

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

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

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.**

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

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.*

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
25 WORKER, OR CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER CANDIDATE REGULATED

1 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 245 OF TITLE 12;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 OR

26 (III) A MEMBER OF THE FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED NATIONAL
27 GUARD.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (d) TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN AND RECEIVE

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

6 (e) THE DIVISION SHALL:

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

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

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

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

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

27 (4) (a) THE BHA SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE DIVISION TO

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (I) SERVES THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS OF SERVICE MEMBERS,
27 VETERANS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS

1 IN THE LOCALITY SERVED BY THE LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION;
2 (II) UTILIZES EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES;
3 (III) INTEGRATES MILITARY CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING
4 FOR THE LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION'S STAFF; AND
5 (IV) HAS ESTABLISHED AND VERIFIABLE COMMUNITY
6 PARTNERSHIPS TO DELIVER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ALONG THE
7 CONTINUUM OF CARE TO SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND THEIR
8 FAMILY MEMBERS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act

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