

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2016
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 11, 2016
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2016
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 8, 2016
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 23, 2016
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1672

Introduced by Assembly Member Mathis
(Coauthors: Assembly Members ~~Chang and Chávez~~ *Chang, Chávez,*
***Cristina Garcia, and Hadley*)**
(Coauthor: Senator Fuller)

January 15, 2016

An act to add and repeal Section 68530 of the Government Code, relating to ~~courts~~: *courts, and making an appropriation therefor.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1672, as amended, Mathis. Veterans treatment courts: Judicial Council assessment and survey.

Existing law establishes a statewide system of courts with a superior court of one or more judges in each county. Existing law requires the Judicial Council to prescribe the methods, means, and standards for electronic collection of data related to court administration, practice, and procedure.

This bill would require the Judicial Council to assess, on a statewide basis, veterans treatment courts currently in operation, survey counties that do not operate veterans treatment courts to identify barriers to

program implementation, and assess the need to establish veterans courts in those counties, as specified, if funds are received for the assessment and survey. The bill would require the Judicial Council to report to the Legislature on the results of the assessment and survey, as specified, on or before June 1, 2019. *The bill would create the Veterans Court Assessment Fund in the State Treasury, administered by the State Controller, and would authorize the fund to accept private donations, as specified. The bill would appropriate specified sums from the Veterans Court Assessment Fund and from the General Fund for the purpose of conducting the assessment, survey, and report.*

Vote: ~~majority~~^{2/3}. Appropriation: ~~no~~^{yes}. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 68530 is added to the Government Code,
 2 to read:
 3 68530. (a) If the Judicial Council receives funds for the
 4 purpose of implementing this section, the Judicial Council shall
 5 do all of the following:
 6 (1) Assess, on a statewide basis, veterans treatment courts
 7 currently in operation, including the number of veteran participants
 8 in the program, available services, and program ~~outcomes~~
 9 *outcomes*, including, but not limited to, the number *of* successful
 10 program completions or program terminations. The assessment
 11 shall evaluate the impact of a sample of veterans treatment courts
 12 on participant outcomes, including, but not limited to, program
 13 recidivism, mental health, homelessness, employment, social
 14 stability, and substance abuse.
 15 (2) Survey counties that do not operate veterans treatment courts
 16 to identify barriers to program implementation and assess the need
 17 for veterans treatment courts in those jurisdictions based on
 18 available existing veterans services and the estimated number of
 19 veterans involved in the local criminal justice system. The survey
 20 shall identify alternative resources that may be available to
 21 veterans, such as community courts or other collaborative justice
 22 courts.
 23 (b) On or before June 1, 2019, the Judicial Council shall report
 24 to the Legislature on the results of the assessment and survey
 25 described in subdivision (a). The report shall include

1 recommendations regarding the expansion of veterans treatment
2 courts to counties without veterans treatment courts and shall
3 explore the feasibility of designing regional model veterans
4 treatment courts through the use of service coordination or
5 technological resources. The report shall be submitted in
6 compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

7 (c) Fifty percent of the funds required for the assessment, survey,
8 and report described in this section shall be funded by private
9 sources, and 50 percent of the funds shall be funded by the state,
10 upon appropriation by the Legislature.

11 (d) *The Veterans Court Assessment Fund is hereby created in*
12 *the State Treasury. The fund shall be administered by the State*
13 *Controller. The fund may accept private donations from entities*
14 *and individuals, and the Controller shall deposit the donations*
15 *into the fund.*

16 ~~(d)~~

17 (e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2020,
18 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
19 is enacted before January 1, 2020, deletes or extends that date.

20 *SEC. 2. If this act is not enacted, the State Controller shall*
21 *return any funds donated to the Veterans Court Assessment Fund*
22 *or donated for the purpose of carrying out the assessment, survey,*
23 *and report described in Section 1 of this act to the entity or*
24 *individual who made the donation in an amount equal to the*
25 *donation.*

26 *SEC. 3. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)*
27 *is hereby appropriated from the Veterans Court Assessment Fund*
28 *to the Judicial Council for the purpose of conducting the*
29 *assessment, survey, and report described in Section 68530 of the*
30 *Government Code.*

31 *SEC. 4. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)*
32 *is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Judicial*
33 *Council for the purpose of conducting the assessment, survey, and*
34 *report described in Section 68530 of the Government Code.*

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