

By Senator Torres

15-00723-22

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1 A bill to be entitled  
 2 An act relating to the Military Medics and Corpsmen of  
 3 Florida program; creating s. 295.126, F.S.; defining  
 4 terms; requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs  
 5 and the Department of Health to establish and  
 6 administer the program; providing program purposes;  
 7 providing for eligibility; providing program  
 8 components; authorizing medically trained veterans  
 9 participating in the program to perform certain  
 10 medical activities under specified supervision;  
 11 providing an effective date.

12  
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14  
 15 Section 1. Section 295.126, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 16 read:

17 295.126 Military Medics and Corpsmen of Florida (MMACOF)  
 18 program.—

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

20 (a) "Medically trained veteran" means a person who has  
 21 served within the preceding 12 months as a medic in the United  
 22 States Army, a medical technician in the United States Air  
 23 Force, or a hospital corpsman in the United States Navy or the  
 24 United States Coast Guard, who was discharged or separated from  
 25 service under conditions other than dishonorable, and who has  
 26 performed more than 50 percent of the required scope of specific  
 27 health care practice skills established pursuant to subsection

28 (3).

29 (b) "Participating health care provider" means:

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- 30       1. A physician licensed under chapter 458;  
31       2. An osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 459;  
32       3. A professional corporation or partnership of a licensed  
33 physician or osteopathic physician;  
34       4. A hospital;  
35       5. A commercial enterprise having medical facilities for  
36 its employees which are supervised by one or more licensed  
37 physicians or osteopathic physicians; or  
38       6. A facility that offers medical services to the public  
39 and that is supervised by one or more licensed physicians or  
40 osteopathic physicians.

41       (c) "Veteran" means a veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14) or  
42 a former member of the Florida National Guard.

43       (2) PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.—The Department of  
44 Veterans' Affairs, in collaboration with the Department of  
45 Health, shall establish and administer the Military Medics and  
46 Corpsmen of Florida (MMACOF) program. The purpose of the program  
47 is to offer clinical, leadership, and nonclinical career  
48 pathways to veterans seeking health care careers within this  
49 state. The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall recruit and  
50 review the eligibility of veterans according to the requirements  
51 established pursuant to subsection (3). In collaboration with  
52 local, state, and federal government nonprofit health care  
53 associations and state health care systems, the Department of  
54 Veterans' Affairs shall refer eligible veterans to participating  
55 health care providers throughout this state in order to gain  
56 employment, maintain medical skills, address the shortage of  
57 health care professionals in this state, and work toward  
58 obtaining appropriate health care registration, certification,

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59 or licensure.

60 (3) ELIGIBILITY.—The Department of Veterans' Affairs, in  
61 collaboration with the Department of Health, shall establish  
62 general eligibility requirements for veterans to participate in  
63 the MMACOF program. Eligibility requirements for medically  
64 trained veterans shall include a required scope of specific  
65 health care practice skills.

66 (4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—The MMACOF program shall consist of  
67 the following components:

68 (a) MMACOF Qualified.—Through the MMACOF program, medically  
69 trained veterans who have performed more than 50 percent of the  
70 required scope of specific health care practice skills  
71 established pursuant to subsection (3) within the preceding 12  
72 months may continue practicing those skills in a civilian health  
73 care setting as provided in subsection (5), while obtaining the  
74 appropriate health care registration, certification, or  
75 licensure.

76 (b) No Veteran Left Behind.—Veterans who do not meet the  
77 definition of the term "medically trained veteran" but who have  
78 served in health care-related specialties shall receive  
79 assistance by the MMACOF program in resume writing, mentorship,  
80 and obtaining employment with participating health care  
81 providers.

82 (c) Health Care Leadership.—The MMACOF program shall assist  
83 veterans who, in the course of their military service, gained  
84 management experience or completed advanced degrees in finding  
85 civilian health care leadership and management employment in a  
86 variety of health care disciplines.

87 (5) ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY MEDICALLY TRAINED VETERANS.—

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88        (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a  
89 medically trained veteran participating in the MMACOF program  
90 may:

91        1. Perform activities that constitute the practice of  
92 medicine under the direct supervision of a physician licensed  
93 under chapter 458, an osteopathic physician licensed under  
94 chapter 459, or the chief medical officer of a participating  
95 health care provider.

96        2. Perform activities that constitute the practice of  
97 nursing under the direct supervision of a physician licensed  
98 under chapter 458, an osteopathic physician licensed under  
99 chapter 459, or the chief medical officer of a participating  
100 health care provider, except that the chief medical officer of a  
101 participating health care provider may, in consultation with the  
102 chief nursing officer of such participating health care  
103 provider, designate a registered nurse licensed under chapter  
104 464 or practicing with a multistate license to supervise  
105 medically trained veterans in the practice of nursing.

106        (b) The activities performed by the medically trained  
107 veteran shall reflect his or her level of training and  
108 experience. The supervising physician or registered nurse, as  
109 applicable, shall retain responsibility for the care of the  
110 patient.

111        Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.