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HOUSE BILL 278

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014**

INTRODUCED BY

Dianne Miller Hamilton

AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS; CONTINUING A PILOT PROJECT TO TREAT  
VETERANS WITH POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER USING VIRTUAL  
REALITY TREATMENT DEVICES; PROVIDING FOR THERAPISTS' TRAINING;  
PROVIDING FOR VIRTUAL REALITY THERAPY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT  
FOR THE MASTER'S OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM AT WESTERN NEW MEXICO  
UNIVERSITY; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**SECTION 1.** [NEW MATERIAL] VETERANS VIRTUAL REALITY  
TREATMENT PILOT PROJECT--CONTINUED--ADMINISTRATION--TRAINING--  
CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT--FUND CREATED.--

A. The "veterans virtual reality treatment pilot  
project", created in fiscal year 2014, is continued through  
fiscal year 2017 to determine the efficacy of virtual reality  
treatment for veterans who suffer from posttraumatic stress

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1 disorder. The purpose of the pilot project is to:

2 (1) demonstrate that virtual reality therapy  
3 is a cost- and therapeutically effective strategy to help  
4 reduce anxiety and depression and other symptoms of  
5 posttraumatic stress disorder;

6 (2) demonstrate that virtual reality therapy  
7 will decrease long-term costs due to chronic care needs,  
8 reduced productivity and suicide among veterans with  
9 posttraumatic stress disorder;

10 (3) develop and implement a related curriculum  
11 in the master's of social work program at western New Mexico  
12 university to train social workers in the therapeutic use of  
13 virtual reality therapy;

14 (4) train graduate social workers and other  
15 therapists to provide virtual reality therapy; and

16 (5) provide therapeutic services to rural  
17 veterans closer to their homes through the use of mobile  
18 virtual reality therapy devices.

19 B. The pilot project shall be administered by  
20 western New Mexico university. The university shall establish  
21 reporting and evaluation requirements for the pilot project and  
22 shall provide interim and final reports to the governor and to  
23 the legislature through the legislative health and human  
24 services committee. A copy of the reports shall be provided to  
25 the legislative council service library.

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