PREAMENDED

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

LLS NO. 21-0058.01 Conrad Imel x2313   **SENATE BILL 21-129**

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Garcia,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Ortiz,

Senate Committees	**House Committees**
State, Veterans, & Military Affairs	
Appropriations	

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101   CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO REDUCE THE

102   SUICIDE RATE AMONG VETERANS, AND, IN CONNECTION

103   THEREWITH, MAKING AN 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 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 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 The pilot program is repealed June 30, 2025.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) "VETERAN" HAS THE SAME MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION

10 28-5-100.3.

11   (2) (a) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A VETERAN

12 SUICIDE PREVENTION PILOT PROGRAM TO REDUCE THE SUICIDE RATE AND

13 SUICIDAL IDEATION AMONG   VETERANS BY PROVIDING NO-COST,

14 STIGMA-FREE, CONFIDENTIAL, AND EFFECTIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

15 TREATMENT FOR   VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

16   (b) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH THE PILOT

17 PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR SEVEN HUNDRED VETERANS IN EL

18 PASO COUNTY. SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE STATE

19 DEPARTMENT MAY, AT ANY TIME, EXPAND THE PILOT PROGRAM TO SERVE

20 MORE THAN SEVEN HUNDRED VETERANS OR TO OTHER AREAS OF THE

21 STATE.

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

23   (I) PROVIDE A SINGLE PHONE NUMBER OR OFFER ELECTRONIC

1 MEANS OF CONTACTING THE PILOT PROGRAM, INCLUDING E-MAIL OR AN

2 ELECTRONIC FORM ON THE PILOT PROGRAM'S WEBSITE, THAT A

3 VETERAN MAY USE TO CONTACT THE PILOT PROGRAM TO MAKE INQUIRIES

4 ABOUT AVAILABLE SERVICES AND SCHEDULE CONSULTATIONS AND

5 TREATMENT APPOINTMENTS;

6 (II) PROVIDE TREATMENT FOR CONDITIONS EXPERIENCED BY

7 VETERANS THAT MAY CONTRIBUTE TO SUICIDAL IDEATION, INCLUDING,

8 BUT NOT LIMITED TO, POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, DEPRESSION,

9 MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA, SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER, AND SYMPTOMS

10 OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY; AND

11 (III) DEVELOP AN INDIVIDUALIZED TREATMENT PLAN FOR EACH

12 VETERAN WHO IS RECEIVING TREATMENT.

13 (b) THE PILOT PROGRAM MAY ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH

14 TREATMENT PROVIDERS IN THE PILOT PROGRAM AREA TO PROVIDE THE

15 SERVICES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTIONS (3)(a)(II) AND (3)(a)(III) OF THIS

16 SECTION.

17 (4) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT RULES NECESSARY FOR

18 THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS SECTION.

19 (5) THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT

20 WITH A NONPROFIT OR EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO ADMINISTER THE

21 PILOT PROGRAM. THE NONPROFIT OR EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION MUST

22 HAVE AT LEAST FIVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE PROVIDING SERVICES DESCRIBED

23 IN THIS SECTION TO VETERANS AND SATISFY ANY ADDITIONAL

24 QUALIFICATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE STATE

25 DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT RULES TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL

26 QUALIFICATIONS FOR A NONPROFIT OR EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO

27 ENSURE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PILOT

1 PROGRAM AND A PROCESS FOR SELECTING A NONPROFIT OR EDUCATIONAL

2 ORGANIZATION TO ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM.

3 (6) IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE

4 PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE

5 INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PILOT PROGRAM AND WHETHER ANY

6 CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE TO THE PILOT PROGRAM THAT WOULD

7 INCREASE ITS EFFECTIVENESS. IN ITS FINAL REPORT PRIOR TO THE REPEAL

8 OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE A RECOMMENDATION

9 OF WHETHER THE PILOT PROGRAM SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

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

11 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** For the 2021-22 state fiscal year,

12 $1,681,600 General Fund is appropriated to the department of human

13 services for use by the office behavioral health. This appropriation is from

14 the general fund. To implement this act, the office may use this

15 appropriation for the veteran suicide prevention pilot program.

16 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act

17 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the

18 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except

19 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V

20 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this

21 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take

22 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

23 November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the

24 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.