

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

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 25-0479.01 Shelby Ross x4510

HOUSE BILL 25-1132

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Camacho and Stewart R., Duran, Carter, Gilchrist, Lindstedt, Martinez, Phillips, Smith

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Hinrichsen and Bridges,

House Committees

Health & Human Services
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING CREATING THE MILITARY FAMILY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
102 **GRANT PROGRAM IN THE VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**
103 **PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REDUCING AN**
104 **APPROPRIATION.**

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 creates the military family behavioral health grant program in the behavioral health administration in the department of human services to provide grants to local nonprofit organizations to

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

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
March 3, 2025

establish and expand community behavioral health programs that provide behavioral health services to service members, veterans, and family members of service members and veterans.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **repeal and reenact,**
3 **with amendments,** 28-5-714 as follows:

4 **28-5-714. Veterans mental health services program -**
5 **community behavioral health program grants - rules - definitions.**

6 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
7 REQUIRES:

8 (a) "ARMED FORCES" MEANS THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE,
9 MARINE CORPS, SPACE FORCE, AND COAST GUARD OF THE UNITED
10 STATES.

11 (b) "BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION" OR "BHA" MEANS
12 THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
13 HUMAN SERVICES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 27-50-102.

14 (c) "DIVISION" MEANS THE DIVISION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN THE
15 DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS.

16 (d) "ELIGIBLE VETERAN" MEANS A VETERAN, AS DEFINED IN
17 SECTION 28-5-100.3, WHO LIVES IN A VETERANS COMMUNITY LIVING
18 CENTER, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 26-12-102.

19 (e) "HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL" MEANS:

20 (I) A LICENSED PSYCHIATRIST REGULATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE
21 240 OF TITLE 12;

22 (II) A LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST OR PSYCHOLOGIST CANDIDATE
23 REGULATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 245 OF TITLE 12;

24 (III) A LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER, LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL

1 WORKER, OR CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER CANDIDATE REGULATED
2 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 245 OF TITLE 12;

3 (IV) A LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST OR MARRIAGE
4 AND FAMILY THERAPIST CANDIDATE REGULATED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE
5 245 OF TITLE 12;

6 (V) A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR OR LICENSED
7 PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR CANDIDATE REGULATED PURSUANT TO
8 ARTICLE 245 OF TITLE 12;

9 (VI) A LICENSED ADDICTION COUNSELOR, CERTIFIED ADDICTION
10 SPECIALIST, OR ADDICTION COUNSELOR CANDIDATE REGULATED
11 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 245 OF TITLE 12;

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

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

16 (IX) A MASSAGE THERAPIST LICENSED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 235
17 OF TITLE 12;

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

21 (XI) A HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL WHO IS CERTIFIED IN
22 CRANIOSACRAL THERAPIES.

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

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

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

26 OR

27 (III) A MEMBER OF THE FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED NATIONAL

1 GUARD.

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

4 (h) "VETERAN" MEANS A PERSON WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED
5 FORCES, THE FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED NATIONAL GUARD, OR THE
6 RESERVE FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES AND WHO WAS DISCHARGED OR
7 RELEASED FROM SERVICE.

8 (2) (a) THERE IS ESTABLISHED IN THE DIVISION A VETERANS
9 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO MENTAL
10 HEALTH SERVICES FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS BY REIMBURSING
11 HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONALS FOR SESSIONS WITH AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN.

12 (b) THE DIVISION SHALL REIMBURSE A HEALTH-CARE
13 PROFESSIONAL WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH
14 SERVICES PROGRAM FOR MENTAL HEALTH-CARE SESSIONS, EITHER IN
15 PERSON OR THROUGH TELEHEALTH, WITH ELIGIBLE VETERANS. EACH
16 ELIGIBLE VETERAN MAY RECEIVE TWENTY-SIX REIMBURSED SESSIONS PER
17 YEAR.

18 (c) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, AN ELIGIBLE
19 VETERAN MAY RECEIVE AND THE DIVISION SHALL REIMBURSE A
20 HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL FOR:

21 (I) ADDITIONAL REIMBURSED SESSIONS IF A HEALTH-CARE
22 PROFESSIONAL DETERMINES ADDITIONAL SESSIONS ARE NECESSARY; AND

23 (II) COMPLEMENTARY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, INCLUDING,
24 BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ACUPUNCTURE, HEALING TOUCH THERAPY, MASSAGE
25 THERAPY, ACUPRESSURE, AND CRANIOSACRAL THERAPY FOR THE PURPOSE
26 OF SUPPORTING AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN'S MENTAL HEALTH WHEN PROVIDED
27 BY A QUALIFIED HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL.

1 (d) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN AND RECEIVE
2 REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
3 PROGRAM, A HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL MUST BE AVAILABLE TO
4 PROVIDE AT LEAST FOUR MENTAL HEALTH-CARE SESSIONS TO EACH
5 ELIGIBLE VETERAN THE HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL ACCEPTS AS A
6 CLIENT.

7 (e) THE DIVISION SHALL:

8 (I) DEVELOP A PROCESS CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF
9 THIS SECTION FOR HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONALS TO APPLY FOR AND
10 DEMONSTRATE ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE
11 VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM;

12 (II) UPON REIMBURSING A HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL FOR A
13 MENTAL HEALTH-CARE SESSION WITH AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN, INFORM THE
14 HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONAL OF THE VETERAN'S REMAINING NUMBER OF
15 SESSIONS ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT THAT YEAR; AND

16 (III) DETERMINE A REASONABLE RATE OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR
17 EACH MENTAL HEALTH-CARE SESSION WITH AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN
18 PURSUANT TO THE VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM, WHICH
19 RATE MUST BE THE SAME REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE APPOINTMENT IS
20 IN-PERSON OR THROUGH TELEHEALTH.

21 (f) THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOARD
22 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, SHALL ADOPT RULES NECESSARY FOR THE
23 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBSECTION (2).

24 (3) FOR EACH STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL
25 APPROPRIATE MONEY TO THE DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE
26 VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM. THE FIRST SIX HUNDRED
27 THOUSAND DOLLARS MUST BE USED FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS.

1 (4) (a) THE BHA SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE DIVISION TO
2 CONTINUE AND EXPAND THE VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
3 PROGRAM USING THE MONEY TRANSFERRED PURSUANT TO SECTION
4 39-37-301 (2)(a)(II) TO THE BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CASH
5 FUND, CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-230 (2)(a), IN ACCORDANCE WITH
6 SECTION 24-75-230 (3.5).

7 (b) THE BHA SHALL POST ON ITS WEBSITE A LIST OF HEALTH-CARE
8 PROFESSIONALS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH
9 SERVICES PROGRAM.

10 (5) (a) IN EXPANDING THE VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
11 PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE BHA
12 SHALL PROVIDE GRANTS TO LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO
13 ESTABLISH AND EXPAND COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS
14 THAT PROVIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES TO SERVICE MEMBERS,
15 VETERANS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS.

16 (b) IF A LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION RECEIVES A GRANT
17 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (5) AND THE ORGANIZATION CONTINUES
18 TO MEET PERFORMANCE METRICS DEVELOPED BY THE BHA, THE BHA
19 MAY DISTRIBUTE AN ADDITIONAL GRANT TO THE LOCAL NONPROFIT
20 ORGANIZATION WITHOUT REQUIRING THE ORGANIZATION TO REAPPLY FOR
21 THE GRANT.

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

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

27 (I) SERVES THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS OF SERVICE MEMBERS,

1 VETERANS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS
2 IN THE LOCALITY SERVED BY THE LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION;

3 (II) UTILIZES EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES;

4 (III) INTEGRATES MILITARY CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING
5 FOR THE LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION'S STAFF; AND

6 (IV) HAS ESTABLISHED AND VERIFIABLE COMMUNITY
7 PARTNERSHIPS TO DELIVER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ALONG THE
8 CONTINUUM OF CARE TO SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND THEIR
9 FAMILY MEMBERS.

10 (e) THE BHA SHALL PRIORITIZE AWARDED GRANTS TO A GRANT
11 APPLICANT THAT:

12 (I) APPLIES FOR A GRANT TO SUPPORT THE OPERATING COSTS FOR
13 A QUALIFYING PROJECT, AS DETERMINED BY THE BHA, FOR WHICH
14 CAPITAL INVESTMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE;

15 (II) PROVIDES CULTURALLY COMPETENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
16 SERVICES TO SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF
17 SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS;

18 (III) HAS THE ABILITY TO SUBMIT DATA THAT THE BHA
19 DETERMINES IS NECESSARY TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF THE GRANT
20 PROGRAM; AND

21 (IV) DEMONSTRATES A HISTORY OF COLLABORATION WITH, AND
22 PROVIDING SERVICES FOR, MILITARY AND VETERANS COMMUNITY
23 ORGANIZATIONS IN COLORADO.

24 (f) THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BHA SHALL ADOPT RULES AS
25 NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SUBSECTION (5), INCLUDING
26 PERFORMANCE METRICS FOR LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT
27 RECEIVE A GRANT.

1 **SECTION 2. Appropriation - adjustments to 2025 long bill.**

2 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, to implement this
3 act, the reappropriated funds appropriation made in the annual general
4 appropriation act for the 2025-26 state fiscal year to the department of
5 military and veterans affairs for use by the division of veterans affairs for
6 veterans mental health services is decreased by \$5,000,000. This
7 appropriation is from reappropriated funds received from the department
8 of human services for use by the behavioral health administration.

9 (2) Subsection (1) of this section does not require a reduction of
10 an appropriation in the annual general appropriations act for the 2025-26
11 state fiscal year if:

12 (a) The amount of reappropriated funds made in the annual general
13 appropriation act for the 2025-26 state fiscal year to the department of
14 military and veterans affairs for use by the division of veterans affairs for
15 veterans mental health is less than the amount of the adjustment required
16 in subsection (1) of this section; or

17 (b) The annual general appropriation act for the 2025-26 state
18 fiscal year does not include an appropriation to the department of military
19 and veterans affairs for use by the division of veterans affairs for veterans
20 mental health.

21 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** (1) This

22 act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
23 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
24 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
25 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
26 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
27 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

1 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

3 (2) Section 2 of this act takes effect only if the annual general
4 appropriation act for the 2025-26 state fiscal year becomes law, in which
5 case section 2 takes effect upon the effective date of this act or of the
6 annual general appropriation act for state fiscal year 2025-26, whichever
7 is later.