

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 768

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR KRAUS.

Read 1st time February 8, 2012, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

5763S.011

AN ACT

To amend chapter 478, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to veterans treatment courts.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 478, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new
2 section, to be known as section 478.008, to read as follows:

**478.008. 1. Veterans treatment courts may be established by any
2 circuit court, or combination of circuit courts upon agreement of the
3 presiding judges of such circuit courts, under sections 478.001 to
4 478.008 to provide an alternative for the judicial system to dispose of
5 cases which stem from substance abuse or mental illness of military
6 veterans or current military personnel. A veterans treatment court
7 shall combine judicial supervision, drug testing, and substance abuse
8 and mental health treatment to participants who have served or are
9 currently serving the United States armed forces.**

10 **2. Except for good cause found by the court, a veterans treatment
11 court shall make a referral for substance abuse or mental health
12 treatment, or a combination of substance abuse and mental health
13 treatment, through the Department of Defense health care, the Veterans
14 Administration, or a community-based treatment program. Community-
15 based programs utilized shall receive state or federal funds in
16 connection with such referral and shall only refer the individual to a
17 program which is certified by the Missouri department of mental
18 health, unless no appropriate certified treatment program is located
19 within the same county as the veterans treatment court.**

20 **3. Upon successful completion of a veterans treatment court
21 program, the charges, petition, or penalty against a veterans treatment**

22 court participant may be dismissed, reduced, or modified. Any fees
23 received by a court from a defendant as payment for substance abuse
24 or mental health treatment programs shall not be considered court
25 costs, charges, or fines.

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