

20221712e1

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

21 292.115 Veteran Suicide Prevention Training Pilot Program.-

22 (1) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall establish the
23 Veteran Suicide Prevention Training Pilot Program. The purpose
24 of the pilot program is to offer to each Department of Veterans'
25 Affairs claims examiner and 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) Individuals electing to participate in the pilot
29 program must be trained to identify indicators of elevated

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30 suicide risk and provide emergency crisis referrals for veterans
31 expressing or exhibiting symptoms of emotional or psychological
32 distress. The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall contract
33 with an organization having proven experience developing and
34 implementing veteran-relevant and evidence-based suicide
35 prevention training to develop the curriculum for such training.
36 The department shall establish and oversee the process for
37 certifying program participants who successfully complete such
38 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
51 Veterans' Affairs for the purpose of implementing this act.

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