

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AMENDMENT

Committee on Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services.

HB22-1344 be amended as follows:

- 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
28 Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act", which gives
29 the federal drug enforcement administration ninety days to schedule a
30 substance under the federal "Controlled Substances Act" when it is
31 approved for use by the federal food and drug administration; and
32 (g) As of March 2022, it is widely expected that the federal food
33 and drug administration will approve MDMA-assisted therapy for
34 prescription use for PTSD as soon as 2023.
35 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that it is in the best
36 interests of the people of Colorado that behavioral health professionals in
37 Colorado have the ability to provide MDMA-assisted therapy to treat
38 patients with PTSD and other comorbidities if the federal food and drug
39 administration ultimately approves it for prescription use."

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