

SENATE BILL NO. 548

BY SENATORS BOUDREAUX, BARROW AND BISHOP

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 15:244, relative to criminal procedure; to provide for a pretrial diversion program for certain veterans of the military; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 15:244 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§244. Military pretrial diversion program

A. In addition to any existing pretrial diversion program, the district attorney for each judicial district, alone or in conjunction with the district attorney of an adjacent judicial district, may create and administer a special pretrial diversion program for defendants who meet the following requirements:

(1) The individual is a veteran as defined in R.S. 13:5364.

(2) The defendant has been diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder as a result of military service and provides documentation of the diagnosis to the court.

B. At the discretion of the district attorney, after costs associated with the administration of the program are paid, a portion of all remaining monies collected pursuant to this Section may be distributed to entities within the judicial district, or within the judicial districts participating in the program, that provide rehabilitative services and treatment to veterans who have been diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
2 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____