

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fourth Legislature
First Regular Session
2019

CHAPTER 104
HOUSE BILL 2488

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 36, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 36-146; RELATING TO VETERANS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 36, chapter 1, article 2, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 36-146, to read:

4 36-146. Veteran suicides; annual report; distribution

5 A. BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
6 SHALL ANNUALLY COMPILE A REPORT ON VETERAN SUICIDES IN THIS STATE THAT
7 INCLUDES ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

8 1. THE NUMBER AND RATE OF VETERANS WHO DIED BY SUICIDE IN THIS
9 STATE'S RESIDENT POPULATION FOR THE MOST CURRENT COMPLETE CALENDAR YEAR.

10 2. HISTORIC TRENDS OF VETERAN SUICIDE RATES AND INSTANCES IN THIS
11 STATE'S RESIDENT POPULATION COVERING AT LEAST THE PRECEDING FIVE YEARS.

12 3. HISTORIC TRENDS OF RATES AND INSTANCES OF THE MOST COMMON
13 MECHANISM OF SUICIDE AMONG THIS STATE'S RESIDENT VETERANS.

14 4. AN ANALYSIS OF THE YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST TO SUICIDE AMONG
15 THIS STATE'S RESIDENT VETERANS.

16 5. COMPARISONS OF THIS STATE'S RESIDENT VETERAN SUICIDE RATE TO THE
17 SUICIDE RATES OF THE NATION AND OTHER REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY DURING THE
18 SAME TIME PERIOD AS REPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
19 AFFAIRS.

20 6. AN ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIVE RISK OF SUICIDE AMONG THIS STATE'S
21 RESIDENT VETERANS, INCLUDING DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWNS BY RACE OR ETHNICITY,
22 AGE GROUP, GENDER AND REGION OF THE STATE.

23 7. A REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS OF SUICIDE PATTERNS AMONG THIS
24 STATE'S RESIDENT VETERANS THAT CONSIDERS POPULATION DENSITY AS A POTENTIAL
25 RISK FACTOR AND INFORMS THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES
26 WITHIN THIS STATE.

27 8. AN ANALYSIS OF PATTERNS OF DRUGS, OR COMBINATIONS OF DRUGS, THAT
28 WERE USED BY THIS STATE'S RESIDENT VETERANS WHEN DRUG POISONING WAS THE
29 MECHANISM OF SUICIDE.

30 9. AN ANALYSIS OF PATTERNS OF RECENT MEDICAL HISTORY OF THIS
31 STATE'S RESIDENT VETERANS WHO DIED BY SUICIDE USING DATA FROM THE UNITED
32 STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND FROM THE ARIZONA HEALTH CARE
33 COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM. DATA LINKAGE COMPLETED FOR THIS ANALYSIS SHALL
34 BE USED TO INFORM SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGIES BASED ON MEDICAL RISK
35 FACTORS THAT SIGNIFICANTLY CORRELATE TO SUICIDE.

36 B. THE REPORT REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION MAY NOT CONTAIN ANY
37 IDENTIFIERS THAT WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO PERSONALLY IDENTIFY IN ANY
38 MANNER OR UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DIED BY SUICIDE.

39 C. THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES SHALL SUBMIT TO THE
40 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES ON A FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
41 HEALTH SERVICES ALL DATA, INCLUDING PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION, IF
42 NECESSARY, IN ORDER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES TO COMPLY WITH
43 THIS SECTION.

1 D. THE INFORMATION AND RECORDS ACQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
2 SERVICES TO CREATE THE REPORT REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION ARE CONFIDENTIAL
3 AND ARE NOT SUBJECT TO SUBPOENA, DISCOVERY OR INTRODUCTION INTO EVIDENCE
4 IN ANY CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

5 E. THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE THE ANNUAL
6 REPORT REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
7 REPRESENTATIVES, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
8 VETERANS' SERVICES AND SHALL PROVIDE A COPY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR APRIL 17, 2019.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 17, 2019.