

Amend **HB 2604** by adding the following appropriately numbered Sections to the bill and renumbering subsequent Sections as appropriate:

SECTION \_\_. Section 434.007, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 434.007. DUTIES. (a) The commission shall:

(1) compile federal, state, and local laws enacted to benefit members of the armed forces, veterans, and their families and dependents;

(2) collect information relating to services and facilities available to veterans;

(3) cooperate with veterans service agencies in the state;

(4) inform members and veterans of the armed forces, their families and dependents, and military and civilian authorities about the existence or availability of:

(A) educational training and retraining facilities;

(B) health, medical, rehabilitation, and housing services and facilities;

(C) employment and reemployment services;

(D) provisions of federal, state, and local law affording rights, privileges, and benefits to members and veterans of the armed forces and their families and dependents; and

(E) other similar, related, or appropriate matters;

(5) assist veterans and their families and dependents in presenting, proving, and establishing claims, privileges, rights, and benefits they may have under federal, state, or local law;

(6) cooperate with all government and private agencies securing services or benefits to veterans and their families and dependents;

(7) investigate, and if possible correct, abuses or exploitation of veterans or their families or dependents, and recommend necessary legislation for full correction;

(8) coordinate the services and activities of state

departments and divisions having services and resources affecting veterans or their families or dependents; ~~[and]~~

(9) provide training and certification of veterans county service officers and assistant veterans county service officers in accordance with Section 434.038; and

(10) operate programs in this state to enhance the employment opportunities of veterans of the armed forces of the United States, including the employment program funded under 38 U.S.C. Chapters 41 and 42.

(b) The programs described by Subsection (a)(10) must exclusively enhance the employment opportunities of eligible veterans, and the services provided under those programs must be provided by state employees. A state employee providing services under Subsection (a)(10) may only provide services to veterans.

SECTION \_\_. Subsection (b), Section 302.021, Labor Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) In addition to the programs consolidated under the authority of the commission under Subsection (a), the commission shall administer:

(1) ~~[programs in this state to enhance the employment opportunities of veterans of the armed services of the United States, including the employment program funded under Chapters 41 and 42, Title 38, United States Code,~~

~~[(2)]~~ child-care services provided under Chapter 44, Human Resources Code; and

(2) ~~[(3)]~~ programs established in this state through federal funding to conduct full service career development centers and school-to-work transition services.

SECTION \_\_. Subsection (g), Section 302.062, Labor Code, is amended to read as follows:

(g) Block grant funding under this section does not apply to:

(1) the work and family policies program under Chapter 81;

(2) a program under the skills development fund created under Chapter 303;

(3) the job counseling program for displaced

homemakers under Chapter 304;

(4) the Communities In Schools program under Subchapter E, Chapter 33, Education Code, to the extent that funds are available to the commission for that program;

(5) the reintegration of offenders program under Chapter 306;

(6) apprenticeship programs under Chapter 133, Education Code;

(7) the continuity of care program under Section 501.095, Government Code;

(8) employment programs under Chapter 31, Human Resources Code;

(9) the senior citizens employment program under Chapter 101, Human Resources Code;

(10) the programs described by Section 302.021(b)(2) [~~302.021(b)(3)~~];

(11) the community service program under the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12501 et seq.);

(12) the trade adjustment assistance program under Part 2, Subchapter II, Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. Section 2271 et seq.);

(13) the programs to enhance the employment opportunities of veterans; and

(14) the functions of the State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee.

SECTION \_\_\_\_ (a) Not later than October 1, 2005, the Texas Veterans Commission and the Texas Workforce Commission shall establish a transition team to transfer the veterans employment programs from the Texas Workforce Commission to the Texas Veterans Commission. The transition team shall consist of a commissioner and an employee of each agency and representatives from other agencies that the veterans commission and workforce commission determine are necessary to accomplish the transition of the veterans employment programs.

(b) The Texas Veterans Commission and the Texas Workforce Commission shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to transfer the veterans employment programs of the Texas Workforce

Commission to the Texas Veterans Commission. The memorandum of understanding must provide for the transfer of all powers, duties, obligations, rights, contracts, leases, records, employees, real or personal property, and unspent and unobligated appropriations and other funds of the Texas Workforce Commission that are necessary to accomplish the transfer of the veterans employment programs under this Act to the Texas Veterans Commission. The transition shall be completed not later than October 1, 2006.

(c) The transfer of the veterans employment programs from the Texas Workforce Commission to the Texas Veterans Commission does not affect the validity of a right, privilege, or obligation accrued, a contract or acquisition made, any liability incurred, a permit or license issued, a penalty, forfeiture, or punishment assessed, a rule adopted, a proceeding, investigation, or remedy begun, a decision made, or other action taken by the Texas Workforce Commission in connection with the veterans employment programs.

(d) All rules, policies, procedures, and decisions of the Texas Workforce Commission relating to the veterans employment programs transferred to the Texas Veterans Commission by this Act are continued in effect as rules, policies, procedures, and decisions of the Texas Veterans Commission until superseded by a rule or other appropriate action of the Texas Veterans Commission.

(e) Until the date the veterans employment programs are transferred to the Texas Veterans Commission as provided by this Act, the Texas Workforce Commission shall continue to exercise the powers and perform the duties relating to the veterans employment programs assigned to the Texas Workforce Commission under the law as it existed immediately before the effective date of this Act or, if applicable, as modified by another Act of the 79th Legislature that becomes law, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.