

2025 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 186

BY SENATOR MCMATH

VETERANS. Creates the Task Force on Alternative Therapies for Veterans.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create and provide for the Task Force on Alternative Therapies for Veterans.

3 WHEREAS, for our military veterans, many of the deepest wounds of war are
4 invisible; and

5 WHEREAS, traumatic brain injuries resulting from head trauma or blast explosions
6 are a leading cause of post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, and suicide among
7 veterans; and

8 WHEREAS, few treatments have been effective at diminishing the long-term effects
9 of traumatic brain injuries, leaving many veterans feeling hopeless; and

10 WHEREAS, reliance on prescription drugs for mood and anxiety disorders as a result
11 of military service can impact a veteran's quality of life and strain families, workplace
12 stability, and community involvement; and

13 WHEREAS, our veterans deserve every opportunity to try therapies that alleviate the
14 functional and neuropsychiatric symptoms of traumatic brain injury; and

15 WHEREAS, some psychedelic therapies which may be beneficial to treating mental
16 health or other medical conditions but are not readily available include
17 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), psilocybin, and ketamine; and

18 WHEREAS, researchers have begun pairing psilocybin with various forms of

1 psychotherapy, called Psilocybin-Assisted Therapy (P-AT), to support in healing mental
2 health conditions, including PTSD; and

3 WHEREAS, participants in these research studies are only able to use the
4 psychedelics in a controlled environment with a therapist; and

5 WHEREAS, Stanford Medicine researchers find that ibogaine, a plant-based
6 psychoactive compound, safely led to improvements in depression, anxiety, and functioning
7 among veterans with traumatic brain injuries.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
9 does hereby establish and provide for the Task Force on Alternative Therapies for Veterans
10 to study whether certain psychedelic therapies may be beneficial to Louisiana veterans, and
11 to propose recommendations, together with specific proposals for legislation, by written
12 report to the legislature and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required
13 by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than February 1, 2026.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force should include consideration of
15 the special needs of our veterans, the research conducted in the United States and abroad
16 regarding alternative therapies, and any legislation that would be required to safely and
17 effectively implement any veteran alternative therapy programs in Louisiana.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following
19 members:

20 (1) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

21 (2) The governor, or his designee.

22 (3) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, or his designee.

23 (4) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, or his designee.

24 (5) The chancellor of LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, or his designee.

25 (6) The chancellor of LSU Health Shreveport, or his designee.

26 (7) The president of the Louisiana Hospital Association, or his designee.

27 (8) One physician with experience treating veterans, appointed by the Louisiana State
28 Medical Society.

29 (9) One veteran appointed by the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the task force shall

1 review all of the following:

2 (1) Clinical trials on the efficacy of using psychedelic therapies in the treatment of
3 post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and other co-occurring conditions.

4 (2) Current literature regarding the use of psychedelic therapies in the treatment of
5 post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and other co-occurring conditions.

6 (3) Actions of the United States Food and Drug Administration regarding
7 psychedelic therapies for treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and other
8 co-occurring conditions.

9 (4) Treatment guidelines for use of psychedelic therapies to treat post-traumatic
10 stress disorder, depression, and other co-occurring conditions and recommend guidelines and
11 best practices for providers.

12 (5) Patient access to current treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, depression,
13 and other co-occurring conditions and recommend legislative or other actions necessary to
14 ensure patient access to psychedelic therapies following approval by the United States Food
15 and Drug Administration, including considerations of provider availability, affordability,
16 accessibility, training and licensure, and other regulatory requirements.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health
18 and Welfare shall serve as chairman of the task force.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the
20 names of designees to the task force to the chairman no later than August 1, 2025.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a
22 quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the
23 affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve
25 without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be
26 individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the
28 submission of its report or February 1, 2026, whichever occurs first.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
30 chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the governor, the secretary of the

1 Louisiana Department of Health, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Veterans
2 Affairs, the chancellor of LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans, the chancellor of LSU
3 Health Shreveport, and the president of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

	DIGEST	
SR 186 Original	2025 Regular Session	McMath
Creates the Task Force on Alternative Therapies for Veterans.		