

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 186

BY SENATOR MCMATH

A RESOLUTION

To create and provide for the Task Force on Alternative Therapies for Veterans.

WHEREAS, for our military veterans, many of the deepest wounds of war are invisible; and

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injuries resulting from head trauma or blast explosions are a leading cause of post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, and suicide among veterans; and

WHEREAS, few treatments have been effective at diminishing the long-term effects of traumatic brain injuries, leaving many veterans feeling hopeless; and

WHEREAS, reliance on prescription drugs for mood and anxiety disorders as a result of military service can impact a veteran's quality of life and strain families, workplace stability, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, our veterans deserve every opportunity to try therapies that alleviate the functional and neuropsychiatric symptoms of traumatic brain injury; and

WHEREAS, some psychedelic therapies which may be beneficial to treating mental health or other medical conditions but are not readily available include 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), psilocybin, and ketamine; and

WHEREAS, researchers have begun pairing psilocybin with various forms of psychotherapy, called Psilocybin-Assisted Therapy (P-AT), to support in healing mental health conditions, including PTSD; and

WHEREAS, participants in these research studies are only able to use the psychedelics in a controlled environment with a therapist; and

WHEREAS, Stanford Medicine researchers find that ibogaine, a plant-based psychoactive compound, safely led to improvements in depression, anxiety, and functioning among veterans with traumatic brain injuries.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana

does hereby establish and provide for the Task Force on Alternative Therapies for Veterans to study whether certain psychedelic therapies may be beneficial to Louisiana veterans, and to propose recommendations, together with specific proposals for legislation, by written report to the legislature and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than February 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force should include consideration of the special needs of our veterans, the research conducted in the United States and abroad regarding alternative therapies, and any legislation that would be required to safely and effectively implement any veteran alternative therapy programs in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following members:

- (1) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.
- (2) The governor, or his designee.
- (3) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, or his designee.
- (4) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, or his designee.
- (5) The chancellor of LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, or his designee.
- (6) The chancellor of LSU Health Shreveport, or his designee.
- (7) The president of the Louisiana Hospital Association, or his designee.
- (8) One physician with experience treating veterans, appointed by the Louisiana State

Medical Society.

- (9) One veteran appointed by the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the task force shall review all of the following:

- (1) Clinical trials on the efficacy of using psychedelic therapies in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and other co-occurring conditions.
- (2) Current literature regarding the use of psychedelic therapies in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and other co-occurring conditions.
- (3) Actions of the United States Food and Drug Administration regarding psychedelic therapies for treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and other co-occurring conditions.

(4) Treatment guidelines for use of psychedelic therapies to treat post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and other co-occurring conditions and recommend guidelines and best practices for providers.

(5) Patient access to current treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and other co-occurring conditions and recommend legislative or other actions necessary to ensure patient access to psychedelic therapies following approval by the United States Food and Drug Administration, including considerations of provider availability, affordability, accessibility, training and licensure, and other regulatory requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare shall serve as chairman of the task force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the names of designees to the task force to the chairman no later than August 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the submission of its report or February 1, 2026, whichever occurs first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the governor, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, the chancellor of LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, the chancellor of LSU Health Shreveport, and the president of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE