

# HOUSE BILL NO. 5276

October 26, 2023, Introduced by Reps. Conlin, Morse, Churches, Miller, Rheingans, Martus, MacDonell, Price, Glanville, DeBoer, Bezotte, Wozniak, Hill, Koleszar, Mentzer, Schmaltz, Edwards, Coffia, Tsernoglou, Arbit, Brenda Carter, Rogers and Bruck and referred to the Committee on Military, Veterans and Homeland Security.

A bill to create the office of mental health and suicide prevention in the Michigan veterans affairs agency and provide for its powers and duties; and to provide for the powers and duties of certain state governmental officers and entities.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the "office of mental health  
2 and suicide prevention act".

3           Sec. 3. As used in this act:

4           (a) "Agency" means the Michigan veterans affairs agency.

1 (b) "Department" means the department of military and veterans  
2 affairs.

3 (c) "Office" means the office of mental health and suicide  
4 prevention created in section 5.

5 (d) "Veteran" means that term as defined in section 1 of 1965  
6 PA 190, MCL 35.61.

7 Sec. 5. (1) The office of mental health and suicide prevention  
8 is created in the agency. The director of the agency shall appoint  
9 an individual who has career experience, as determined by the  
10 director of the agency, in veteran mental health and substance  
11 abuse issues as the director of the office. The director of the  
12 office is not exempt from the state classified civil service. The  
13 director of the office reports to the director of the agency. The  
14 director of the agency may assign additional responsibilities to  
15 the director of the office in addition to the responsibilities  
16 described in this act.

17 (2) The office shall collect data on all of the following in  
18 this state:

19 (a) Veteran mental health and substance abuse issues,  
20 including, but not limited to, statistics related to post-traumatic  
21 stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, substance abuse and  
22 addiction, and suicide.

23 (b) Efforts by the department to address veteran mental health  
24 and substance abuse issues described in subdivision (a).

25 (c) The number of mental health screenings conducted under  
26 either of the following:

27 (i) The county veteran service officer training program created  
28 in section 3b of 1953 PA 192, 35.623b.

29 (ii) The Michigan azimuth bridge program created in section 321

1 of the Michigan military act, 1967 PA 150, MCL 32.721.

2 (d) The number of referrals from the mental health screenings  
3 described in subdivision (c).

4 (e) Efforts undertaken and data collected through the  
5 interagency agreement with the department of health and human  
6 services under section 322 of the Michigan military act, 1967 PA  
7 150, MCL 32.722.

8 (f) The yearly strategic goals of the office.

9 (g) Utilization of the buddy-to-buddy program created in  
10 section 323 of the Michigan military act, 1967 PA 150, MCL 32.723.

11 (h) The number of post-traumatic stress disorder  
12 questionnaires and traumatic brain injury questionnaires  
13 administered under section 236 of the Michigan military act, 1967  
14 PA 150, MCL 32.636.

15 (3) The office shall submit an annual report to the director  
16 of the agency and the standing committees of the house of  
17 representatives and senate on military and veterans affairs on the  
18 data collected under subsection (2).

19 (4) The office may, on appropriation, administer grants to  
20 local units of government, nonprofit organizations, or other  
21 entities, as determined by the director of the agency, in support  
22 of programs and resources for service members and veterans  
23 consistent with this act.

24 Sec. 7. In addition to any other powers and responsibilities  
25 granted to the director of the office under this act or delegated  
26 by the director of the agency, the director of the office shall  
27 oversee and supervise the following programs:

28 (a) The county veteran service officer training program  
29 created in section 3b of 1953 PA 192, 35.623b.

1 (b) The Michigan azimuth bridge program created in section 321  
2 of the Michigan military act, 1967 PA 150, MCL 32.721.

3 (c) The buddy-to-buddy program created in section 323 of the  
4 Michigan military act, 1967 PA 150, MCL 32.723.

5 Enacting section 1. This act does not take effect unless all  
6 of the following bills of the 102nd Legislature are enacted into  
7 law:

8 (a) Senate Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ or House Bill No. 5278 (request no.  
9 04208'23).

10 (b) Senate Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ or House Bill No. 5280 (request no.  
11 04209'23).

12 (c) Senate Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ or House Bill No. 5277 (request no.  
13 04674'23).

14 (d) Senate Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ or House Bill No. 5279 (request no.  
15 04675'23).