

Senate Engrossed

veteran suicide prevention; pilot program

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

# SENATE BILL 1454

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31 is repealed from and after December 31, 2027.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 \$600,000 and one FTE position are appropriated from  
35 the state general fund in fiscal year 2023-2024 to the department of  
36 veterans' services for the purposes of section 41-610.02, Arizona Revised  
37 Statutes, as added by this act.

38 B. The department may spend up to \$100,000 of the monies  
39 appropriated in subsection A of this section to hire one program  
40 specialist and pay for other administrative costs, including marketing,  
41 associated with the veteran suicide prevention training pilot program  
42 established by section 41-610.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by  
43 this act.

44 C. The appropriation made in subsection A of this section is exempt  
45 from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating  
46 to lapsing of appropriations.