

HB 55 / SB 326: Relating To Creating Alternative Treatment Options for Florida Veterans

Taking a proactive approach to Veteran Integration and Transition by utilizing Alternative Treatment Options for our Florida Veterans.

What is the purpose of HB 55 / SB 326?

- ▶ Alternative Treatment options for Veterans provides a pathway for Veterans to receive Alternative Treatments such as Service Dogs, Accelerated Resolution Therapy, Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment, Outdoor Recreational Sports, Acupuncture, Yoga, Integrative Restoration, Music Therapy and other complementary modalities through contracted organizations across the state of Florida.

Why is HB 55 / SB 326 necessary?

- ▶ A 2012 study on Veteran Suicide conducted by the Department of Veteran Affairs indicated that 25.11% - 26.82% of all Florida Suicide Victims are Veterans even though Veterans only make up roughly 9% of Florida's population.
- ▶ Introduces community based transition through Alternative treatment facilities across the State of Florida.
- ▶ Changes Veteran Treatment from reactive to proactive at the local level to solve the Veteran Suicide epidemic in the state of Florida.

How would HB 55 / SB 326 work?

- ▶ The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs will oversee a contracting agency's implementation and operations of a grant based system for treating Veterans with symptoms related to Post Traumatic Stress or Traumatic Brain Injury utilizing Alternative Treatments
- ▶ Therapeutic services provided are not part of the standard of medical care established by the United States 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
- ▶ Alternative Treatment options must be provided under the direction and supervision of Licensed professionals (i.e. LCSW, LMHC, etc.)

Vote "YES" on HB 55 / SB 326 and support alternative treatment options for Florida's veterans!