

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to sentencing of veterans with mental
 3 health conditions; creating s. 775.37, F.S.; defining
 4 the term "modified sentence; providing that a court
 5 may impose a modified sentence for a veteran with a
 6 mental health condition rather than a set term or
 7 mandatory minimum sentence otherwise required by law
 8 in certain circumstances; providing requirements;
 9 providing an exception for certain offenses; providing
 10 an effective date.

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

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14 **Section 1. Section 775.37, Florida Statutes, is created to**
 15 **read:**

16 775.37 Veterans with mental health conditions;
 17 modification of sentence.-

18 (1) As used in this section, the term "modified sentence"
 19 means a sentence below the required specified term of
 20 imprisonment or mandatory minimum term, and may include a waiver
 21 of restrictions on the defendant's eligibility for gain-time or
 22 release.

23 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, when a
 24 defendant has been convicted of an offense that requires the
 25 imposition of a specified term of imprisonment or mandatory

26 | minimum term of imprisonment, the court may instead impose a
27 | modified sentence if the court finds on the record that:

28 | (a) The defendant is a veteran with a mental health
29 | condition that is related to defendant's military service.

30 | (b) The required sentence is not necessary for the
31 | protection of the public.

32 | (3) This section does not apply to a defendant being
33 | sentenced for an offense enumerated in s. 943.0435(1)(h)1.a.(I).

34 | **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.