

## CHAPTER 296

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**HUMAN SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES**


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**SENATE BILL 21-129**

BY SENATOR(S) Garcia, Bridges, Buckner, Cooke, Coram, Danielson, Donovan, Fenberg, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hisey, Jaquez Lewis, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lee, Liston, Lundeen, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Rodriguez, Scott, Simpson, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Story, Winter, Woodward, Zenzinger;  
 also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Ortiz, Bird, Boesenecker, Caraveo, Cutter, Esgar, Exum, Froelich, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Herod, Hooton, Jackson, Jodeh, Kennedy, Kipp, Lontine, McCluskie, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Roberts, Sandridge, Sirota, Sullivan, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Weissman, Williams, Young, Garnett.

**AN ACT**

**CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO REDUCE THE SUICIDE RATE AMONG VETERANS,  
 AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 26-1-142 as follows:

**26-1-142. Veteran suicide prevention pilot program - rules - report - definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

(a) "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION PILOT PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

(b) "VETERAN" HAS THE SAME MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION 28-5-100.3.

(2) (a) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION PILOT PROGRAM TO REDUCE THE SUICIDE RATE AND SUICIDAL IDEATION AMONG VETERANS BY PROVIDING NO-COST, STIGMA-FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, AND EFFECTIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

(b) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH THE PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR SEVEN HUNDRED VETERANS IN EL PASO COUNTY. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY, AT ANY TIME, EXPAND THE PILOT PROGRAM TO SERVE MORE THAN SEVEN HUNDRED VETERANS OR TO

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*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.*

OTHER AREAS OF THE STATE.

(3) (a) THE PILOT PROGRAM MUST:

(I) PROVIDE A SINGLE PHONE NUMBER OR OFFER ELECTRONIC MEANS OF CONTACTING THE PILOT PROGRAM, INCLUDING E-MAIL OR AN ELECTRONIC FORM ON THE PILOT PROGRAM'S WEBSITE, THAT A VETERAN MAY USE TO CONTACT THE PILOT PROGRAM TO MAKE INQUIRIES ABOUT AVAILABLE SERVICES AND SCHEDULE CONSULTATIONS AND TREATMENT APPOINTMENTS;

(II) PROVIDE TREATMENT FOR CONDITIONS EXPERIENCED BY VETERANS THAT MAY CONTRIBUTE TO SUICIDAL IDEATION, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, DEPRESSION, MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA, SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER, AND SYMPTOMS OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY; AND

(III) DEVELOP AN INDIVIDUALIZED TREATMENT PLAN FOR EACH VETERAN WHO IS RECEIVING TREATMENT.

(b) THE PILOT PROGRAM MAY ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH TREATMENT PROVIDERS IN THE PILOT PROGRAM AREA TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTIONS (3)(a)(II) AND (3)(a)(III) OF THIS SECTION.

(4) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT RULES NECESSARY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS SECTION.

(5) THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH A NONPROFIT OR EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM. THE NONPROFIT OR EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION MUST HAVE AT LEAST FIVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE PROVIDING SERVICES DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION TO VETERANS AND SATISFY ANY ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT RULES TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR A NONPROFIT OR EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO ENSURE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM AND A PROCESS FOR SELECTING A NONPROFIT OR EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(6) IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PILOT PROGRAM AND WHETHER ANY CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE TO THE PILOT PROGRAM THAT WOULD INCREASE ITS EFFECTIVENESS. IN ITS FINAL REPORT PRIOR TO THE REPEAL OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE A RECOMMENDATION OF WHETHER THE PILOT PROGRAM SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

(7) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2025.

**SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2021-22 state fiscal year, \$1,660,000 is appropriated to the department of human services for use by the office behavioral health. This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the office may use this appropriation for the veteran suicide prevention pilot program.

**SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act takes effect at

12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: June 23, 2021