

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to alternative treatment options for
 3 veterans; creating s. 295.156, F.S.; requiring the
 4 Department of Veterans' Affairs, subject to
 5 appropriation, to contract with individuals and
 6 entities to provide alternative treatment options for
 7 certain veterans; defining the term "alternative
 8 treatment"; requiring alternative treatment to be
 9 provided under the direction and supervision of
 10 certain licensed individuals; requiring a contracted
 11 individual or entity to submit an annual report to the
 12 department; providing an effective date.

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 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 16 Section 1. Section 295.156, Florida Statutes, is created
 17 to read:

18 295.156 Alternative treatment options for veterans.-
 19 (1) Subject to legislative appropriation, the Department
 20 of Veterans' Affairs shall contract with one or more
 21 individuals, corporations not for profit, state universities, or
 22 Florida College System institutions to provide alternative
 23 treatment options for veterans who have been certified by the
 24 United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any branch of
 25 the United States Armed Forces as having a traumatic brain

26 | injury or posttraumatic stress disorder. For purposes of this
27 | section, the term "alternative treatment" means a therapeutic
28 | service that is not part of the standard of medical care
29 | established by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
30 | for treating traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress
31 | disorder but has been shown by at least one scientific or
32 | medical peer-reviewed study to have some positive effect on
33 | traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder.
34 | Alternative treatment must be provided under the direction and
35 | supervision of an individual licensed under chapter 458, chapter
36 | 459, chapter 460, chapter 464, chapter 490, or chapter 491.

37 | (2) Each contracted individual or entity shall report
38 | annually to the department each alternative treatment provided,
39 | the number of veterans served, and the treatment outcomes.

40 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.