

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 20-0672.01 Conrad Imel x2313

HOUSE BILL 20-1220

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Snyder and Carver, Exum, Landgraf, Liston, Sandridge, Williams D.

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Lee,

House Committees

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING A STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF SERVICES**
102 **PROVIDED BY VETERANS COMMUNITY LIVING CENTERS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires the state department of human services (department) to conduct a statewide needs assessment of the services provided by veterans community living centers, including changes to services necessitated by changing demographics of the veteran population, the advantages and limitations of providing services through existing veterans community living centers, and alternative models of

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

care for providing services to veterans.

The department is required to submit the final assessment to the state, veterans, and military affairs committees of the house of representatives and the senate on or before December 1, 2020. The department may enter into an agreement with a third party to conduct the assessment.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 26-12-111.5 as
3 follows:

4 **26-12-111.5. Veterans community living centers statewide**
5 **needs assessment - report - repeal.** (1) (a) THE STATE DEPARTMENT
6 SHALL CONDUCT A STATEWIDE NEEDS ASSESSMENT, REFERRED TO IN THIS
7 SECTION AS THE "ASSESSMENT", OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY VETERANS
8 COMMUNITY LIVING CENTERS.

9 (b) THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT
10 WITH A THIRD PARTY TO CONDUCT THE ASSESSMENT DESCRIBED IN THIS
11 SUBSECTION (1). THE THIRD PARTY MUST NOT HAVE A FINANCIAL
12 INTEREST IN PROVIDING SERVICES TO VETERANS. THE THIRD PARTY MUST
13 HAVE EXPERIENCE PERFORMING PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS, LONG-TERM
14 POPULATION FORECASTING, AND PUBLIC SECTOR HEALTH AND HUMAN
15 SERVICES PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT STUDIES.

16 (c) THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR THIRD PARTY SHALL CONSULT
17 WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN COLORADO THAT MAY HAVE
18 RESOURCES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ASSESSMENT. SUCH RESOURCES MAY
19 INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, FAMILIARITY WITH LOCAL AREA
20 CONDITIONS AND CONDUCTING SPECIFIC RESEARCH THAT MAY
21 CONTRIBUTE TO THE ASSESSMENT.

22 (2) (a) THE ASSESSMENT MUST EVALUATE:

1 (I) THE CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE VETERAN POPULATION
2 IN COLORADO;

3 (II) THE NEEDS OF YOUNGER VETERANS, INCLUDING SERVICES AND
4 TREATMENT RELATED TO CHALLENGES NOT FACED BY OLDER
5 GENERATIONS OF VETERANS;

6 (III) BEST PRACTICES FOR PROVIDING SERVICES AND TREATMENT
7 TO VETERANS RELATED TO POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AND
8 OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES;

9 (IV) THE ADVANTAGES AND LIMITATIONS OF PROVIDING SERVICES
10 THROUGH EXISTING VETERANS CENTERS;

11 (V) ALTERNATIVE MODELS OF CARE THAT WILL INCREASE THE
12 EFFICIENCY AND EFFICACY OF PROVIDING SERVICES TO VETERANS; AND

13 (VI) THE IMPACT OF THE CHANGING HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF
14 VETERANS ON LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES.

15 (b) THE ASSESSMENT MUST EVALUATE THE NEEDS OF VETERANS IN
16 ALL AREAS OF THE STATE, BUT SHOULD SPECIFICALLY EXAMINE AREAS
17 WITH A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF VETERANS, INCLUDING EL PASO COUNTY
18 AND THE SURROUNDING AREA.

19 (3) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2020, THE STATE DEPARTMENT
20 SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT TO THE
21 STATE, VETERANS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF
22 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES.

23 (4) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL USE MONEY FROM THE
24 CENTRAL FUND TO CONDUCT THE ASSESSMENT.

25 (5) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2021.

26 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-12-108, **add**
27 (1)(b)(I.7) as follows:

1 **26-12-108. Payments for care - funds - report - collections for**
2 **charges - central fund for veterans centers created - repeal.**

3 (1) (b) (I.7) (A) FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2020-21, THE STATE
4 DEPARTMENT MAY USE MONEY CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT
5 TO SUBSECTION (1)(b)(I.5) OF THIS SECTION TO PERFORM THE ASSESSMENT
6 OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY VETERANS COMMUNITY LIVING CENTERS
7 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION 26-12-111.5.

8 (B) THIS SUBSECTION (1)(b)(I.7) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30,
9 2021.

10 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
11 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
12 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.