

By: Dunnam

H.B. No. 3345

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Homefront Heroes program.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 434, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. TEXAS HOMEFRONT HEROES PROGRAM

Sec. 434.151. TEXAS HOMEFRONT HEROES PROGRAM. (a) The Texas Homefront Heroes program is established to provide temporary financial assistance and other services to the family members of personnel on active duty with the army, navy, air force, coast guard, or marine corps of the United States or an auxiliary service or reserve unit of one of those branches of the armed forces, or the state military forces, as defined by Section 431.001.

(b) The Texas Veterans Commission, in consultation with the advisory committee established under Section 434.153, shall adopt rules as necessary to implement the program.

Sec. 434.152. HOMEFRONT HEROES ACCOUNT. (a) The homefront heroes account is created in the general revenue fund.

(b) Money in the homefront heroes account may be appropriated only for the purposes of this subchapter.

(c) The Texas Veterans Commission may accept grants, gifts, or legislative appropriations from any public or private source for the purposes of the program and shall deposit any money received as a grant, gift, or appropriation to the credit of the homefront

1 heroes account.

2 Sec. 434.153. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The Texas Veterans
3 Commission shall establish a homefront heroes advisory committee to
4 assist the commission in implementing the program created under
5 this subchapter.

6 (b) The advisory committee is:

7 (1) composed of nine members who are family members of
8 active duty military personnel; and

9 (2) appointed by the Texas Veterans Commission.

10 (c) Members of the advisory committee serve without
11 compensation but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary
12 expenses related to the performance of committee duties.

13 (d) Reimbursement of expenses under Subsection (c) is
14 subject to approval by the Texas Veterans Commission.

15 (e) The members of the advisory committee shall elect a
16 presiding officer from among the members and shall adopt rules
17 governing the operation of the committee.

18 (f) The advisory committee shall meet at the call of the
19 presiding officer at least once each year.

20 (g) The committee shall make recommendations to the Texas
21 Veterans Commission regarding:

22 (1) eligibility criteria for the Texas Homefront
23 Heroes program;

24 (2) the application process for the program; and

25 (3) the services that should be provided under the
26 program, including:

27 (A) temporary financial assistance for recurring

1 monthly expenses;

2 (B) child care services;

3 (C) health care;

4 (D) education; and

5 (E) employment and job training.

6 (h) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the advisory committee.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.