

REFERENCE TITLE: veteran suicide prevention; pilot program

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

SB 1454

Introduced by
Senator Shope

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 41, CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE 7, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 41-610.02; REPEALING SECTION 41-610.02, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; APPROPRIATING MONIES; RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Title 41, chapter 3, article 7, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 41-610.02, to read:

4 41-610.02. Veteran suicide prevention training pilot program;
5 annual report

6 A. THE VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING PILOT PROGRAM IS
7 ESTABLISHED IN THE DEPARTMENT TO OFFER CLAIMS EXAMINERS AND COUNTY AND
8 MUNICIPAL VETERAN SERVICE OFFICES SPECIALIZED TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION
9 IN PREVENTING VETERAN SUICIDES.

10 B. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONTRACT WITH AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS
11 EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING VETERAN-RELEVANT AND
12 EVIDENCE-BASED SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING TO DEVELOP THE TRAINING
13 CURRICULUM. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH AND OVERSEE THE PROCESS FOR
14 SELECTING PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AND CERTIFYING PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WHO
15 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING.

16 C. THE PROGRAM SHALL TRAIN PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS TO DO THE
17 FOLLOWING:

18 1. IDENTIFY INDICATORS OF ELEVATED SUICIDE RISK IN VETERANS.

19 2. PROVIDE EMERGENCY CRISIS REFERRALS FOR VETERANS EXPRESSING OR
20 EXHIBITING SYMPTOMS OF EMOTIONAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS.

21 D. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT RULES NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS
22 SECTION.

23 E. ON OR BEFORE JULY 30 EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A
24 REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
25 REPRESENTATIVES THAT INCLUDES INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PILOT PROGRAM AND
26 WHETHER ANY CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE TO THE PILOT PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE
27 PROGRAM'S EFFECTIVENESS. IN THE DEPARTMENT'S FINAL REPORT, THE DEPARTMENT
28 SHALL RECOMMEND WHETHER THE PILOT PROGRAM SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

29 Sec. 2. Delayed repeal

30 Section 41-610.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act,
31 is repealed from and after December 31, 2027.

32 Sec. 3. Appropriation; department of veterans' services;
33 exemption

34 A. The sum of \$500,000 is appropriated from the state general fund
35 in fiscal year 2023-2024 to the department of veterans' services for the
36 purposes of section 41-610.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this
37 act.

38 B. The appropriation made in subsection A of this section is exempt
39 from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating
40 to lapsing of appropriations.