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**HOUSE BILL NO. 541**

Offered January 10, 2018

Prefiled January 8, 2018

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 2.2-2001.1:1, relating to alternative treatment options for certain veterans.*

Patrons—Freitas, Carroll Foy, Ayala and Bell, John J.; Senator: Cosgrove

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 2.2-2001.1:1 as follows:**

**§ 2.2-2001.1:1. Alternative treatment options for certain veterans.**

A. As used in this section, "alternative treatment" means a therapeutic 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 medical peer-reviewed study to have some positive effect on traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder and (ii) is provided at the direction and under the supervision of an individual licensed by the Board of Medicine, Nursing, Counseling, Psychology, or Social Work.

B. The Department shall enter into contracts with one or more providers to provide alternative treatment options for veterans who have been certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the United States Armed Forces as having a traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder.

INTRODUCED

HB541