an effective  
14          date.

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

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18           Section 1. Section 394.9088, Florida Statutes, is created  
19 to read:

20           394.9088 Veteran Suicide Prevention Training Pilot  
21 Program.—

22           (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall establish  
23 the Veteran Suicide Prevention Training Pilot Program. The  
24 purpose of the pilot program is to offer to each department  
25 claims examiner and to each county and city veteran service

26 officer, as described in s. 292.11, specialized training and  
27 certification in the prevention of veteran suicide.

28 (2) Persons who choose to participate in the pilot program  
29 must be trained to identify indicators of elevated suicide risk  
30 and provide emergency crisis referral for veterans who are  
31 expressing or exhibiting symptoms of emotional or psychological  
32 distress. The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall contract  
33 with an organization with proven experience in developing and  
34 implementing veteran-relevant, evidence-based suicide prevention  
35 training to develop the curriculum for training under the pilot  
36 program. The department shall establish and oversee the process  
37 for administering such training and certifying those  
38 participants who successfully complete such training.

39 (3) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall adopt rules  
40 necessary to implement the pilot program.

41 (4) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall submit a  
42 report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the  
43 House of Representatives by June 30 of each year which includes  
44 information concerning the pilot program and whether any changes  
45 should be made to the pilot program which would increase its  
46 effectiveness. In its report submitted by June 30, 2026, the  
47 department shall include a recommendation of whether the pilot  
48 program should be continued.

49 Section 2. The sum of \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds is  
50 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of

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51 | Veterans' Affairs for the purpose of implementing this act.

52 |       Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.