

By: Romero, Jr.

H.B. No. 1736

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to assisting inmates in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in obtaining federal veterans disability benefits.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 501, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 501.071 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.071. ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING FEDERAL VETERANS DISABILITY BENEFITS. For purposes of assisting an inmate who is a veteran in obtaining federal veterans disability benefits, the department shall ensure that, as soon as practicable after receiving a request from the inmate:

(1) an appropriate medical or health care professional:

(A) assists the inmate in completing a disability benefits questionnaire at the facility in which the inmate is confined or at another appropriate location; or

(B) conducts any necessary examination or evaluation of the inmate at the facility in which the inmate is confined or at another appropriate location; and

(2) the questionnaire or other documents required for the inmate to receive benefits are submitted to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or a veterans service organization chartered by the United States Congress or recognized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

1 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.