

AN ACT concerning criminal law.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Veterans and Servicemembers Court Treatment Act is amended by changing Section 15 as follows:

(730 ILCS 167/15)

Sec. 15. Authorization. The Chief Judge of each judicial circuit shall ~~may~~ establish a Veterans and Servicemembers Court program including a format under which it operates under this Act. The Veterans and Servicemembers Court may, at the discretion of the Chief Judge, be a separate court or a program of a problem-solving court, including but not limited to a drug court or mental health court. At the discretion of the Chief Judge, the Veterans and Servicemembers Court program may be operated in one county in the Circuit, and allow veteran and servicemember defendants from all counties within the Circuit to participate.

(Source: P.A. 96-924, eff. 6-14-10; 97-946, eff. 8-13-12.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2018.