

- SUBJECT:** Requiring a study on alternative therapies for treating PTSD
- COMMITTEE:** Public Health — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Klick, Guerra, Allison, Coleman, Collier, Jetton, Oliverson, Price, Smith, Zwiener
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Campos
- WITNESSES:** For — Marcus Capone and Amber Capone, VETS: Veterans Exploring Treatment Solutions, Inc.; James Marr, Warrior Angels Foundation; Lynnette Averill; Morgan Luttrell; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jim Brennan, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations; Kevin Stewart, Texas Psychological Association; Graham Ginn; Thomas Parkinson)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Manda Hall, Department of State Health Services)
- BACKGROUND:** Health and Safety Code ch. 481 governs the Texas Controlled Substances Act and defines "controlled substance" as a substance, including a drug, an adulterant, and a dilutant, listed in Schedules I through V or Penalty Group 1, 1-A, 2, 2-A, 3, or 4. The term includes the aggregate weight of any mixture, solution, or other substance containing a controlled substance. The term does not include hemp, as defined by Agriculture Code sec. 121.001, or the tetrahydrocannabinols in hemp.
- Sec. 481.103 includes 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) in Penalty Group 2. This penalty group includes any quantity of certain hallucinogenic substances, their salts, isomers, and salts of isomers, unless specifically excepted, if the existence of these salts, isomers, and salts of isomers is possible within a specific chemical designation.

Interested parties have noted that certain alternative medical therapies may have the potential to help aid veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, and that the state should conduct a study to determine the efficacy of such treatments.

DIGEST:

CSHB 1802 would require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), in collaboration with Baylor College of Medicine and in partnership with a military veterans hospital or a medical center that provides medical care to veterans, to conduct a study on the efficacy of using certain alternative therapies, including the use of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), psilocybin, and ketamine, in the treatment of veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

In conducting the study, HHSC in collaboration with the Baylor College of Medicine would be required to perform a clinical trial on the therapeutic efficacy of using psilocybin in the treatment of treatment-resistant post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans. HHSC also would be required to review current literature regarding:

- the safety and efficacy of MDMA, psilocybin, and ketamine in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder; and
- the access veterans have to MDMA, psilocybin, and ketamine for treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder in the United States.

HHSC would have to submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, House speaker, and each member of the Legislature quarterly reports on the progress of the study. No later than December 1, 2024, a written report would have to be provided to the same parties containing the results of the study and any recommendations for legislative or other action.

HHSC would be required to ensure that any protected health information collected during a clinical trial conducted or contained in the report would not personally identify an individual.

The bill's provisions would expire September 1, 2025.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2021.

**NOTES:**

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a negative impact of about \$1.4 million to general revenue through fiscal 2023.