

HOUSE BILL NO. 5280

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

A bill to amend 1967 PA 150, entitled
"Michigan military act,"
(MCL 32.501 to 32.851) by adding section 321.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 321. (1) The department shall develop a program called
2 the Michigan azimuth bridge program that has the primary mission of
3 helping service members and veterans identify and support their
4 mental health and well-being needs through traditional and
5 nontraditional means. The director of the office of mental health

1 and suicide prevention within the Michigan veterans affairs agency
2 shall oversee and supervise the program.

3 (2) The department shall develop the program in conjunction
4 with a nonprofit organization that has the primary mission of
5 providing a holistic, individualized approach to mental health and
6 well-being through traditional and nontraditional means. The
7 department may also work with any additional nonprofit
8 organizations, state agencies, or commercial entities that the
9 department considers necessary for the successful design and launch
10 of the program.

11 (3) The department shall contract with a nonprofit
12 organization to operate the program, with the goal of enrolling
13 transitioning service members in the program by not later than 2
14 months before the date of each transitioning service member's
15 separation or retirement from military service. The program must be
16 offered in not fewer than 4 sessions per year, but may be offered
17 more frequently if it is considered necessary by the department.

18 (4) The program must include, but is not limited to,
19 information on all of the following:

20 (a) Warning signs for post-traumatic stress disorder,
21 depression, and substance abuse and addiction.

22 (b) Traditional mental health treatment resources offered to
23 veterans.

24 (c) Alternative treatment options offered by federally
25 licensed research centers.

26 (d) Additional alternative forms of treatment.

27 (e) Mental health and substance abuse screenings conducted
28 under the county veteran service officer training program created
29 in section 3b of 1953 PA 192, MCL 35.623b.

1 (f) Bridging the divide between military and civilian life and
2 finding purpose in civilian life.

3 (5) Any transitioning service member of the Armed Forces of
4 the United States or any commissioned officer of the other
5 uniformed services who is a transitioning service member is
6 eligible to participate in the program at the request of that
7 member or commissioned officer.

8 (6) The department shall conduct outreach to offer the program
9 to all members of the Michigan National Guard who are transitioning
10 service members.

11 (7) As used in this section:

12 (a) "Armed Forces of the United States" means the Army, Navy,
13 Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard, including
14 the reserve components.

15 (b) "Department" means the department of military and veterans
16 affairs.

17 (c) "Other uniformed services" means the National Oceanic and
18 Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps and the
19 United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

20 (d) "Program" means the Michigan azimuth bridge program
21 created in subsection (1).

22 (e) "Transitioning service member" means an individual who is
23 exiting military service into civilian life.

24 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
25 unless all of the following bills of the 102nd Legislature are
26 enacted into law:

27 (a) Senate Bill No. ____ or House Bill No. 5276 (request no.
28 03396'23).

29 (b) Senate Bill No. ____ or House Bill No. 5278 (request no.

1 04208'23).

2 (c) Senate Bill No. _____ or House Bill No. 5277 (request no.
3 04674'23).

4 (d) Senate Bill No. _____ or House Bill No. 5279 (request no.
5 04675'23).