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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2095

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By House Committee on State Government (originally sponsored by Representatives R. Johnson, McLean, Anderson, Jones, Kremen, Braddock, Valle, Wineberry, Franklin, Day, Pruitt, Rayburn, Roland, Spanel and Prentice; by request of Department of Veterans Affairs).

Read first time March 6, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to counseling veterans and their dependents; adding  
2 new sections to chapter 43.60A RCW; and declaring an emergency.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The department of veterans affairs, to  
5 the extent funds are made available, shall: (1) Contract with  
6 professional counseling specialists to provide a range of direct  
7 treatment services to war-affected state veterans and to those national  
8 guard and reservists who served in the Middle East, and their family  
9 members; (2) provide additional treatment services to Washington state  
10 Vietnam veterans for post traumatic stress disorder, particularly for  
11 those veterans whose post traumatic stress disorder has intensified or  
12 initially emerged due to the war in the Middle East; (3) provide an  
13 educational program designed to train primary care professionals, such  
14 as mental health professionals, about the effects of war-related stress  
15 and trauma; (4) provide informational and counseling services for the

1 purpose of establishing and fostering peer-support networks throughout  
2 the state for families of deployed members of the reserves and the  
3 Washington national guard; (5) provide for veterans' families, a  
4 referral network of community mental health providers who are skilled  
5 in treating deployment stress, combat stress, and post traumatic  
6 stress.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department shall coordinate the  
8 programs contained in section 1 of this act with the services offered  
9 by the department of social and health services, local mental health  
10 organizations, and the federal department of veterans affairs to  
11 minimize duplication.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of veterans affairs shall  
13 give priority in its counseling and instructional programs to treating  
14 state veterans located in rural areas of the state, especially those  
15 who are members of traditionally underserved minority groups, and women  
16 veterans.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department of veterans affairs shall  
18 design its post traumatic stress disorder and combat stress programs  
19 and related activities to provide veterans with as much privacy and  
20 confidentiality as possible and yet consistent with sound program  
21 management.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act are  
23 each added to chapter 43.60A RCW.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
2 effect immediately.