

Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 541

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Freitas

3. Committee: Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title: Alternative treatment for veterans

5. Summary:

The proposed legislation directs the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) to enter into contracts with one or more providers to provide alternative treatment options for veterans who have been certified as having a traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder. The bill defines “alternative treatment” as a service that (i) “is not part of the standard of medical care established by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for treating traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder but has been shown by at least one scientific or medial peer-reviewed study to have some positive effect” on those disorders and (ii) is provided under the supervision of an individual licensed by the Board of Medicine, Nursing, Counseling, Psychology, or Social Work.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Indeterminate. See Item 8.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications:

The proposed legislation seems to require DVS to provide alternative treatment, through the use of one or more private contractors, for veterans who have been certified as having a traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder. The legislation would have a fiscal impact on the agency, but without additional information regarding the estimated cost of such treatment or the approximate number of veterans who would qualify for such treatment, it is not possible to estimate the potential cost.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Veterans Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: None.