

CHAPTER 2019-61

Senate Bill No. 910

An act relating to court-ordered treatment programs; amending s. 394.47891, F.S.; providing that veterans who were discharged or released under any condition, individuals who are current or former United States Department of Defense contractors, and individuals who are current or former military members of a foreign allied country are eligible in a certain Military Veterans and Servicemembers Court Program; amending s. 948.08, F.S.; authorizing a person who is charged with a certain felony and identified as a veteran who is discharged or released under any condition, an individual who is a current or former United States Department of Defense contractor, or an individual who is a current or former military member of a foreign allied country to be eligible for voluntary admission into a pretrial veterans' treatment intervention program under certain circumstances; amending s. 948.16, F.S.; authorizing a veteran who is discharged or released under any condition, an individual who is a current or former United States Department of Defense contractor, or an individual who is a current or former military member of a foreign allied country and who is charged with a misdemeanor to be eligible for voluntary admission into a misdemeanor pretrial veterans' treatment intervention program under certain circumstances; amending s. 948.21, F.S.; authorizing the court to impose a condition requiring a probationer or community controllee who is a veteran discharged or released under any condition, an individual who is a current or former United States Department of Defense contractor, or an individual who is a current or former military member of a foreign allied country to participate in a certain treatment program under certain circumstances; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 394.47891, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

394.47891 Military veterans and servicemembers court programs.—The chief judge of each judicial circuit may establish a Military Veterans and Servicemembers Court Program under which veterans, as defined in s. 1.01; including veterans who were discharged or released under any condition; a general discharge, and servicemembers, as defined in s. 250.01; individuals who are current or former United States Department of Defense contractors; and individuals who are current or former military members of a foreign allied country, who are charged or convicted of a criminal offense, and who suffer from a military-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem can be sentenced in accordance with chapter 921 in a manner that appropriately addresses the severity of the mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem through services tailored to the individual needs of the participant. Entry into any Military Veterans and

Servicemembers Court Program must be based upon the sentencing court's assessment of the defendant's criminal history, military service, substance abuse treatment needs, mental health treatment needs, amenability to the services of the program, the recommendation of the state attorney and the victim, if any, and the defendant's agreement to enter the program.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 948.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

948.08 Pretrial intervention program.—

(7)(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, a person who is charged with a felony, other than a felony listed in s. 948.06(8)(c), and identified as a veteran, as defined in s. 1.01; ~~including a veteran who is discharged or released under any condition; a general discharge, or~~ servicemember, as defined in s. 250.01; an individual who is a current or former United States Department of Defense contractor; or an individual who is a current or former military member of a foreign allied country, who suffers from a military service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem; is eligible for voluntary admission into a pretrial veterans' treatment intervention program approved by the chief judge of the circuit, upon motion of either party or the court's own motion, except:

1. If a defendant was previously offered admission to a pretrial veterans' treatment intervention program at any time before trial and the defendant rejected that offer on the record, the court may deny the defendant's admission to such a program.

2. If a defendant previously entered a court-ordered veterans' treatment program, the court may deny the defendant's admission into the pretrial veterans' treatment program.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 948.16, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

948.16 Misdemeanor pretrial substance abuse education and treatment intervention program; misdemeanor pretrial veterans' treatment intervention program; misdemeanor pretrial mental health court program.—

(2)(a) A veteran, as defined in s. 1.01; ~~including a veteran who is discharged or released under any condition; a general discharge, or~~ servicemember, as defined in s. 250.01; an individual who is a current or former United States Department of Defense contractor; or an individual who is a current or former military member of a foreign allied country, who suffers from a military service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem, and who is charged with a misdemeanor is eligible for voluntary admission into a misdemeanor pretrial veterans' treatment intervention program approved by the chief judge of the circuit, for a period based on the program's

requirements and the treatment plan for the offender, upon motion of either party or the court’s own motion. However, the court may deny the defendant admission into a misdemeanor pretrial veterans’ treatment intervention program if the defendant has previously entered a court-ordered veterans’ treatment program.

Section 4. Subsection (3) of section 948.21, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (4), and a new subsection (3) is added to that section to read:

948.21 Condition of probation or community control; military service-members and veterans.—

(3) Effective for a probationer or community controllee whose crime is committed on or after October 1, 2019, and who is a veteran, as defined in s. 1.01; a veteran who is discharged or released under any condition; a servicemember, as defined in s. 250.01; an individual who is a current or former United States Department of Defense contractor; or an individual who is a current or former military member of a foreign allied country, who suffers from a military service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem, the court may, in addition to any other conditions imposed, impose a condition requiring the probationer or community controllee to participate in a treatment program capable of treating the probationer or community controllee’s mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem.

Section 5. This act shall take effect October 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor June 7, 2019.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 7, 2019.