1	HOUSE BILL 278
2	51st legislature - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - second session, 2014
3	INTRODUCED BY
4	Dianne Miller Hamilton
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10	AN ACT
11	RELATING TO VETERANS; CONTINUING A PILOT PROJECT TO TREAT
12	VETERANS WITH POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER USING VIRTUAL
13	REALITY TREATMENT DEVICES; PROVIDING FOR THERAPISTS' TRAINING;
14	PROVIDING FOR VIRTUAL REALITY THERAPY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT
15	FOR THE MASTER'S OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM AT WESTERN NEW MEXICO
16	UNIVERSITY; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.
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18	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:
19	SECTION 1. [ <u>NEW MATERIAL</u> ] VETERANS VIRTUAL REALITY
20	TREATMENT PILOT PROJECTCONTINUEDADMINISTRATIONTRAINING
21	CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENTFUND CREATED
22	A. The "veterans virtual reality treatment pilot
23	project", created in fiscal year 2014, is continued through
24	fiscal year 2017 to determine the efficacy of virtual reality
25	treatment for veterans who suffer from posttraumatic stress
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1 disorder. The purpose of the pilot project is to: 2 (1)demonstrate that virtual reality therapy is a cost- and therapeutically effective strategy to help 3 reduce anxiety and depression and other symptoms of 4 5 posttraumatic stress disorder; (2) demonstrate that virtual reality therapy 6 7 will decrease long-term costs due to chronic care needs, reduced productivity and suicide among veterans with 8 9 posttraumatic stress disorder; develop and implement a related curriculum 10 (3) in the master's of social work program at western New Mexico 11 12 university to train social workers in the therapeutic use of virtual reality therapy; 13 (4) train graduate social workers and other 14 therapists to provide virtual reality therapy; and 15 (5) provide therapeutic services to rural 16 veterans closer to their homes through the use of mobile 17 virtual reality therapy devices. 18 The pilot project shall be administered by 19 Β. 20 western New Mexico university. The university shall establish reporting and evaluation requirements for the pilot project and 21 shall provide interim and final reports to the governor and to 22 the legislature through the legislative health and human 23 services committee. A copy of the reports shall be provided to 24 the legislative council service library. 25 .195715.1

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1 C. The university shall establish the "veterans 2 virtual reality treatment fund" into which all appropriations, 3 gifts, grants and donations for the pilot project and income from investment of the fund shall be deposited. The university 4 shall seek public and private gifts, grants and donations for 5 the pilot project. The university shall administer the fund, 6 7 and money in the fund is appropriated to the university to carry out the purposes of the veterans virtual reality 8 9 treatment pilot project. Money shall be expended in accordance with the terms of any gifts, grants and donations to the pilot 10 project. Unless otherwise specified by the terms of a grant or 11 12 donation, money in the fund at the end of the pilot project shall revert to the general fund. 13

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the board of regents of western New Mexico university for expenditure in fiscal years 2015 through 2017 to continue the veterans virtual reality treatment pilot project. The appropriation shall be expended in three annual one-hundred-thousand-dollar (\$100,000) increments. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2017 shall revert to the general fund.

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