

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

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Chair of Committee

February 19, 2025  
Date

Committee on Health & Human Services.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB25-1132 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee on Appropriations with favorable recommendation:

- 1 Amend printed bill, strike everything below the enacting clause and  
2 substitute:
- 3 **"SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact,**  
4 **with amendments,** 28-5-714 as follows:
- 5 **28-5-714. Veterans mental health services program -**  
6 **community behavioral health program grants - rules - definitions.**
- 7 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
8 REQUIRES:
- 9 (a) "ARMED FORCES" MEANS THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE,  
10 MARINE CORPS, SPACE FORCE, AND COAST GUARD OF THE UNITED  
11 STATES.
- 12 (b) "BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION" OR "BHA" MEANS  
13 THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
14 HUMAN SERVICES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 27-50-102.
- 15 (c) "DIVISION" MEANS THE DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN THE  
16 DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS.
- 17 (d) "ELIGIBLE VETERAN" MEANS A VETERAN, AS DEFINED IN  
18 SECTION 28-5-100.3, WHO LIVES IN A VETERANS COMMUNITY LIVING  
19 CENTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 26-12-102.
- 20 (e) "HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL" MEANS:
- 21 (I) A LICENSED PSYCHIATRIST REGULATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE  
22 240 OF TITLE 12;
- 23 (II) A LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST OR PSYCHOLOGIST CANDIDATE  
24 REGULATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 245 OF TITLE 12;
- 25 (III) A LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER, LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL  
26 WORKER, OR CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER CANDIDATE REGULATED  
27 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 245 OF TITLE 12;
- 28 (IV) A LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST OR MARRIAGE

1 AND FAMILY THERAPIST CANDIDATE REGULATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE  
2 245 OF TITLE 12;

3 (V) A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR OR LICENSED  
4 PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR CANDIDATE REGULATED PURSUANT TO  
5 ARTICLE 245 OF TITLE 12;

6 (VI) A LICENSED ADDICTION COUNSELOR, CERTIFIED ADDICTION  
7 SPECIALIST, OR ADDICTION COUNSELOR CANDIDATE REGULATED  
8 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 245 OF TITLE 12;

9 (VII) AN ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE LICENSED  
10 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 255 OF TITLE 12;

11 (VIII) AN ACUPUNCTURIST LICENSED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 200  
12 OF TITLE 12;

13 (IX) A MASSAGE THERAPIST LICENSED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 235  
14 OF TITLE 12;

15 (X) A HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL WHO IS CERTIFIED IN THE  
16 PRACTICE OF USING TOUCH OR HEALING TOUCH TO AFFECT THE HUMAN  
17 ENERGY SYSTEMS; OR

18 (XI) A HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL WHO IS CERTIFIED IN  
19 CRANIOSACRAL THERAPIES.

20 (f) "SERVICE MEMBER" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS:

21 (I) AN ACTIVE-DUTY MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES;

22 (II) A MEMBER OF THE RESERVE FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES;

23 OR

24 (III) A MEMBER OF THE FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED NATIONAL  
25 GUARD.

26 (g) "TELEHEALTH" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH IN  
27 SECTION 10-16-123.

28 (h) "VETERAN" MEANS A PERSON WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED  
29 FORCES, THE FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED NATIONAL GUARD, OR THE  
30 RESERVE FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES AND WHO WAS DISCHARGED OR  
31 RELEASED FROM SERVICE.

32 (2) (a) THERE IS ESTABLISHED IN THE DIVISION A VETERANS  
33 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO MENTAL  
34 HEALTH SERVICES FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS BY REIMBURSING  
35 HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONALS FOR SESSIONS WITH AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN.

36 (b) THE DIVISION SHALL REIMBURSE A HEALTH-CARE  
37 PROFESSIONAL WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH  
38 SERVICES PROGRAM FOR MENTAL HEALTH-CARE SESSIONS, EITHER IN  
39 PERSON OR THROUGH TELEHEALTH, WITH ELIGIBLE VETERANS. EACH  
40 ELIGIBLE VETERAN MAY RECEIVE TWENTY-SIX REIMBURSED SESSIONS PER  
41 YEAR.

42 (c) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, AN ELIGIBLE  
43 VETERAN MAY RECEIVE AND THE DIVISION SHALL REIMBURSE A

1 HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL FOR:  
2 (I) ADDITIONAL REIMBURSED SESSIONS IF A HEALTH-CARE  
3 PROFESSIONAL DETERMINES ADDITIONAL SESSIONS ARE NECESSARY; AND  
4 (II) COMPLEMENTARY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, INCLUDING,  
5 BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ACUPUNCTURE, HEALING TOUCH THERAPY, MASSAGE  
6 THERAPY, ACUPRESSURE, AND CRANIOSACRAL THERAPY FOR THE PURPOSE  
7 OF SUPPORTING AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN'S MENTAL HEALTH WHEN PROVIDED  
8 BY A QUALIFIED HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL.  
9 (d) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN AND RECEIVE  
10 REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
11 PROGRAM, A HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL MUST BE AVAILABLE TO  
12 PROVIDE AT LEAST FOUR MENTAL HEALTH-CARE SESSIONS TO EACH  
13 ELIGIBLE VETERAN THE HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL ACCEPTS AS A  
14 CLIENT.  
15 (e) THE DIVISION SHALL:  
16 (I) DEVELOP A PROCESS CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
17 THIS SECTION FOR HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONALS TO APPLY FOR AND  
18 DEMONSTRATE ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE  
19 VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM;  
20 (II) UPON REIMBURSING A HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL FOR A  
21 MENTAL HEALTH-CARE SESSION WITH AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN, INFORM THE  
22 HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL OF THE VETERAN'S REMAINING NUMBER OF  
23 SESSIONS ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT THAT YEAR; AND  
24 (III) DETERMINE A REASONABLE RATE OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR  
25 EACH MENTAL HEALTH-CARE SESSION WITH AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN  
26 PURSUANT TO THE VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM, WHICH  
27 RATE MUST BE THE SAME REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE APPOINTMENT IS  
28 IN-PERSON OR THROUGH TELEHEALTH.  
29 (f) THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD  
30 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, SHALL ADOPT RULES NECESSARY FOR THE  
31 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBSECTION (2).  
32 (3) FOR EACH STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL  
33 APPROPRIATE MONEY TO THE DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE  
34 VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM. THE FIRST SIX HUNDRED  
35 THOUSAND DOLLARS MUST BE USED FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS.  
36 (4) (a) THE BHA SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE DIVISION TO  
37 CONTINUE AND EXPAND THE VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
38 PROGRAM USING THE MONEY TRANSFERRED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
39 39-37-301 (2)(a)(II) TO THE BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CASH  
40 FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-230 (2)(a), IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
41 SECTION 24-75-230 (3.5).  
42 (b) THE BHA SHALL POST ON ITS WEBSITE A LIST OF HEALTH-CARE  
43 PROFESSIONALS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH

1 SERVICES PROGRAM.

2 (5) (a) IN EXPANDING THE VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
3 PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE BHA  
4 SHALL PROVIDE GRANTS TO LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO  
5 ESTABLISH AND EXPAND COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS  
6 THAT PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES TO SERVICE MEMBERS,  
7 VETERANS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS.

8 (b) IF A LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION RECEIVES A GRANT  
9 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (5) AND THE ORGANIZATION CONTINUES  
10 TO MEET PERFORMANCE METRICS DEVELOPED BY THE BHA, THE BHA  
11 MAY DISTRIBUTE AN ADDITIONAL GRANT TO THE LOCAL NONPROFIT  
12 ORGANIZATION WITHOUT REQUIRING THE ORGANIZATION TO REAPPLY FOR  
13 THE GRANT.

14 (c) TO RECEIVE A GRANT, A LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
15 MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE BHA IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES  
16 ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BHA.

17 (d) IN ITS APPLICATION, A LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION SHALL  
18 DEMONSTRATE THAT THE ORGANIZATION:

19 (I) SERVES THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS OF SERVICE MEMBERS,  
20 VETERANS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS  
21 IN THE LOCALITY SERVED BY THE LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION;  
22 (II) UTILIZES EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES;  
23 (III) INTEGRATES MILITARY CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING  
24 FOR THE LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION'S STAFF; AND  
25 (IV) HAS ESTABLISHED AND VERIFIABLE COMMUNITY  
26 PARTNERSHIPS TO DELIVER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ALONG THE  
27 CONTINUUM OF CARE TO SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND THEIR  
28 FAMILY MEMBERS.

29 (e) THE BHA SHALL PRIORITIZE AWARDED GRANTS TO A GRANT  
30 APPLICANT THAT:

31 (I) APPLIES FOR A GRANT TO SUPPORT THE OPERATING COSTS FOR  
32 A QUALIFYING PROJECT, AS DETERMINED BY THE BHA, FOR WHICH  
33 CAPITAL INVESTMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE;  
34 (II) PROVIDES CULTURALLY COMPETENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
35 SERVICES TO SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF  
36 SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS;  
37 (III) HAS THE ABILITY TO SUBMIT DATA THAT THE BHA  
38 DETERMINES IS NECESSARY TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF THE GRANT  
39 PROGRAM; AND  
40 (IV) DEMONSTRATES A HISTORY OF COLLABORATION WITH, AND  
41 PROVIDING SERVICES FOR, MILITARY AND VETERANS COMMUNITY  
42 ORGANIZATIONS IN COLORADO.

43 (f) THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BHA SHALL ADOPT RULES AS

1 NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SUBSECTION (5), INCLUDING  
2 PERFORMANCE METRICS FOR LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT  
3 RECEIVE A GRANT.

4         **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
5 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
6 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
7 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
8 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
9 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
10 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
11 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
12 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor."

13 Page 1, line 102, strike "**PROGRAM.**" and substitute "**PROGRAM IN THE**  
14 **VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM.**".

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