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29 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

30 Section 1. Section **78A-5-301** is enacted to read:

31 **78A-5-301. Creation of a veterans court program -- Definition of a veterans court**

32 **program -- Criteria for participation in a veterans court program -- Reporting**

33 **requirements.**

34 (1) The Judicial Council may create a veterans court program in any judicial district or

35 geographic region that demonstrates:

36 (a) the need for a veterans court program; and

37 (b) the existence of a collaborative strategy between the court, prosecutors, defense

38 counsel, corrections, substance abuse treatment services, and the United States Department of

39 Veterans Affairs Veterans Justice Outreach Program to divert veteran offenders.

40 (2) The collaborative strategy in each veterans court program shall:

41 (a) include monitoring and evaluation components to measure program effectiveness;

42 and

43 (b) be submitted, for the purpose of coordinating the disbursement of funding, to the ~~§~~ [;

44 ~~(i)~~ ~~←§~~ Administrative Office of the Courts ~~§~~ [; ~~and~~

45 ~~(ii)~~ ~~Department of Corrections~~ ~~←§~~ .

46 (3) A veterans court program shall include continuous judicial supervision using a

47 cooperative approach with prosecutors, defense counsel, corrections, substance abuse treatment

48 services, and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Justice Outreach

49 Program as appropriate to promote public safety, protect participants' due process rights, and

50 integrate veteran diversion treatment programs with the justice system case processing.

51 (4) Screening criteria for participation in a veterans court program shall include:

52 (a) a plea to, conviction of, or adjudication for ~~§~~ [a nonviolent offense or drug-related] a

52a criminal ~~←§~~

53 offense;

54 (b) ~~§~~ [an agreement to] ~~←§~~ frequent alcohol and other drug testing, if appropriate;

55 (c) participation in veteran diversion outreach programs, including substance abuse

56 treatment programs where appropriate; and

57 (d) ~~§~~ [an agreement to submit to] ~~←§~~ sanctions for noncompliance with diversion and

58 substance abuse programs' requirements.