

By: Rosenthal, Geren

H.B. No. 697

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to requiring entities that provide mental health services
3 to veterans or veterans' families to provide military informed care
4 or military cultural competency training to certain entity
5 personnel to accept a grant from a state agency.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

7 SECTION 1. Section 434.352, Government Code, is amended by
8 adding Subsections (e) and (f) to read as follows:

9 (e) A state agency may not award a grant to an entity for the
10 provision of mental health services to veterans or veterans'
11 families unless the entity demonstrates that the entity:

12 (1) has previously received and successfully executed
13 a grant from the state agency; or

14 (2) provides training on military informed care or
15 military cultural competency to entity personnel who provide mental
16 health services to veterans or veterans' families or requires those
17 personnel to complete military competency training provided by any
18 of the following:

19 (A) the commission;

20 (B) the Health and Human Services Commission;

21 (C) the Military Veteran Peer Network;

22 (D) the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
23 Services Administration within the United States Department of
24 Health and Human Services;

1 (E) the United States Department of Defense;

2 (F) the United States Department of Veterans
3 Affairs; or

4 (G) a nonprofit organization that is exempt from
5 federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code
6 of 1986, as amended, by being listed as an exempt entity under
7 Section 501(c)(3), with experience in providing training or
8 technical assistance to entities that provide mental health
9 services to veterans or veterans' families.

10 (f) The commission and the Department of State Health
11 Services shall jointly undertake to ensure that a state agency that
12 may award a grant subject to the requirements of Subsection (e) has
13 adopted policies to ensure compliance with Subsection (e).

14 SECTION 2. The heading to Subchapter I, Chapter 1001,
15 Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

16 SUBCHAPTER I. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES [~~PROGRAM~~] FOR VETERANS

17 SECTION 3. Subchapter I, Chapter 1001, Health and Safety
18 Code, is amended by adding Section 1001.225 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 1001.225. LIMITATION ON GRANTS. The department may
20 not award a grant to an entity for the provision of mental health
21 services to veterans or veterans' families unless the entity
22 demonstrates that the entity:

23 (1) has previously received and successfully executed
24 a grant from the department; or

25 (2) provides training on military informed care or
26 military cultural competency to entity personnel who provide
27 mental health services to veterans or veterans' families or

1 requires those personnel to complete military competency training
2 provided by any of the following:

3 (A) the Texas Veterans Commission;

4 (B) the commission;

5 (C) the Military Veteran Peer Network;

6 (D) the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
7 Services Administration within the United States Department of
8 Health and Human Services;

9 (E) the United States Department of Defense;

10 (F) the United States Department of Veterans
11 Affairs; or

12 (G) a nonprofit organization that is exempt from
13 federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code
14 of 1986, as amended, by being listed as an exempt entity under
15 Section 501(c)(3), with experience in providing training or
16 technical assistance to entities that provide mental health
17 services to veterans or veterans' families.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.