

1-1 By: Hughes S.B. No. 493
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 18, 2023; February 17, 2023,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs;
 1-4 March 22, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6,
 1-5 Nays 1; March 22, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Hancock	X			
1-8 Parker	X			
1-9 Blanco	X			
1-10 Eckhardt		X		
1-11 Gutierrez	X			
1-12 Hall	X			
1-13 Sparks	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to qualifications for certain individuals for veterans
 1-18 benefits.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 434, Government Code, is
 1-21 amended by adding Section 434.029 to read as follows:

1-22 Sec. 434.029. CERTAIN VETERANS QUALIFIED FOR BENEFITS. (a)
 1-23 In this section, "COVID-19" means the 2019 novel coronavirus
 1-24 disease.

1-25 (b) For purposes of determining qualifications for any
 1-26 veterans benefits or services from the state, a former member of the
 1-27 United States armed forces who received a less than honorable
 1-28 discharge due to the individual's refusal to receive a vaccination
 1-29 against COVID-19 shall be considered to have received an honorable
 1-30 discharge.

1-31 (c) For a discharge of a former member of the United States
 1-32 armed forces to be considered honorable under Subsection (b), the
 1-33 former member of the United States armed forces must prove to the
 1-34 Texas Veterans Commission that the individual's refusal to receive
 1-35 a vaccination against COVID-19 was the sole reason for the
 1-36 individual's less than honorable discharge.

1-37 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 1-38 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 1-39 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 1-40 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 1-41 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

1-42 * * * * *