

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 21-0058.01 Conrad Imel x2313

**SENATE BILL 21-129**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Garcia,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Ortiz,**

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**Senate Committees**

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO REDUCE THE**  
102 **SUICIDE RATE AMONG VETERANS.**

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**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 establish a veteran suicide prevention pilot program (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 post-9/11 veterans and their families. The department is permitted to enter into an agreement with a nonprofit organization to

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.

administer the pilot program. The department is required to include information about the pilot program in its annual report to the general assembly. The pilot program is repealed June 30, 2025.

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

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

4 **26-1-142. Veteran suicide prevention pilot program - rules -**  
5 **report - definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE  
6 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

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

9 (b) "POST-9/11 VETERAN" MEANS A VETERAN, AS DEFINED IN  
10 SECTION 28-5-100.3, WHO SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY DURING THE MILITARY  
11 CAMPAIGN PERIOD THAT STARTED AFTER THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001,  
12 TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES.

13 (2) (a) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A VETERAN  
14 SUICIDE PREVENTION PILOT PROGRAM TO REDUCE THE SUICIDE RATE AND  
15 SUICIDAL IDEATION AMONG POST-9/11 VETERANS BY PROVIDING NO-COST,  
16 STIGMA-FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, AND EFFECTIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
17 TREATMENT FOR POST-9/11 VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

18 (b) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH THE PILOT  
19 PROGRAM IN EL PASO COUNTY. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS,  
20 THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY, AT ANY TIME, EXPAND THE PILOT PROGRAM  
21 TO OTHER AREAS OF THE STATE.

22 (3) (a) THE PILOT PROGRAM MUST:

23 (I) PROVIDE A SINGLE PHONE NUMBER OR OFFER ELECTRONIC  
24 MEANS OF CONTACTING THE PILOT PROGRAM, INCLUDING E-MAIL OR AN

1 ELECTRONIC FORM ON THE PILOT PROGRAM'S WEBSITE, THAT A POST-9/11  
2 VETERAN MAY USE TO CONTACT THE PILOT PROGRAM TO MAKE INQUIRIES  
3 ABOUT AVAILABLE SERVICES AND SCHEDULE CONSULTATIONS AND  
4 TREATMENT APPOINTMENTS;

5 (II) PROVIDE TREATMENT FOR CONDITIONS EXPERIENCED BY  
6 POST-9/11 VETERANS THAT MAY CONTRIBUTE TO SUICIDAL IDEATION,  
7 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER,  
8 DEPRESSION, MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA, SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER, AND  
9 SYMPTOMS OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY; AND

10 (III) DEVELOP AN INDIVIDUALIZED TREATMENT PLAN FOR EACH  
11 POST-9/11 VETERAN WHO IS RECEIVING TREATMENT.

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

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

18 (5) THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT  
19 WITH A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM.  
20 THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION MUST HAVE AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS'  
21 EXPERIENCE PROVIDING SERVICES DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION TO  
22 VETERANS AND MUST CURRENTLY PROVIDE THOSE SERVICES IN AT LEAST  
23 FIVE STATES, NOT INCLUDING COLORADO.

24 (6) IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE  
25 PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE  
26 INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PILOT PROGRAM AND WHETHER ANY  
27 CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE TO THE PILOT PROGRAM THAT WOULD

1 INCREASE ITS EFFECTIVENESS. IN ITS FINAL REPORT PRIOR TO THE REPEAL  
2 OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE A RECOMMENDATION  
3 OF WHETHER THE PILOT PROGRAM SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

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

5 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
6 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
7 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except  
8 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
9 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
10 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
11 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
12 November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
13 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.