

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

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

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs
Appropriations

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO REDUCE THE**
102 **SUICIDE RATE AMONG VETERANS.**

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

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

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 The pilot program is repealed June 30, 2025.

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

1 ELECTRONIC FORM ON THE PILOT PROGRAM'S WEBSITE, THAT A _____
2 VETERAN MAY USE TO CONTACT THE PILOT PROGRAM TO MAKE INQUIRIES
3 ABOUT AVAILABLE SERVICES AND SCHEDULE CONSULTATIONS AND
4 TREATMENT APPOINTMENTS;

5 (II) PROVIDE TREATMENT FOR CONDITIONS EXPERIENCED BY _____
6 VETERANS THAT MAY CONTRIBUTE TO SUICIDAL IDEATION, INCLUDING,
7 BUT NOT LIMITED TO, POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, DEPRESSION,
8 MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA, SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER, AND SYMPTOMS
9 OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY; AND

10 (III) DEVELOP AN INDIVIDUALIZED TREATMENT PLAN FOR EACH _____
11 VETERAN WHO IS RECEIVING TREATMENT.

12 (b) THE PILOT PROGRAM MAY ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH
13 TREATMENT PROVIDERS IN THE PILOT PROGRAM AREA TO PROVIDE THE
14 SERVICES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTIONS (3)(a)(II) AND (3)(a)(III) OF THIS
15 SECTION.

16 (4) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT RULES NECESSARY FOR
17 THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS SECTION.

18 (5) THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT
19 WITH A NONPROFIT OR EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO ADMINISTER THE
20 PILOT PROGRAM. THE NONPROFIT OR EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION MUST
21 HAVE AT LEAST FIVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE PROVIDING SERVICES DESCRIBED
22 IN THIS SECTION TO VETERANS AND SATISFY ANY ADDITIONAL
23 QUALIFICATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE STATE
24 DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT RULES TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL
25 QUALIFICATIONS FOR A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO ENSURE EFFICIENT
26 AND EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM AND A PROCESS
27 FOR SELECTING A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO ADMINISTER THE PILOT

1 PROGRAM.

2 (6) IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE
3 PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE
4 INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PILOT PROGRAM AND WHETHER ANY
5 CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE TO THE PILOT PROGRAM THAT WOULD
6 INCREASE ITS EFFECTIVENESS. IN ITS FINAL REPORT PRIOR TO THE REPEAL
7 OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INCLUDE A RECOMMENDATION
8 OF WHETHER THE PILOT PROGRAM SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

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

10 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
11 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
12 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
13 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
14 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
15 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
16 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
17 November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
18 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.