

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

April 5, 2022

Committee on Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services.

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

HB22-1344 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee of the Whole with favorable recommendation:

1 Amend printed bill, page 2, strike lines 2 through 7 and substitute:

2           **"SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds and declares that:

4           (a) The effects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in  
5 patients, along with common comorbidities such as, but not limited to,  
6 disassociation, depression, and childhood trauma, represent a major  
7 public health crisis for which the currently available treatments are  
8 described by medical experts as modest at best;

9           (b) Veterans, first responders, survivors of sexual assault,  
10 survivors of natural disasters, and other vulnerable populations who have  
11 experienced or witnessed a life-threatening or traumatic event are  
12 disproportionately likely to suffer from PTSD and common  
13 comorbidities;

14           (c) According to the national center for PTSD, six percent of the  
15 population of the United States will have PTSD at some point in their  
16 lives and, in any given year, about fifteen million adults have PTSD;

17           (d) The federal department of veterans affairs spent seventeen  
18 billion dollars on disability payments for more than one million veterans  
19 with PTSD;

20           (e) Results from a phase 3 clinical trial in 2021 demonstrated that  
21 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA)-assisted therapy for the  
22 treatment of patients with severe PTSD and other comorbidities can be  
23 highly effective if paired with talk therapy and counseling. In that clinical  
24 trial, two out of three study participants were no longer considered to  
25 have a PTSD diagnosis after treatment and eighty-eight percent  
26 experienced a clinically significant reduction in symptoms.

27           (f) In 2015, the United States congress passed the "Improving

1 Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act", which gives  
2 the federal drug enforcement administration ninety days to schedule a  
3 substance under the federal "Controlled Substances Act" when it is  
4 approved for use by the federal food and drug administration; and

5 (g) As of March 2022, it is widely expected that the federal food  
6 and drug administration will approve MDMA-assisted therapy for  
7 prescription use for PTSD as soon as 2023.

8 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that it is in the best  
9 interests of the people of Colorado that behavioral health professionals in  
10 Colorado have the ability to provide MDMA-assisted therapy to treat  
11 patients with PTSD and other comorbidities if the federal food and drug  
12 administration ultimately approves it for prescription use."

13 Page 3, line 4, strike "COLORADO." and substitute "COLORADO AND ONLY  
14 POSSESSED BY A PERSON AUTHORIZED TO POSSESS A CONTROLLED  
15 SUBSTANCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 18-18-302."

16 Page 3, line 9, strike "ACT." and substitute "ACT, AND SUBJECT TO THE  
17 PROVISIONS SET FORTH IN PART 1 OF ARTICLE 280 OF TITLE 12 AND PART  
18 3 OF THIS ARTICLE 18. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION EXEMPTS A PERSON FROM  
19 ANY VIOLATION OF PART 4 OF THIS ARTICLE 18."

\*\* \*\*\* \*\* \*\*\* \*\*