

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 199

2026 Legislature

1  
 2 An act relating to veterans affairs; amending s.  
 3 394.47891, F.S.; revising the admissions process for  
 4 veterans treatment court programs; authorizing the  
 5 court, in consultation with the multidisciplinary  
 6 team, to determine eligibility for veterans treatment  
 7 court programs; requiring the court to consider the  
 8 recommendation of the state attorney when making an  
 9 eligibility determination; amending s. 948.01, F.S.;  
 10 authorizing sentencing courts to divert defendants to  
 11 veterans treatment court programs under certain  
 12 circumstances; requiring certain notice be provided to  
 13 defendants; providing for disposition of probation or  
 14 community control violations by program participants;  
 15 providing an effective date.

16  
 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

18  
 19 Section 1. Subsections (4) and (8) of section 394.47891,  
 20 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

21 394.47891 Veterans treatment court programs.—

22 (4) ADMISSION.—A defendant who meets the eligibility  
 23 requirements provided in ~~under~~ subsection (8) may be admitted to  
 24 a veterans treatment court program at any stage of a criminal  
 25 proceeding. ~~A defendant seeking to participate in a veterans~~

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 199

2026 Legislature

26 ~~treatment court program must submit an application to the state~~  
 27 ~~attorney. The state attorney must review each application and~~  
 28 ~~determine whether the defendant meets the eligibility~~  
 29 ~~requirements in subsection (8).~~

30 (8) ELIGIBILITY.—

31 (a) A defendant may participate in a veterans treatment  
 32 court program if he or she is approved by the ~~state attorney, in~~  
 33 ~~consultation with the court,~~ in consultation with the  
 34 multidisciplinary team, and meets the following criteria:

35 1. The defendant has a service-related mental health  
 36 condition, service-related traumatic brain injury, service-  
 37 related substance use disorder, or service-related psychological  
 38 problem or has experienced military sexual trauma.

39 2. The defendant's participation in the veterans treatment  
 40 court program is in the interest of justice and of benefit to  
 41 the defendant and the community.

42 (b) In making the determination under subparagraph (a)2.,  
 43 ~~the state attorney, in consultation with the court,~~ in  
 44 consultation with the multidisciplinary team, must consider:

45 1. The nature and circumstances of the offense charged.

46 2. The special characteristics or circumstances of the  
 47 defendant and any victim or alleged victim, including any  
 48 recommendation of the victim or alleged victim.

49 3. The defendant's criminal history and whether the  
 50 defendant previously participated in a veterans treatment court

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 199

2026 Legislature

51 program or similar program.

52 4. Whether the defendant's needs exceed the treatment  
53 resources available to the veterans treatment court program.

54 5. The impact on the community of the defendant's  
55 participation and treatment in the veterans treatment court  
56 program.

57 6. Recommendations of any law enforcement agency involved  
58 in investigating or arresting the defendant, and any  
59 recommendation of the state attorney.

60 7. If the defendant owes restitution, the likelihood of  
61 payment during the defendant's participation in the veterans  
62 treatment court program.

63 8. Any mitigating circumstances.

64 9. Any other circumstances reasonably related to the  
65 defendant's case.

66 Section 2. Subsection (9) is added to section 948.01,  
67 Florida Statutes, to read:

68 948.01 When court may place defendant on probation or into  
69 community control.—

70 (9) (a) Notwithstanding s. 921.0024 and effective for  
71 offenses committed on or after July 1, 2026, the sentencing  
72 court may place the defendant into a postadjudicatory veterans  
73 treatment court program if the offense is a nonviolent felony,  
74 the defendant is a servicemember or veteran as defined in s.  
75 394.47891(2), and the defendant is otherwise qualified to

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 199

2026 Legislature

76 participate in a veterans treatment court program under s.  
77 394.47891(8). Satisfactory completion of the program must be a  
78 condition of the defendant's probation or community control. As  
79 used in this subsection, the term "nonviolent felony" means a  
80 third degree felony violation under chapter 810 or any other  
81 felony offense that is not a forcible felony as defined in s.  
82 776.08.

83 (b) The defendant must be fully advised of the purpose of  
84 the veterans treatment court program, and the defendant must  
85 agree to enter the program. The original sentencing court shall  
86 relinquish jurisdiction of the defendant's case to the  
87 postadjudicatory veterans treatment court program until the  
88 defendant is no longer active in the program, the case is  
89 returned to the sentencing court due to the defendant's  
90 termination from the program for failure to comply with the  
91 terms of the program, or the defendant's sentence is completed.

92 (c) A defendant sentenced to a postadjudicatory veterans  
93 treatment court program and who, while a veterans treatment  
94 court program participant, is the subject of a violation of  
95 probation or community control under s. 948.06 shall have the  
96 violation of probation or community control heard by the judge  
97 presiding over the postadjudicatory veterans treatment court  
98 program. The judge shall dispose of any such violation, after a  
99 hearing on or admission of the violation, as he or she deems  
100 appropriate if the resulting sentence or conditions are lawful.

ENROLLED

CS/CS/HB 199

2026 Legislature

101           Section 3.   This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.