



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Fifth Legislature, First Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2542

veteran suicides; annual report

Purpose

Requires the Report on Veteran Suicides (Report) compiled by the Department of Health Services (DHS) to include the utilization and encounter data for a nonprofit veterans' services organization that provides services related to reducing suicides among Arizona's military and veteran populations.

Background

Statute requires DHS to annually compile a Report that includes, among Arizona's resident veteran population who died by suicide: 1) the number and rate of veterans who died by suicide for the most current complete calendar year; 2) historic trends of veteran suicide rates and instances covering at least the preceding five years; 3) historic trends of rates and instances of the most common mechanism of suicide; 4) an analysis of the years of potential life lost to suicide; 5) comparisons of the suicide rate to that of the nation and other regions of the United States during the same time period as reported by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (U.S. VA); 6) an analysis of the veterans' relative risk of suicide compared to other Arizona residents, including demographic breakdowns by race or ethnicity, age group, gender and region of Arizona; 7) a regional distribution analysis of suicide patterns that considers population density as a potential risk factor and informs the distribution of suicide prevention services within Arizona; 8) an analysis of patterns or combinations of drugs used when drug poisoning was the mechanism of suicide; and 9) an analysis of patterns of recent medical history using data from the U.S. VA and from the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System.

The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) is required to submit to DHS all data, including protected health information, if necessary, on a form prescribed by DHS ([A.R.S. § 36-146](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Requires the Report to include the utilization and encounter data for a nonprofit veterans' services organization that provides services related to reducing suicides among Arizona's military and veteran populations.
2. Allows the data that the ADVS is required to submit to DHS to include national, state and local sources, as available.
3. Makes a technical change.
4. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

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House Action

MAPS	2/8/21	DP	14-0-0-0
3 rd Read	2/23/21		59-0-1

Prepared by Senate Research

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JA/RC/gs