

By Senator Truenow

13-00647-25

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to modified sentences for veterans;  
3           creating s. 775.37, F.S.; defining the term "modified  
4           sentence"; authorizing a court to impose a modified  
5           sentence for veterans under specified circumstances;  
6           providing applicability; providing an effective date.

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

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10           Section 1. Section 775.37, Florida Statutes, is created to  
11 read:

12           775.37 Modified sentences for veterans.-

13           (1) As used in this section, the term "modified sentence"  
14 means a sentence less than the otherwise required minimum  
15 sentence and may include a waiver of restrictions on the  
16 defendant's eligibility for gain-time or release.

17           (2) Notwithstanding any other law, if a defendant has been  
18 convicted of an offense that requires the imposition of a  
19 specified term of imprisonment or minimum term of imprisonment,  
20 the court may instead impose a modified sentence if the court  
21 finds all of the following on the record:

22           (a) The defendant is a veteran with a mental health  
23 condition that is related to that person's military service.

24           (b) The otherwise required sentence is not necessary for  
25 the protection of the public.

26           (3) This section does not apply to a person convicted of an  
27 offense enumerated in s. 943.0435(1)(h)1.a.(I).

28           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.