

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to veteran suicide prevention
3 training; creating s. 292.115, F.S.; requiring the
4 Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish the
5 Veteran Suicide Prevention Training Pilot Program;
6 providing the purpose of the pilot program; requiring
7 pilot program participants to receive certain
8 training; requiring the department to contract with a
9 certain organization to develop the curriculum for
10 such training; requiring the department to oversee the
11 process for administering training and certifying
12 participants; authorizing the department to adopt
13 rules; requiring an annual report to the Legislature;
14 providing an appropriation; providing an effective
15 date.

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

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19 Section 1. Section 292.115, Florida Statutes, is created
20 to read:

21 292.115 Veteran Suicide Prevention Training Pilot
22 Program.—

23 (1) The department shall establish the Veteran Suicide
24 Prevention Training Pilot Program. The purpose of the pilot
25 program is to offer to each department claims examiner and to

26 each county and city veteran service officer specialized
27 training and 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 shall contract with an organization
33 with proven experience in developing and implementing veteran-
34 relevant, evidence-based suicide prevention training to develop
35 the curriculum for training under the pilot program. The
36 department shall establish and oversee the process for
37 administering such training and certifying those participants
38 who successfully complete such training.

39 (3) Pursuant to its rulemaking authority under s.
40 292.05(3), the department may adopt rules necessary to implement
41 the pilot program.

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

50 Section 2. The sum of \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds is

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2022

51 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of
52 Veterans' Affairs for the purpose of implementing this act.

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