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Int. No. 1171

By Council Members Holden, Louis, Hanks, Brannan, Banks, Feliz, Nurse, Schulman, Narcisse, Farías, Vernikov, Paladino, Marmorato and Ariola

A Local Law in relation to requiring a study and recommendations on the feasibility of implementing a pilot program to provide reconsolidation of traumatic memories therapy for veterans

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Reconsolidation of traumatic memories therapy feasibility study and recommendations. a. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

City. The term "city" means the city of New York.

Commissioner. The term "commissioner" means the commissioner of veterans' services.

Department. The term "department" means the department of veterans' services.

Reconsolidation of traumatic memories therapy. The term "reconsolidation of traumatic memories therapy" means a therapeutic intervention designed to alleviate symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological disorders through the intentional alteration of memory.

Veteran. The term "veteran" has the same meaning as set forth in section 3101 of the charter.

b. Feasibility study. Over a 1-year period beginning on the effective date of this local law, the commissioner shall, in consultation with the commissioner of health and mental hygiene, conduct a study to assess the feasibility of implementing a pilot program to provide reconsolidation of traumatic memories therapy for veterans residing in the city. At a minimum, such study shall include:

1. An evaluation of whether reconsolidation of traumatic memories therapy is a recommended form of therapy for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or other psychological disorders in the city;

2. An estimate of the number of veterans in the city who could benefit from such a pilot program;

3. An analysis of the cost of implementing such a pilot program, including, but not limited to, training, staffing, and operational expenses;

4. An evaluation of potential funding sources or partnerships that could be utilized to support such a pilot program; and

5. A determination of whether such a pilot program should move forward, and for what period of time, based on the findings of the study.

c. Recommendations. 1. Based on the findings of the study conducted pursuant to subdivision b of this section, the commissioner shall, within 6 months after completing such study, develop recommendations regarding the feasibility and advisability of implementing a pilot program to provide reconsolidation of traumatic memories therapy for veterans residing in the city. At a minimum, such recommendations shall include the factors laid out in subdivision b of this section.

2. The commissioner shall submit such recommendations, along with a detailed report of the study findings, to the mayor and the speaker of the council and post them on the department's website.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 120 days after it becomes law.

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