

HOUSE BILL NO. 5271

November 12, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Longjohn, Rogers, Xiong, O'Neal, Young, Neeley, Byrnes, B. Carter, Price, McKinney, Witwer, Tate, Koleszar, Liberati, Weiss, Steckloff, Tsernoglou, Breen, Paiz, Glanville, Scott, Brixie, Dievendorf, Mentzer, Morgan, T. Carter, Andrews, Miller, Skaggs, McFall and Wooden and referred to Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to amend 1967 PA 150, entitled
"Michigan military act,"
(MCL 32.501 to 32.851) by adding section 321.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 321. (1) The department shall develop a transition bridge
2 program for service members and veterans focused on mental health,
3 well-being, and suicide prevention. The manager of the office shall
4 oversee and supervise the program.
5 (2) The department may develop the program in conjunction with

1 1 or more appropriate nonprofit organizations that have the primary
2 mission of providing a holistic, individualized approach to mental
3 health and well-being through traditional and nontraditional means
4 or government agencies. The department may also work with any
5 stakeholders the department considers necessary for the successful
6 design and launch of the program. The department may contract with
7 an appropriate government agency or nonprofit organization to
8 operate the program.

9 (3) All of the following apply to the program:

10 (a) The program must be offered not less than 4 times per year
11 and in a manner that is similar to other military transition
12 programs that are required under 10 USC 101 to 18505.

13 (b) Subject to subdivision (c), any individual who is an
14 eligible member may participate in the program.

15 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, an
16 eligible member may enroll and complete the program by not later
17 than 1 year after that eligible member's separation date from
18 military service. The manager of the office may waive this
19 requirement.

20 (d) The manager of the office shall make every practical
21 effort to ensure that the program is available to each eligible
22 member within 2 months immediately before and 2 months immediately
23 after that eligible member's separation date from military service.

24 (4) The program must include, but is not limited to,
25 information on all of the following:

26 (a) Warning signs for post-traumatic stress disorder,
27 depression, substance use disorder, and suicide and suicidal
28 ideation.

29 (b) Traditional mental health treatment resources offered to

1 veterans.

2 (c) Alternative treatment options offered by federally
3 licensed research centers.

4 (d) Additional alternative forms of treatment.

5 (e) Bridging the divide between military and civilian life and
6 finding purpose in civilian life.

7 (5) The department shall make the mental health and wellness
8 resource guide created under section 6 of the protecting veterans
9 mental health act available to enrolled participants in the
10 program.

11 (6) The department shall conduct outreach to offer the program
12 to all members of the Michigan National Guard who are exiting
13 military service into civilian life.

14 (7) Any data collected under this section must not include
15 personally identifying information.

16 (8) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or
17 retained by the department or the office of mental health and
18 suicide prevention within the Michigan veterans affairs agency in
19 the performance of an official function under this section and that
20 contains information specific to an individual service member or
21 veteran is not subject to disclosure under the freedom of
22 information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

23 (9) As used in this section:

24 (a) "Armed Forces of the United States" means the Army, Navy,
25 Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard, including
26 the reserve components.

27 (b) "Department" means the department of military and veterans
28 affairs.

29 (c) "Eligible member" means an individual who resides in this

1 state and is currently serving in, or is a veteran of, any 1 of the
2 following:

3 (i) The Michigan National Guard.

4 (ii) The Armed Forces of the United States, as an active duty
5 or reserve member.

6 (iii) The other uninformed services, as a commissioned officer.

7 (d) "Office" means the office of mental health and suicide
8 prevention within the Michigan veterans affairs agency.

9 (e) "Other uniformed services" means the National Oceanic and
10 Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps and the
11 United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

12 (f) "Program" means the transition bridge program created in
13 subsection (1).

14 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
15 unless House Bill No. 5270(request no. H00608'25) of the 103rd
16 Legislature is enacted into law.