

2022 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE BILL NO. 403

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 11, 2022

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 20 of Title 2.2 a section numbered 2.2-2004.2, relating to Department of Veterans Services; Mental Health Care Coordinator; position created; report.*

Patrons—Willett, Murphy, Carr, Jenkins and Plum

Referred to Committee on Public Safety

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 20 of Title 2.2 a section numbered 2.2-2004.2 as follows:

§ 2.2-2004.2. *Mental Health Care Coordinator; position created; duties; report.*

A. *There is created in the Department of Veterans Services the position of Mental Health Care Coordinator to support and closely coordinate effective mental health care services for military service members and veterans and their families.*

B. *The Mental Health Care Coordinator shall:*

1. *Gather data on mental health challenges commonly experienced by military service members and veterans and their families.*

2. *Build on current efforts to increase mental health screenings and refer military service members and veterans and their family members to the appropriate medical professionals or services.*

3. *Research, study, and provide timely data on the common causes and methods of suicide utilized amongst military service members and veterans and their family members.*

4. *Perform other duties as may be required to effectively provide mental health care resources and support to military service members and veterans and their families.*

C. *The Mental Health Care Coordinator shall submit an annual report, including any legislative recommendation, through the Commissioner to the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, the Governor, and the General Assembly on or before December 1 of each year and other reports to the Commissioner as required by the Commissioner.*

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