

26 | Legislature to create the Veterans Dental Care Grant Program to
 27 | provide veterans the opportunity to access routine dental care
 28 | after they conclude their service protecting this country's
 29 | freedom.

30 | (2) As used in this section, the term:

31 | (a) "Department" means the Department of Veterans'
 32 | Affairs.

33 | (b) "Veteran" has the same meaning as in s. 1.01(14). The
 34 | term includes all members of the Florida National Guard and
 35 | United States Reserve Forces who were discharged or released
 36 | under honorable conditions only, or who later received an
 37 | upgraded discharge under honorable conditions.

38 | (3) The Veterans Dental Care Grant Program is established
 39 | within the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The purpose of the
 40 | program is to provide oral health care to veterans who reside in
 41 | this state.

42 | (4) The department shall contract with a statewide direct-
 43 | support organization to administer the Veterans Dental Care
 44 | Grant Program. The statewide direct-support organization must
 45 | have proven experience developing and implementing veteran-
 46 | relevant programs, including dental service programs. The
 47 | organization is responsible for distributing grants to eligible
 48 | nonprofits that have experience in providing dental care to
 49 | veterans.

50 | (5) The department shall adopt rules to administer the

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51 | program.

52 | (6) Funding for the program is subject to appropriation by
53 | the Legislature.

54 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.