

REFERENCE TITLE: veterans' court fund; grant program

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
First Regular Session
2025

HB 2843

Introduced by
Representatives Travers: Kupper, Márquez, Marshall

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 41, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 5, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 41-200; APPROPRIATING MONIES; RELATING TO THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL.

(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 1, article 5, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 41-200, to read:

4 41-200. Veterans' specialty court grant program; veterans'
5 treatment court fund; administration; purpose;
6 annual reports

7 A. THE VETERANS' SPECIALTY COURT GRANT PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED FOR
8 MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES IN THIS STATE TO ESTABLISH A VETERANS' COURT
9 PROGRAM. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL ADMINISTER THE GRANT PROGRAM. THE
10 ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL ADOPT RULES AND ESTABLISH THE CRITERIA NECESSARY TO
11 IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION. ANY COURT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS
12 SECTION MAY NOT DUPLICATE, DISRUPT OR INTERFERE WITH A VETERANS' COURT
13 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-601 OR ANY OTHER COURT PROGRAMS FOR
14 VETERANS.

15 B. THE GRANT PROGRAM SHALL:

16 1. SUPPORT THE REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VETERANS AS
17 CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES.

18 2. PROMOTE COLLABORATION AMONG PROSECUTORS, DEFENSE COUNSELS,
19 JUDGES, COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS STATE, THE UNITED
20 STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS'
21 SERVICES.

22 3. DEVELOP AND OVERSEE INDIVIDUALIZED TREATMENT PLANS TO ADDRESS
23 THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF JUSTICE-INVOLVED VETERANS' BEHAVIOR, INCLUDING
24 ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

25 (a) POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.

26 (b) TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

27 (c) ANGER MANAGEMENT.

28 (d) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION.

29 (e) ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT.

30 C. THE VETERANS' TREATMENT COURT FUND IS ESTABLISHED CONSISTING OF
31 LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL ADMINISTER THE
32 FUND. MONIES IN THE FUND ARE CONTINUOUSLY APPROPRIATED. THE FUND MAY BE
33 USED TO PROVIDE MONIES TO MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES IN THIS STATE TO
34 ESTABLISH A VETERANS' COURT SPECIALTY PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.
35 APPLICANTS SHALL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION ON A FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE
36 ATTORNEY GENERAL. VETERAN'S SPECIALTY COURT GRANT PROGRAM MONIES SHALL BE
37 AWARDED ANNUALLY TO GRANTEEES AND SHALL BE USED FOR ANY RELEVANT
38 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, INCLUDING HIRING PERSONNEL TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN
39 A VETERANS' SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAM.

40 D. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL COLLABORATE WITH COUNTY ATTORNEYS,
41 MUNICIPAL PROSECUTORS, PUBLIC DEFENDERS, THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE
42 COURTS AND ANY RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS TO ESTABLISH THE BEST PRACTICES AND
43 STANDARDS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF VETERANS' COURTS AND DATA COLLECTION
44 IN THIS STATE.

1 E. ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 OF EACH YEAR, EACH GRANTEE SHALL SUBMIT
2 A REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL THAT INCLUDES ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

3 1. THE NUMBER OF VETERANS SERVED, SEPARATED BY TYPE OF OFFENSE,
4 DEMOGRAPHICS AND MILITARY SERVICE HISTORY.

5 2. ARREST AND RECIDIVISM RATES AMONG VETERANS' COURT PROGRAM
6 PARTICIPANTS.

7 3. VETERANS' COURT PROGRAM COMPLETION RATES AND PARTICIPANT
8 OUTCOMES.

9 4. USE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES.

10 5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VETERANS' COURT PROGRAM AND VETERANS'
11 SPECIALTY COURT GRANT PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT.

12 F. ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL
13 SUBMIT A COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR, THE PRESIDENT OF THE
14 SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT ANALYZES THE
15 DATA SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION E OF THIS SECTION AND SUMMARIZES AND
16 INCLUDES ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

17 1. STATEWIDE DATA ON VETERANS' COURT PROGRAMS THAT INCORPORATE
18 GRANTEE-REPORTED METRICS ON PARTICIPATION, RECIDIVISM AND TREATMENT
19 OUTCOMES.

20 2. CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS TO VETERANS' COURT PROGRAM
21 IMPLEMENTATION, BASED ON GRANTEE FEEDBACK AND DATA.

22 3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCING THE IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT
23 OF VETERANS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM OF THIS STATE, INCLUDING
24 DATA COLLECTION PROTOCOLS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR CROSS-AGENCY
25 COLLABORATION AND DATA SHARING AMONG FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL
26 STAKEHOLDERS.

27 4. POLICY AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE VETERANS' COURT
28 PROGRAM AND VETERANS' SPECIALTY COURT GRANT PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS AND
29 SUSTAINABILITY.

30 Sec. 2. Appropriation; veterans' treatment court fund;
31 exemption

32 A. The sum of \$4,000,000 is appropriated from the state general
33 fund in fiscal year 2025-2026 to the veterans' treatment court fund
34 established by section 41-200, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this
35 act.

36 B. The appropriation made in subsection A of this section is exempt
37 from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating
38 to lapsing of appropriations.